

# Working to Reduce Energy Theft

## How does it affect me?

The impacts of energy theft range from safety hazards to increased energy costs. Duke Energy is serious about protecting our customers from the risks and expenses associated with unlawful energy consumption.

Just as shoplifters drive up the price of merchandise, thieves of energy indirectly inflate the costs for honest paying customers like you. Additionally, attempts to bypass or tamper with gas and electric meters can result in an explosion, electrocution or fire. Even if these situations don't occur at the time of theft, the meter is often left in an unsafe condition – potentially dangerous to others.

Our employees are trained to recognize signs of meter tampering. In many cases computer analysis can be used to detect signs of manipulation. Any individual caught

influencing metering data, interfering with how a meter registers or using a meter stolen from another location is subject to an immediate disconnection of service and possible criminal prosecution.

## How can I help?

Anonymous tips from customers are an important means to investigating potential energy theft situations. If you are aware of any occurrences or notice something suspicious, you can help by contacting us at 800-354-2714. Or, you can complete an energy theft form online by selecting the All Services Request link at [www.duke-energy.com](http://www.duke-energy.com).

Working together, we can see that energy theft is curtailed, thereby reducing the risk to public safety and minimizing the energy costs for all Duke Energy customers.



[www.duke-energy.com](http://www.duke-energy.com)