

Current Diversion Detection Technologies

Seattle City Light

What are the technologies?

The Current Diversion Team (CDT) utilizes three technologies to discover if electricity is being used illegally without payment:

- (1) Standard, commercial-grade, unpowered binoculars;
- (2) The Sensorlink Ampstik; and
- (3) The Sensorlink Transformer Meter System (TMS)

The information gathered using these devices may be used as evidence for recovering the value of the diverted power energy.

Why do we use these technologies?

These investigative technologies allow City Light to maintain the integrity of its electric distribution system, to determine whether suspected current diversion has taken place, and to provide the value of the diverted energy to proper authorities for cost recovery. In 2017, the Utility recovered over \$1.6 million using these technologies. This would otherwise remain a substantial financial loss to the City.



Binoculars



TMS



Sensorlink Ampstik

The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to [Seattle.gov/Privacy](https://seattle.gov/Privacy).

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.

Collection

The binoculars are used to remotely read meters, and do not collect information. Both of the Sensorlink devices collect accumulated consumption, in kilowatt-hours, average volts (current strength), average amps (current flow), and interval consumption, in kilowatt-hours per a pre-defined time-unit.

Use

The Current Diversion team members are the only City Light staff who deploy the technologies, and only upon suspicion of current diversion (e.g., neighbor report, unusual or no energy consumption detected upon a routine meter reading by City Light staff, visual observation of either a tampered meter, etc.).

Protections

Once a case is properly opened, these CDT investigative technologies are deployed on the basis of case number and need. For TMS, the data collected is sent to the Utility using a secure radio protocol and a specific, password-protected software program.