

Connections

Our monthly newsletter for residential customers



June 2023

Powering forward. Together.

Summer rates start June 1



Summer rates run from June 1 through September 30 during peak hours between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The good news is, there are ways to lower your bill without sacrificing comfort. Air conditioners have the biggest impact on electricity usage and summer bills. Stay comfortable and

help the environment by reducing your air conditioner use from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Keep in mind, weekends and holidays are off-peak hours.

Here are some more tips to help:

- Try setting your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher. For every 2 degrees that you turn your thermostat up, you can save 5-10% on cooling costs. Make this easier with a programmable or smart thermostat.
- Use fans instead of central air conditioning whenever possible. A fan costs about 90% less to operate.
- Close blinds on windows that get direct sun.
- Change your air filter regularly. An air conditioning unit with dirty filters can use 5-10% more energy.

If your home cools easily and can maintain a consistent temperature, try precooling to keep your home comfortable between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Here's how:

- If your normal temperature setting during the summer is 78 degrees, try setting your thermostat at 76 degrees from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Then, raise your thermostat setting to 81 degrees from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and use fans to help you feel cooler.
- Set your thermostat back to 78 degrees after 8 p.m.

Visit [smud.org/TimeOfDay](https://www.smud.org/TimeOfDay) to find more ways to reduce your electricity use while staying cool and safe. •

Make our communities



Applications are now being accepted for our Shine awards.

Now in its 7th year, Shine invests in projects that support zero carbon workforce development, environmental justice and equity, inclusive economic development and STEM education in the Sacramento region.

Shine awards are competitive and funds are limited.

Applicants are encouraged to apply before the deadline at **5 p.m. on Monday, July 31**. All applicants must be incorporated nonprofit organizations within SMUD's service area.

To learn more, visit [smud.org/Shine](https://www.smud.org/Shine) and register for a Shine application webinar. •

Find the professional you need with the SMUD Contractor Network

Are you looking to upgrade or replace a broken water heater or HVAC system? The first step to any home improvement project is to select a qualified contractor. The SMUD Contractor Network is an online directory that lets you easily search for a contractor by a variety of criteria like type of project, languages spoken and financing offered. Search results will include contractors who match your needs, are

familiar with our rebates and have high customer satisfaction scores. You'll also get detailed information about the contractor, a direct link to their website and a one-click email tool for direct communication.

Get started on your project today and find a contractor at SMUDContractorNetwork.org. •

Plan before you plant

Properly planted trees and shrubs add beauty, shade, protection and value to almost any property. Trees interfering with power lines are a major cause of power outages and can create safety hazards. Some trees should never be planted near power lines. For safety tips on planting the right tree in the right place, visit smud.org/TreeSafety. •



Plan before you plant.

smud.org/TreeSafety 

SMUD Board of Directors

Your elected Board of Directors holds regular meetings once a month on the third Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Headquarters Auditorium. Meetings are streamed live and archived on smud.org.

Visit smud.org/Board for the latest information.

- Ward 1 Brandon Rose
- Ward 2 Nancy Bui-Thompson
- Ward 3 Gregg Fishman
- Ward 4 Rosanna Herber • Vice President
- Ward 5 Rob Kerth
- Ward 6 Dave Tamayo
- Ward 7 Heidi Sanborn • President

Customer Service: 1-888-742-SMUD (7683) or smud.org. Hours: Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. SMUD is located at 6301 S St., Sacramento, CA 95817. To manage your account online, pay your bill or view your energy usage, go to smud.org/MyAccount.