

Connections

Customers can soon own piece of the sun

'Solar for everyone' coming to SMUD

Soon SMUD customers will be able to enjoy the benefits of solar power even if they don't own a solar electric system.

The SolarShares[®] pilot program will let residential ratepayers, including renters and residents of multi-unit buildings, buy a portion of their electricity from a locally based "solar farm" for a fixed monthly price from less than \$5 a month up to about \$30 a month. The amount of electricity from the system will vary by season, with higher amounts in summer than in winter. Solar power purchased through SolarShares will offset a customer's metered electricity use, and customers will see solar power credits on their bill.

In this "City of Trees" and surrounding areas, it is often impractical to install solar panels on rooftops because of shading or less-than-ideal orientation relative to the sun. And renters have, until now, been largely excluded from such programs. SolarShares eliminates these obstacles.

The new one-megawatt system will be built in southern Sacramento County, and will be operational in July, with the capacity to serve between 800 and 1,000 customers.



All residential customers will soon be able to buy a portion of their electricity from locally based solar power resources.

Customers can pre-enroll by going online to www.smud.org or contacting SolarShares program manager Jim Burke at **(916) 732-5411**.

SolarShares is the first program of its kind in California, and the largest in the nation. It provides one more way for SMUD customers to support local renewable energy for a cleaner environment. ■



Always call before you dig for safer projects at home

Before you go nosing around in the ground, be sure you know what's down there. Learn the location of any underground utilities before planning any projects so you can stay safe on the job.

Before you start working on a new pool or landscaping, call **811** two days in advance or go online to Call811.com to avoid hitting underground pipes or power lines. The service is free. ■

Contact us:

Customer Services: 1-888-742-SMUD (7683)
Hours: M-F 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Pay online: www.smud.org



Clean pool need not break the budget

Did you know the energy used to run the cleaning and filtering equipment for a standard pool for one month can be enough to power your entire home for a season?

Not to worry. By following three simple rules, you can maintain your pool at a cost that is manageable and helps SMUD with its demand for peak power:

1. **Less is more.** Don't run your filter longer than you have to. Start at four-five hours per day, then decrease that by a half hour each day until the water clouds. From that point,

raise the time a half hour and set the timer.

2. **Keep it clean.** Cleaning the filter and intake basket cuts the time needed to clean your pool. That saves electricity and extends the life of the equipment.

3. **Avoid the rush.** Set your timer to the "off" position from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., hours when demand for electricity is at its highest.

For more money-saving tips – and information on rebates for pool pumps – visit www.smud.org or call **1-888-742-SMUD (7683)**.

Rebates offer hot deals on Cool Roofs

Choose energy-efficient materials for your next re-roofing, and you could get a rebate up to 20 cents per square foot.

SMUD's Cool Roof program rewards customers who re-roof using selected Energy Star® roofing products – those that reflect solar energy and discharge heat. They keep inside temperatures – and cooling costs – down. Compared to standard roofing, Cool Roofs stay 50 to 60 degrees cooler on hot days.

To be eligible, SMUD customers must use a licensed roofing contractor. Low-cost financing is available directly through SMUD.

For more information on Cool Roofs, visit www.smud.org or call **1-888-742-SMUD (7683)**. ■



Cats aren't the only ones who appreciate a cooler roof. You will, too, when you see your energy bills.

Get up to \$20 back on your SMUD bill

Customers can get a cool 20 bucks back on their electric bills during hot summer months by signing up for Peak Corps, SMUD's voluntary load-management program.

Air conditioner usage in summertime drives up overall demand for electricity, putting a strain on the system. To help keep things in balance, more than 100,000 Peak

Corps members have volunteered to cut demand on the hottest days.

A radio-controlled device attached to their central air conditioners allows SMUD to switch those off for periods generally up to one hour on a rotational basis.

On those rare occasions when such cycling occurs, SMUD kicks back an

additional one to three dollars.

The Peak Corps season runs from June through September. Volunteering is easy: Visit www.smud.org, or give SMUD a call at **1-888-742-SMUD (7683)**.

Sign up now and SMUD will send you a free DVD on ways to lower your energy bills. ■

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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, or call the **Board Office** at (916) 732-6155.