

## Re: Politicians and energy policy

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- *From:* rickman <[gnuarm@xxxxxxxx](mailto:gnuarm@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 24 May 2008 15:28:24 -0700 (PDT)
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On May 24, 12:04 pm, "Tim Williams" <[tmoran...@xxxxxxxx](mailto:tmoran...@xxxxxxxx)> wrote:

"Michael A. Terrell" <[mike.terr...@xxxxxxxx](mailto:mike.terr...@xxxxxxxx)> wrote in  
message news: [IGdnWTL4tjngKXVnZ2dnUVZ\\_u2dnZ2d@xxxxxxxx](mailto:IGdnWTL4tjngKXVnZ2dnUVZ_u2dnZ2d@xxxxxxxx)

Someone said you have to "dehumidify" during the day...  
maybe you do  
to some degree, but if you aren't in the house, there is very  
little  
moisture entering it.

Then you've never lived in FLorida.

Or an old house. This house was built in 1898 and leaks like a sieve!

I live in an old house (ca 1962 with plenty of unintended ventilation) near Washington, DC with summer humidity of nearly 100 % and temps above 90F. Unless you are in the middle of the Everglades, you got nothing on us. The bottom line is that even leaky houses don't leak unless something is pushing the air. Humid weather seldom has significant winds and if you aren't home, no one is opening the doors. I have left my house closed up and the AC off for hours during the day. Other than the first hour that it takes to get the temp down to anything remotely reasonable, it is then fine.

That is the point. If the house is allowed to heat up during the day, it then takes less work to cool it down than it would to keep it cool all day. But no one wants to come home to a house that is 90F inside and wait for it to cool down. But if the AC is smart enough to actually "know" when you will be home, then it can cool it down to match your needs.

The idea of using a "smart" electric meter to achieve the same power reducing effect as rolling blackouts is bogus. AC, the primary power

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consumption, is duty cycle driven. The thermostat in your house is actually a duty cycle modulator to maintain a temperature. If the power company has control over it to cut it out for periods at peak usage, all that does is to make the AC run at a \*higher\* duty cycle the rest of the time. The only way they can actually save power is to reduce the periods that your AC is enabled to the point where the duty cycle is below where it can maintain the set temperature. Then the temperature inside will rise, because the power company is now regulating it, not your thermostat.

Rick

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