



**SMUD**

SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

The Power To Do More.®

January 2008

www.smud.org

# Connections

## Solar made easy with new program

Going solar has never been easier, thanks to landmark partnerships between SMUD, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the six city councils in the SMUD service territory.

The agreements, a pilot program that runs through 2009, mean that all residential customers in Sacramento County can now enjoy waived permit fees and a streamlined process that will review applications for solar installations in one day, use a standardized application packet and conduct the post-installation inspections within 24 hours.

SMUD works directly with residential customers to help reduce the cost of solar electric systems by as much as 25 percent. In addition, the homeowner is eligible for a \$2,000 federal tax credit. In combination with energy-efficiency practices and equipment, owners of solar-powered homes can see drastic reductions and even credits on their SMUD bills.

SMUD has installed enough solar units in its service territory to power the equivalent of 9,000 average-sized homes. Solar power units have been installed on residential, commercial and government buildings and in larger, utility-scale arrays. Recently SMUD has partnered with local homebuilders

to construct SolarSmart homes that combine the latest energy-efficiency features with solar power.

For more information about SMUD solar programs, visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org).



**Solar installations have never been easier.**

## Home heating: Stay warm, but stay safe

The safest way to heat your home is to use your home's built-in heating system. But every year people will try other ways to get the temperature up inside, and some of them are dangerous, even deadly.

Dangerous indoor heating options include unventilated fires or barbecues. Burning wood or charcoal releases carbon monoxide that can kill in minutes. Unventilated appliances such as kerosene and propane heaters, stoves, ovens or dryers must also be avoided.

Cautions for using the fireplace include never using lighter fluid or gasoline to start a fire and never burning painted or treated wood. (For more information on using your fireplace – including no-burn days for air quality – check [www.sparetheair.com](http://www.sparetheair.com) or call **1-877-NOBURN-5**.)

SMUD reminds customers there are safe ways to keep homes warmer at little or no cost, including:

- Keeping window shades open on sunny days;

- Weather-stripping and caulking around doors and windows;

- Properly insulating water heaters; and

- Wearing heavier clothing to retain body heat.

For more tips on energy efficiency, rebates, or for information on SMUD's program to provide discounts for eligible low-income customers, call **1-888-742-SMUD**, or visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org).

**Contact us:**

Customer Services: 1-888-742-SMUD (7683)

Hours: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Pay online: [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org)



# Reminder: New year means new rates

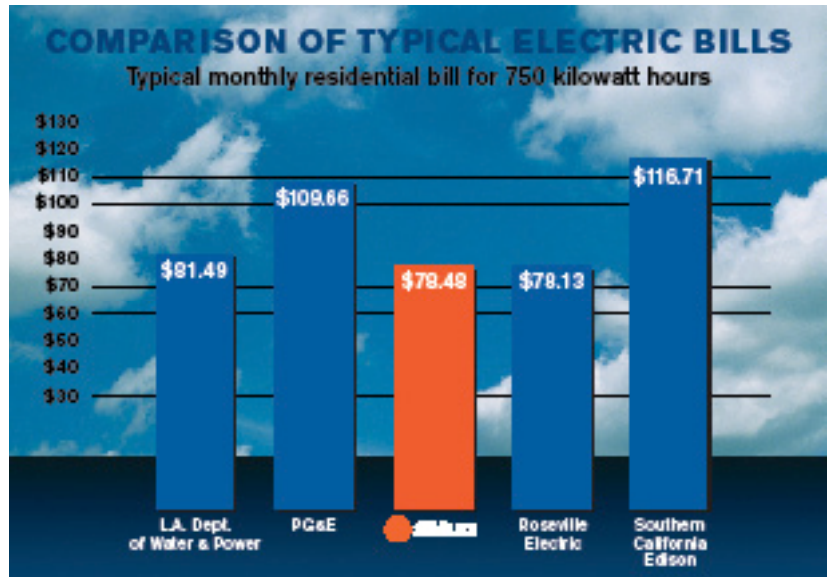
SMUD wants to remind customers that a 7 percent rate increase went into effect Jan. 1.

That means an additional \$5.47 for the household using 750 kilowatt hours per month.

Even with the change, SMUD rates remain among the lowest in the state and more than 25 percent lower than those of neighboring Pacific Gas & Electric (see chart).

The rate increase was approved last spring after a series of public workshops and hearings.

The largest factor behind the increase is the rising costs of the natural gas SMUD buys to fuel power plants. The increase is also needed to fund replacement of aging equipment and facilities to maintain reliability as well as to help meet SMUD and state



goals for energy efficiency and solar power.

For more information on keeping

electricity costs down – and on SMUD programs, financing and rebates that can help – visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org) or call **1-888-742-SMUD**. ■

## Time to join the green conversation

Think globally, act locally – and get involved for a greener, cleaner Sacramento region.

That's the goal behind **OurGreenCommunity.org**, the Web site founded by SMUD to allow everyone in the Sacramento region to work together online, sharing ideas through the kind of social networking now so popular on the Internet. (Think MySpace or Facebook, but for a greener, cleaner Sacramento.)

The heart of **OurGreenCommunity.org** is indeed its community. Both individuals and groups can join, write their own personal Web logs and post events to a community calendar that displays automatically on the site's home page.

For those who just want to learn a little more, there's plenty of information on living greener. In this section is a unique carbon calculator. Unlike those that take general information and generate generalized reports, the OurGreenCommunity calculator will use your own SMUD account information (if you wish), then allow you to add additional details

## OURgreenCOMMUNITY learn, share, live green

to tailor a report that's unique to the Sacramento region and to your own lifestyle.

With that information, you can purchase carbon offsets and learn how to lower your carbon footprint – and help the environment.

The site also features stories on local green issues and two featured Web

logs. One puts the local picture in a global context, while the other makes it personal, tracking the efforts of one person to live a greener life.

Come join the conversation! **OurGreenCommunity.org** is designed with Sacramento in mind, to let everyone in the region work together for a better future for us all. ■

## Free classes offer heating, lighting tips

SMUD offers classes in energy efficiency and green solutions, many of them free. The classes are held in the Customer Service Center at 6301 S St.

Upcoming free classes include:

**Heating Sense and Your Home's Envelope** (9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 26): Keep your home warm with

insulating techniques, equipment maintenance and other strategies.

**Designing With Light** (6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 5): Improve your home's look, feel and energy-efficiency with tips from this class.

Pre-registration is required. To sign up, visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org) or call **916-732-6738**. ■

### SMUD Board of Directors

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Meetings: Held on every first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. and every third Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in the SMUD HQ Auditorium, 6201 S St., Sacramento. NOTE: Meeting times and locations are subject to change.

For the latest information and agenda, visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org), or call the **Board Office** at (916) 732-6155.