

## CONSERT<sup>®</sup> – THE NEW SOURCE OF ENERGY

Welcome to the Consert<sup>®</sup> automated energy management solution provided by Grayson Collin Electric Cooperative. Thank you for agreeing to participate in the program. As a participant, you will be able to manage your home's electric energy consumption, potentially lowering your energy bill, and in the process conserve electricity and reduce carbon emissions.

The following information introduces you to the features of our program and describes how you can use it to help manage your energy usage.



## PROGRAM BENEFITS AND FEATURES

The MiPower Management System gives you the following benefits and features:

- Allows voluntary participation. You can choose to participate or decline at any time, though you will receive the most benefit by continuous participation.
- Costs you, the consumer, nothing. It is a free program provided by GCEC.
- Requires neither lifestyle modifications nor sacrifices in comfort levels.
- Provides 15-20% monthly savings through preprogrammed adjustments to your air conditioning and hot water heater. These adjustments are under your control. These results are typical but are not guaranteed.
- Reduces carbon consumption and emissions by reducing power consumption.
- Uses two-way wireless communications within your home to implement your instructions for controlling your thermostat, HVAC (Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning), and water heater.
- Utilizes two-way wireless communication with the Consert data center. This two-way communication:
  - Allows you to establish your energy program. The more your energy program is customized to save you money, the more it helps GCEC conserve and reduce demand, further saving you money.
  - Enables you to participate in their energy conservation efforts. Participating in GCEC's conservation efforts helps them reduce demand peaks, which in turn helps keep your electric rate from increasing.
- Provides you with a secure, online account through which you can specify your energy preferences. Your account includes a simple, easy-to-use, web-based interface to:
  - Select and modify our default program.
  - Create your own energy programs with up to eight unique time periods per day.
  - Create programs for special events such as vacations and holidays.
  - Update your account information and view reports of your energy usage at your convenience.
- Allows you to change your program settings at your convenience. At any time you can:
  - Override HVAC settings from your thermostat, just as you always have.
  - Make program adjustments from any computer with Internet access, as well as many Internet-enabled communications devices.

## HOW YOU CONTROL YOUR ENERGY USAGE

You will use a secure, personal online account to create custom energy control programs and monitor your energy usage. These energy management programs are your instructions to the MiPower Management System for how you want your devices controlled, such as telling your thermostat that you want your home at a particular temperature.

We use high-speed two-way communications between your home or business, Consert's data center, and GCEC to receive and carry out your instructions. To be able to do that, a certified representative of GCEC has installed the following items in your home or business:

- A two-way wireless communication device called a communications gateway that is integrated into your electric meter. The gateway enables Consert to communicate with your managed equipment and control it according to your instructions.
- A communicating thermostat that not only controls your HVAC, but also communicates with the gateway.
- Device monitors connected to your HVAC and electric water heater. These monitors communicate with the gateway, enabling Consert to implement the program instructions you create.

### How will this affect your home?

You will notice little difference in the way your HVAC and water heater operate, but you may see your energy usage decrease. You will use your online account to create one or more programs. These programs are similar in concept to the programs you created in your programmable thermostat, if you had one previously. The difference is that they will give you more control and allow you to control your water heater as well. You will also be able to view reports of your home's energy usage.

When you create your programs, you will provide information that will help GCEC save energy by balancing electric load throughout their service area. In rare circumstances, GCEC may elect to adjust your managed equipment, potentially allowing your home to reach a minimum or maximum temperature that you have specified. These instances are called control events and will not be invasive or impose hardship on you, and you will usually have the ability to override one of these events.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- For additional information, refer to the *Getting Started* document included in this packet and to the online help.
- For assistance, please contact a Customer Support Representative:
  - Phone: (903) 482-7100
  - E-Mail: [mipower@grayson-collin.coop](mailto:mipower@grayson-collin.coop)



Consert Inc.  
4700 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 340  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609  
[www.consert.com](http://www.consert.com)

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