WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

obtaining, by a computer (710), a count of load switching events at a location over a period of time, the load switching events corresponding to respective changes of current flow in one or more electrical supply lines (610, 615) of a meter (150) at the location;

obtaining, by the computer, a measure of an amount of electricity consumption for the location over the period of time; and

determining, by the computer, that the meter has likely been bypassed, based on the count of the load switching events and the measured amount of electricity consumption.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising, in response to determining that the meter has likely been bypassed, reporting, by the computer, that the meter has likely been bypassed.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the obtaining the count of load switching events comprises counting a load switching event in response to determining that a difference in current flow between two or more consecutive measurements of current flow for the one or electrical supply lines is greater than a threshold.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein determining that the meter has likely been bypassed comprises:

determining a first ratio between the count of load switching events at the location over the period of time and the measured amount of electricity consumption for the location over the period of time; and

determining that the meter has been bypassed based on the first ratio.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the computer is disposed on a cellular tower located in a same geographic region as the meter.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising:

determining, by the computer, a largest current delivered through the meter over the period of time;

wherein determining that the meter has likely been bypassed comprises determining that the meter is more likely to be bypassed in response to a ratio of the count of load switching events to the largest current delivered over the period of time being high relative to a ratio threshold.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising

obtaining, by the computer, respective counts of load switching events at a plurality of locations over the period of time, the load switching events corresponding to respective changes of current flow in one or more electrical supply lines of respective electrical meters at the plurality of locations;

obtaining, by the computer, respective measures of electricity consumption for the plurality of locations; and

establishing, based on the respective counts and respective measures of electricity consumption, the ratio threshold.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein determining that the meter has likely been bypassed is further based on an output of an inferencing model trained using a dataset comprising respective counts of load switching events of electricity consumption and total energy consumption, for a plurality of time periods for both a plurality of bypassed meters and for a plurality of un-bypassed meters.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the dataset used to train the inferencing model further comprises respective ratios between counts of load switching events and corresponding measures of the amount of electricity consumption for the plurality of time periods, for both the plurality of bypassed meters and for the plurality of un-bypassed meters.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein determining that the meter has likely been bypassed further comprises determining a measure of variation of counts of load switching events for the meter for a plurality of periods of time, and determining that the meter is more likely to have been bypassed when the measure of variation is higher than a variation threshold.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein determining that the meter has likely been bypassed comprises determining that count of the load switching events is abnormal relative to a baseline.

12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, further comprising:

determining a largest measured current through the meter during the period of time; and

determining that the meter has likely been bypassed further comprises determining that the meter is more likely to be bypassed if the largest measured current is smaller than a baseline.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein determining that the meter has likely been bypassed is further based on an output of an inferencing model trained on data from at least one of prior reports from the meter or reports from other meters in a same geographical region.

14. One or more non-transitory computer-readable media storing instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the method of any one of claims 1 to 13.

15. An apparatus comprising:

a network interface (730) configured to couple the apparatus to a meter (150);

one or more processors; and

a memory system storing executable instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the method of any one of claims 1 to 13.