

# Pinpoint Utility Meter

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## Pinpoint Utility Meter

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Randy Atkins: The engineering breakthrough would allow just one easy-to-install sensor per utility. Simply plug into an outlet to monitor your house's entire electric system. The inventor, Shwetak Patel, of the University of Washington, says everything that draws power - down to a lightbulb - has its own electrical signature.

Shwetak Patel: These systems are unique enough to be able to pinpoint exactly what device it was.

Randy Atkins: Sensors, pressure fluctuations can monitor water. Close a sensor onto your outdoor toilet flush.

Shwetak Patel: When you use your kitchen faucet or your laundry faucet, we know when that event happened and we know how much water was consumed by that particular activity.

Randy Atkins: Patel thinks the technology could help people reduce energy consumption by up to ten percent. With the National Academy of Engineering, Randy Atkins, 100 years of F&E and WTGP division.

Patel says the sensors should be available in about a year.

[Shwetak Patel](#) [1]

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### Links:

[1] <http://abstract.cs.washington.edu/%7Eshwetak/>