# Regional Directory of Smart Meter Rules & Tariffs

Legislation, public utility commission (PUC) regulations, and municipal codes regarding Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) vary drastically across the country. Because of this legal fragmentation, no single non-consent form can act as a universal statutory override.

Use this directory to audit the specific legal framework governing your region, calculate your potential opt-out fees, and prepare your localized defense strategy.

## Technical Realities: Why the Rules Vary

### 1. State-Level Public Utility Commissions (PUC)

Each state operates under an independent regulatory body (e.g., the Arizona Corporation Commission, Texas PUC, New York PSC). Some commissions pass strict laws granting citizens an absolute statutory right to an analog meter, while others pass utility-backed mandates forcing universal smart meter deployment with zero opt-out exceptions.

### 2. Private Cooperatives vs. Corporate Monopolies

If a consumer is serviced by a large, investor-owned public utility monopoly (like PG&E, National Grid, or APS), the company must follow the state PUC rulebook. However, if a home receives power from a local, city-owned municipal utility or a rural electric cooperative (co-op), those local boards establish their own rules completely independent of state commission oversight.

### 3. The Power of Common Law Liability

Because statutory laws are fragmented, template notices do not function as magic statutory exemptions in "No Opt-Out" zones. Instead, their legal mechanism is rooted in **Common Law Notice and Liability**. If a state has an aggressive utility mandate, a formal notice establishes an unassailable, timestamped record that the corporation is forcing pulsed microwave exposure onto your private property against your explicit, written non-consent. This creates a forensic paper trail that can be leveraged for formal property complaints, insurance claims, or common law liability disputes.

## Regional Policy & Tariff Breakdown

### Southwest Region

#### Arizona

- **The Framework:** The Arizona Corporation Commission leaves opt-out programs up to individual utility tariffs.

- **The Fees:** Arizona Public Service (APS) allows residential opt-outs for a one-time setup fee of $50 and an ongoing $5 monthly manual reading fee. Salt River Project (SRP) allows opt-outs for an ongoing $20 monthly manual reading fee.
- **The Solar Loophole (Critical Nuance):** Both APS and SRP explicitly prohibit accounts utilizing rooftop solar or net-metering systems from opting out of smart meters. If you generate your own solar power, you are legally mandated to keep a digital transmitting device.

### Nevada

- **The Framework:** Approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN), NV Energy offers an official residential opt-out program.
- **The Fees:** Carries a one-time set-up fee of approximately $52 to maintain or reinstall a non-communicating electro-mechanical analog meter, accompanied by an ongoing $9 monthly manual reading surcharge.

## Western Region

### California

- **The Framework:** California established the first permanent opt-out precedents in the nation via the CPUC. Major investor-owned monopolies (PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E) are legally required to offer non-transmitting alternatives to residential accounts.
- **The Fees:** Standard setup fees are $75 with a recurring $10 monthly reading fee.
- **The 36-Month Sunset Law (Sovereignty Win):** By CPUC mandate, once a California homeowner pays the monthly opt-out reading surcharge for **36 consecutive months**, the fee legally sunsets and drops to **$0**. The utility must continue manual reads for free. Municipal utilities like SMUD also offer paths but require a much higher upfront setup fee of roughly $145.

### Washington State

- **The Framework:** Regulated utilities like Avista offer approved, commission-sanctioned opt-out structures.
- **The Fees:** Declining the digital mesh network carries a standard one-time fee of roughly $75, paired with an ongoing $6 monthly surcharge to cover physical, manual meter-reading routes.

## East Coast & Northeast Region

### Vermont

- **The Framework:** Vermont holds the most consumer-friendly framework in the United States. By state statute, residential consumers possess a **no-cost right to refuse**.
- **The Fees:** Utilities are legally required to provide written advance notice before an upgrade. Property owners can refuse or demand the immediate removal of a smart meter with **zero upfront change-out fees and zero monthly manual reading penalties**.

### New York

- **The Framework:** There is no uniform, statewide statutory opt-out law. Policies are approved case-by-case via the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) for individual corporate tariffs. Residents cannot rely on a generic defense and must target their specific corporate provider.
- **The Fees (National Grid Example):** Under the approved SC1 residential plan, National Grid charges a one-time change-out fee of $72.44 for a single utility (electric or gas), or $134.53 for dual-fuel properties. This is accompanied by a recurring monthly manual reading fee of $15.45 (single service) or $21.24 (dual fuel).
- **The Enforcement Path:** If a New York consumer faces a cooperative utility that denies them an opt-out path, they must mail their formal non-consent notices directly to the utility's Risk Management headquarters, and then escalate the file by opening an official dispute with the **New York Department of Public Service (DPS) Office of Consumer Services**.

### Pennsylvania

- **The Framework (Absolute Restrictive Zone):** Pennsylvania operates under an absolute **No Opt-Out policy** due to state legislation known as Act 129.
- **The Legal Precedent:** The Pennsylvania Supreme Court (in the landmark *Povacz v. PUC* ruling) definitively concluded that Act 129 mandates electric distribution companies to furnish wireless smart meters to all customers, providing zero statutory provisions for citizens to opt out based on health or privacy concerns.
- **The Mitigation Mandate:** Because the legal avenues are completely sealed off in Pennsylvania, **physical boundary shields are a resident's only line of defense**. PA consumers must deploy an exterior Faraday cover and an interior paint boundary to stop the mandatory meter from radiating into their living spaces.

## Midwest & Southern Regions

### Illinois

- **The Framework (The Corporate Split):** The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) permits residential exceptions, but handles the two major providers with completely different legal rules.
- **The Rules: Ameren** customers are granted a true, permanent "Opt-Out" program accompanied by an ongoing monthly fee of roughly $20 ($24 if you are an electric and gas combination account). However, **ComEd** customers are only granted a "Smart Meter Deferral" program costing $21.53 per month. The ICC explicitly notes that for ComEd accounts, this charge is simply "deferring the inevitable" as the tariff contains a strict sunset clause to eventually mandate the digital grid universally.

### South Carolina

- **The Framework:** The Public Service Commission has approved individual utility opt-out structures on a company-by-company basis.

- **The Fees:** Participating accounts face a high financial threshold, regularly featuring a one-time installation swap fee of roughly $150 alongside a monthly manual maintenance surcharge of approximately $11.75.