

The Tech Blog

Study: Daylight Saving Time actually raises utility bills

Fri Feb 29, 2008 2:06PM EST

on Yahoo!

It's official: Daylight Saving Time is a bust. Designed (and recently extended) as a measure to save energy in a period of inflated electricity prices, an in-depth University of California study has now shown that DST doesn't save anyone any money at all. In fact, it's costing consumers extra, to the tune of **\$3.19 in extra utility bills per year**.



The study was made possible because of the peculiarities of the state of Indiana, which was only partially on DST until 2006. When the whole state finally went DST (to sync with the national business day), some comparisons vs. the prior method were made apparent. The study calculated that the shift costs Indiana residents **an extra \$8.6 million in electricity bills in total**.

Why? Shouldn't they be, well, saving daylight -- and burning fewer light bulbs?

They are, said the study. But while lighting bills were reduced, air-conditioning units had to run more often, because people were home on hot afternoons when they'd otherwise be still at the office. Heaters had to be run on cool mornings, too, when people got up and it was still dark outside.

Professor Matthew Kotchen, who pioneered the study, noted, "I've never had a paper with such a clear and unambiguous finding as this."

This isn't the first time the energy-saving rationale of Daylight Saving Time has been attacked. The first was in 1976, when the National Bureau of Standards found that there was no significant energy savings after the switch. The recent expansion of DST to a few extra weeks was also revealed to have **saved no energy** during its run. And yet here we are...

In related news, it was also revealed that Daylight Saving Time actually creates no additional daylight.

COMMENTS ON STUDY: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ACTUALLY RAISES UTILITY BILLS

Join in the discussion. Here you'll see the comments in the order they were posted.

- **1 POSTED BY KEITH_ADAMS52 ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 2:40PM EST**

More useless gov. thinking. Maybe Congress can check into this after the Roger Clemens issue.

- **2 POSTED BY PAULECORNETT ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 2:41PM EST**

it actually costs more money. In March, it is still dark in the morning when the kids go to school. Give me a break!

- **3 POSTED BY RAYVR@ATT.NET ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 3:06PM EST**

It's not useless GOVERNMENT thinking. This stuff comes directly from the politicians who actually put this stuff into law. It isn't the fault of the government workers (bureaucrats), but the politicians like to blame them because they aren't able to defend themselves. And guess who votes the politicians into office? We do. Smarter, honest politicians are the answer and if they don't produce, kick 'em out!

- **4 POSTED BY VIXENGAL ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 3:15PM EST**

We could overcome the additional costs of DST by government mandated CFL lighting.

- **5 POSTED BY MONGY99 ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 3:17PM EST**

What a joke.... I'd gladly spent \$3.19 extra per year for an extra hour of daylight every day!

- **6 POSTED BY DAWGHAUSBASS ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 3:33PM EST**

I really never thought about D.S.T. except when it was time to change all my clocks. I was always told that the original reason for D.S.T. was to give the farmers more daylight to work in the fields. Now D.T.S. is so that school children don't have to go to school in the dark. I never thought about the cost. Your article makes a lot of sense. The high cost of energy today is embarrassing my wallet. I'm for not changing the time if it saves money on energy cost.

- **7 POSTED BY DOZENT100 ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 4:06PM EST**

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The original rationale was to have an extra hour of daylight during the business day, primarily for agriculture workers. It was a good idea and was supposed to be from June to September. Individual States and in some case counties were able to opt out of the DST plan. It has only been since 1976, when President Carter, who knew more about everything than anyone else, decided that DST would reduce energy consumption. Along with a host of federally mandated restrictions on home and office temperatures, reduced lighting, etc. All of which increased energy use as lamps were installed on desks, Small heaters appeared under desks, and everybody cursed his name. So a known fallacy was expended by Congress to be seen as "doing something." After all, the public had accepted the thought for years, s increasing the amount could only be see as "doing something" without it visibly costing more. Once again the Liberals have successfully pulled the wool of their world "as they want it to be" expectations, over the eyes of an unthinking populace, including as the ultimate joke, the Republicans. In the modern world, with our ability to adapt the world to our desires and needs, DST is an anachronism! Liberals want to enforce their controls up on us by denying us the ability to live as we want, while they continually violate there own strictures. after all they are entitled and must not be inconvenienced, by the rules they expect the rest of us to live by. I will leave you to draw your own conclusions. The most difficult choice of all. Thinking about what you are being being fed by the liberal media. William Buckley is dead! Reason has lost its best Champion!

- **8** POSTED BY [RUSTINS](#) ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 4:07PM EST

What I've heard about DST and believe, is that it was found that giving people an extra hour of daylight in the evening caused them to go out more and spend more money. It has nothing to do with saving energy, it might have originally been intended to be that, but it isn't causing any real savings.

- **9** POSTED BY [B_HARRIS265](#) ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 4:14PM EST

THEN GET UP AN HOUR EARLIER

- **10** POSTED BY [ROGUEIST](#) ON FRI FEB 29, 2008 5:01PM EST

Sounds like someone needs to protest this waste of time and money and energy...

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