Replace your conventional refrigerant system and start saving today
Increase system performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The next generation of refrigerants can reduce greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change.

SMUD’s Pilot Natural Refrigerant Incentive Program works with our existing Custom Incentive and Savings By Design programs to provide your company additional incentives for installing natural refrigeration systems or retrofitting a system from a high-GWP refrigerant to a natural refrigerant. This program offers incentives for the energy savings achieved through efficiency improvements and the direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction through the use of natural refrigerants. The research conducted as part of this pilot program will expand local knowledge of natural refrigerant systems and support future refrigerant policy development.

To be eligible for the pilot program, customers must meet the following criteria:

- Install a new natural refrigerant system and meet the other requirements of the Custom Incentive or Savings By Design Programs; or
- Retrofit an existing refrigerant system with a natural refrigerant and meet the other program requirements of the Custom Incentive Program.

SMUD will provide performance monitoring for the incentivized refrigeration system in order to allow the collection of energy data. Participants must agree to allow SMUD, or its designated contractors, access to the necessary refrigeration system and electrical system components to install sub-metering devices and to collect the data for a minimum of a three-year period.

Incentive eligibility may be limited to one per company.
SMUD Pilot Natural Refrigerant Incentive Program

Incentive Levels
The incentive will be administered through either the existing Custom Incentive Program for retrofit projects, or through the existing Savings By Design Program for new construction projects. The total incentive for participants will consist of two components that are calculated separately: an energy savings incentive payment and a direct GHG emissions reduction incentive payment.

Energy Savings Incentive
Eligible projects can qualify for energy efficiency rebates of up to $150,000. Please refer to the Custom Incentive and Savings By Design Program requirements for the respective current incentive structures.

Direct GHG Emissions Reductions Incentive
Incentives are based on decreasing direct emissions from refrigerants over the system lifetime:
- $25/MtCO$_2$e emissions reduction from refrigerants
- All projects located in disadvantaged communities (with preference for those in the top 10%) and implemented by small businesses will receive a 25% incentive bonus.
- Total incentive limited to 30% of project cost or $150,000, whichever is less

Combined incentive limited to 50% of project cost or $250,000, whichever is less.

For more information, contact Ryan Hammond, P.E. at Ryan.Hammond@smud.org or 916-732-5647

Working for You
As your community-owned and not-for-profit electric service, we structure our rates and services to benefit the community we call home. We’re committed to providing low rates, reliable power and superior service.

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1 A natural refrigerant for this pilot incentive program is defined as ammonia, CO$_2$, or hydrocarbon. Other low-GWP refrigerants and refrigerant blends, such as HFOs, are excluded from this pilot incentive.

2 This includes a requirement that the retrofit creates a permanent change ensuring that the system cannot switch back to a high-GWP refrigerant in the future.