

Metering Comparison User Guide

College Station Utilities

Cody Cook - Summer 2017

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Metering Comparison". At the top, there are two file selection buttons: "Select File 1" and "Select File 2", each followed by a text input field. Below these, the interface is divided into two columns of radio button options. The left column, labeled "Include as Labels:", contains options for Location ID, Account Code, Meter Number, Name, Address, Zip Code, Phone Number, kWh Consumption, KW, Read Month, and Billing Code. The right column, labeled "Include as Comparison:", contains options for Meter Number, kWh Consumption, kWh Percent Change, kWh Difference, KW, KW Percent Change, and KW Difference. At the bottom of the window, there are two buttons: "Change Metering Data Path" and "Change Comparisons Path", followed by an "Output File Name (Optional)" text field. A large "Start" button is positioned at the very bottom center of the window.



College Station Utilities

Reliable, Affordable, Community Owned

About

This program was designed to streamline the process of comparing the monthly McGentry metering data. This program makes up for the shortfalls that come with doing this process exclusively through Excel. With this program you can quickly and easily generate spreadsheets comparing the data. Then Excel can be used where it is strongest, creating tables or utilizing conditional formatting.

This application was developed by Cody Cook, a summer intern for College Station Utilities. The backend was created from scratch in C++ and the interface was designed in Qt Creator (<https://www.qt.io/>). Because the app is non-distributed, internal, open-source, libraries are dynamically linked, and no specific compensation was gained from the development of the app, it complies with the free, open source LGPL licensing (<https://www.qt.io/qt-licensing-terms/>)

File Directory

The directory of the time of writing this guide is:

O:\SUBSTATIONS-METERING\Meter Group\MCGENTRY Comparison. In this folder is the [shortcut](#) to launch the app, the [Source](#) folder with the code, the [Metering Data](#) folder with all the monthly data files, and the [Comparisons](#) folder containing output spreadsheets.

Selecting Files

To select the two files to compare, simply click the [Select File](#) buttons and navigate to the file. You should be brought to the default directory for [Metering Data](#).

Labels

Labels are data that will only appear once in the output file, to help identify a record. These should be things that will be consistent across months. The data is taken from [File 1](#).

Comparisons

These options involve data from both files. [Meter Number](#), [kWh Consumption](#), and [KW](#) will place both of those fields from each file next to each other. The options for [Percent Change](#) will get the percent change from the first file to the second, and the [Difference](#) options get the difference from the two months.

Other

With the [Change Metering Data Path](#) button you can change the default directory for where metering data is selected from. The [Change Comparisons Path](#) button changes the default directory for the output files. The [Output File Name](#) gives you the option to have a custom name for the output file.

Development

Being open source, anyone is welcome to further develop this application. At the time of writing this guide I will no longer be supporting or developing this application but will have it hosted on Github at <https://github.com/codycook96/Metering-Comparison>.