

# Connections

## Get the benefits of trees, for free

Long before widespread concerns about global warming, SMUD and the Sacramento Tree Foundation got together to help enhance Sacramento's status as "The City of Trees" by offering free shade trees to SMUD customers.

Since 1990, that partnership has resulted in the planting of more than 400,000 shade trees, many of which are already doing their part to reduce energy consumption and keep the air cleaner.

These days everyone thinks planting trees is a great idea, and we're happy to have others follow our lead. Check out these benefits of trees:

■ Trees cool your home naturally.

■ Trees properly selected, planted and cared for can begin to reduce your home cooling costs within just a few years.

■ Fully grown, properly placed trees can cut your home cooling costs by up to 40 percent.

■ Trees add beauty and grace to your neighborhood.

■ Trees add value to your property.

■ Tree leaves capture rainwater.

■ Trees fight pollution by producing oxygen and helping to cleanse the air we all breathe.

■ Tree roots help clean rainwater and add stability to the soil.

■ Trees provide a habitat for birds, squirrels and insects (and a play space for our children).

So why aren't you planting a tree? If your home has an eastern, western or southern exposure that heats up during the summer, you may be eligible for free shade trees.

Together with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, SMUD continues to provide expert advice on tree selection and planting techniques, and healthy trees along with stakes, ties and delivery at no cost to you. All you do is promise to plant and pledge to care for the trees.

We can even refer you to licensed landscaping contractors if you need some help with the planting.

Visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org) or call (916) 924-TREE (8733) to schedule a visit from a Community Forester. ■



**Trees are as much a part of Sacramento's beauty as is the dome of the State Capitol.**

## Upgrade and pocket SMUD rebate cash

Think long-term when upgrading home equipment or appliances. Better yet, think ENERGY STAR®.

ENERGY STAR-labeled equipment and appliances offer a long-term investment in savings. The ENERGY STAR label identifies products that save energy, save money and help the environment. The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency worked together to create the label.



SMUD offers rebates ranging from \$25 to \$1,500 on energy-efficient upgrades. SMUD also offers financing on some energy-efficient home improvements.

For a list of products eligible for rebates, information on available financing and lists of participating energy-efficiency contractors, call **1-888-742-SMUD (7683)** 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)



# Go fly a kite, but do it safely

Breezy spring days make the young among us – and the young at heart – yearn to fly a colorful kite. But to keep the experience as safe as it is enjoyable, follow these simple safety tips:

- Build or buy kites made of wood or plastic.
- Use only cloth for the tail.
- Fly kites in wide, open areas, away from power lines.
- Only use cotton, linen or nylon string. Never use metallic thread, wire or wire-reinforced string as they can cause a fire, serious injury or death if they come in contact with energized electrical equipment.
- Fly kites in dry weather only. When a kite string gets wet it becomes a stronger conductor of electricity.

If a kite gets caught in electrical lines or falls into a substation, leave it there. Do not touch any part of the kite or string and keep everyone else away as well.

Call the toll-free Customer Service line at **1-888-742-SMUD (7683)** and a SMUD employee will be out to safely retrieve the kite.

For additional electrical safety tips, visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org). ■



**Choose open areas for kite-flying safety.**

## Get up to date on latest technology with free classes

Find out about new, green technology and get the information you need to light your home efficiently and effectively – all for free to SMUD customers at upcoming workshops.

The workshops are held at the SMUD Customer Service Center, 6301 S St. (just off Highway 50 and 65th Street). Reservations are required and space is limited. Register at [www.smud.org/etc](http://www.smud.org/etc) or call **916-732-6738**.

**Exterior Lighting for Homeowners, 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 9:** What personality does your home have at night? Learn the different techniques and efficient ways of lighting the exterior including your house, yard, pool and more.

**Energy Essentials for Your Home Project, 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 16**

**(also 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 19):** Before you begin your next home project, consider energy-efficient options. Become better informed about new building materials, building methods and overall energy-efficiency.

SMUD also offers free workshops on energy-related topics for area teachers, who can sign up in the same way as for the other classes. ■

### OURgreenCOMMUNITY learn, share, live green

Come join the conversation at **OurGreenCommunity.org**, the Web site founded by SMUD to give everyone a chance to work together for a greener Sacramento.

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. ■

## SMUD Board of Directors

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**Susan Patterson** • Ward 2    **Peter Keat** • Ward 5    **Bill Slaton** • Ward 7

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.