

# SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services

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## SMUD marks celebration of Public Power Week

SMUD is joining more than 2,000 public power agencies across the nation to celebrate Public Power Week, October 1 through 7. With the highest ratings for residential customer satisfaction of any California utility for six of the last seven years, there's cause for celebration throughout the Sacramento community.

But from a customer perspective -- those who have grown accustomed to receiving affordable, reliable electricity from SMUD -- just what does public power mean, and how does it benefit customers and their communities?

Public power utilities are not-for-profit electric systems owned and operated by the people they serve through a local or state government. In SMUD's case, an elected board of directors oversees the public utility's operations. Approximately 14 percent of the country receives its electricity from public power systems. With 580,000 customers, SMUD is the sixth-largest public utility in the country in terms of customers served.

The American Public Power Association points out some of the benefits of public power:

- Public power costs less because of its not-for-profit nature, allowing cost savings to stay within the community through lower rates. SMUD's rates are among the lowest in the state.
- Citizens have a direct and powerful voice in utility decisions, both at the ballot box and in open meetings where business is conducted.
- Lower electricity rates help attract and keep businesses, furthering economic development in communities served by public power.

Public power is widely recognized for its commitment to the environment. For example, SMUD was the first California utility to formally endorse recent legislation to cap California's greenhouse gas emissions to slow global warming. SMUD has also partnered for many years with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, providing free shade trees to help reduce customers' home cooling costs.

This year marks SMUD's 60th anniversary of providing public power to Sacramento and of keeping its initial promises of low rates, reliable service and local control. For more information, visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org).

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