

Google PowerMeter Gains New Hardware

by Pete Danko, December 29th, 2010

Google has another partner for its free energy monitoring tool, adding the [PowerCost Monitor](#) by Blue Line Innovations. This gives [Google PowerMeter](#) users access to real-time home-electricity use data on their computer or on a smart device via a wi-fi connection.

Google PowerMeter is free application, one of a host of Google.org projects “created for the purpose of addressing a social challenge.” Google opened up PowerMeter to partnerships with the makers of monitoring devices [back in May](#), and now has [more than a dozen such companies](#) onboard.



Blue Line was in the news at the beginning of 2010 when the big retailer Fry's Electronics [began selling the device](#) for \$99.99. Since then, [the company introduced "WiFi Gateway,"](#) a \$159 accessory that allows users to view their data in real-time online or through a mobile device. Previously, this was only possible using the Google PowerMeter competitor [Microsoft Hohm](#). But now, Blue Line said, it is “the only electricity monitoring product in full device partnership” with both tech behemoths.

[PowerCost works](#) by gathering information through a sensor unit that is attached to the outside of a home electric meter. The sensor sends data reads home electricity use in real-time and transmits the information wirelessly to a power usage monitor located inside your home.