

# SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

News Media Services

916•732•5111

For immediate release

March 4, 2008

## Large businesses save big through SMUD program

*Money-saving program replaces old T12 with more efficient T8 lighting*

SMUD is helping its large commercial customers save money on their energy bills up front and for the long haul. When their old T12 lights are replaced with efficient T8 lighting, businesses receive a significant rebate from SMUD and their lighting costs can be lowered by 30 percent.

By replacing T12 fluorescent tube lamps and the old magnetic ballast with more energy efficient T8 lamps and ballasts, SMUD commercial customers can reap rebates of up to 50 percent of the overall cost of the project, or \$150,000, whichever comes first, under certain circumstances. The lighting can save customers an additional 30 percent or more on the lighting portion of their electric bills.

T8 tubes are thin lamps compared to their thicker T12 predecessors. The T8 lamps easily fit into the existing fixtures and function with only a small modification to the ballast. Retrofitting is quick and relatively easy.

To qualify, business customers must have demand loads of 300 kilowatts (kW) and above. An average supermarket would probably fit into the demand load range of 350 kW and would be an example of a suitable candidate for this program. SMUD is educating local lighting contractors about the program who would likely provide the installation service. Contractors handle all of the paperwork and receive the incentives directly while passing along savings to the customers.

To qualify for the rebates, projects must be pre-approved. Approval is on a first-come, first-served basis, as funding is limited. Customers approved for the program must replace all of the T12 lamps used in their facilities for general lighting purposes.

The new program is similar to the very successful Prescriptive Lighting program offered to small business customers. Many of those customers report considerable energy cost savings. Interested customers should visit [smud.org](http://smud.org) for a list of participating contractors. For more information about SMUD and its other energy-saving programs for businesses visit [smud.org](http://smud.org).

###

