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Info & Answers

Energy Monitoring Digs Deeper

[Check-It Monitoring Solutions](#) offers cloud-based energy monitoring that aggregates energy info and analyzes trends.

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July 12, 2011 | by [Steven Castle](#)

Energy monitoring isn't just about getting a bunch of data on how much shameful juice your air conditioner or refrigerator is using.

Welcome to energy monitoring 2.0. Or maybe it's 3.0. Oh heck, we don't know. All we can tell is that energy monitoring is moving past the basics of information—and really processing it.

Take the cloud-based software being offered by [Check-It Monitoring Solutions](#). It can aggregate energy data of many homes or buildings so [developers and contractors](#) can spot trends or troubleshoot systems. Air conditioning usage during hot months, for example.

Check-It's software is even being used to monitor the geothermal heating and cooling systems of a large development in British Columbia, Canada. Because of the monitoring, Check-It was able to detect a problem in a geothermal system at a residence that wasn't working properly. A comparable amount of energy was being used, but the house wasn't cooling like the others. Consumers can also use the system, and an easy-to-comprehend web interface that uses a 1 to 10 rating from Energy Star's Home Energy Yardstick.

Check-It isn't a hardware developer, but a cloud-based software system that can work with a variety of devices, says Manastryski. Circuit-based electricity monitoring can be done via a [Brulotech](#) monitor that can measure the electricity use on 7 circuits—and several of these can be tied together. Check-It works with some other monitoring solutions as well, such as those from [Dent Instruments](#), [Accuenergy](#) and [GE](#).

The geothermal monitoring uses temperature probes on the incoming lines, which send wireless ZigBee signals to a gateway from [Universal Devises](#) or [Digi International](#). Manastryski's own house uses [Insteon](#) wireless light switches and power outlets, so he can see whether lights or other devices are on and turn them on or off via the interface. Thermostats and sensors on doors and windows can also be monitored.

Prices for the software service varies, but Manastryski says standard packages start at around \$99 a year, independent of the hardware. And include smartphone apps (including iPhone, Android and a BlackBerry browser), web portal, data storage and aggregation for contractors.

Manastryski says branded versions of Check-It Monitoring Solutions will be available at a large retailer in the third to fourth quarter.

[Steven Castle](#) - Contributing Writer

Steven Castle is a writer, editor, and humorist who recently completed *Filthy Rich Things*, a savage satire on our thirst for success and wealth. He also is Electronic House's senior editor and co-founder of [GreenTech Advocates](#).



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