

## ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Quality Installation for Your Air Conditioner Can Help You Save Big This Summer

Summer is here and staying cool is a top priority. Before the hot weather catches up with you, make sure that your air conditioner (A/C) will keep your home cool and comfortable while helping keep your energy costs down.

The ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Quality Installation program will help ensure that your air conditioner is designed and installed to industry standards, providing you with a cost-effective, energy-saving installation that can help improve the comfort of your home. The program focuses on selecting the right high-efficiency equipment for your home and ensuring the work meets ENERGY STAR Quality Installation Guidelines.

An improper installation may increase energy usage, raise your electric bill and make your A/C work harder, which can shorten equipment life. It may also result in a loss of as much as 30 percent of the cooling efficiency of your A/C.

Beat the heat this summer. Visit [www.sce.com/ac](http://www.sce.com/ac) for more information and to find a participating contractor near you.

## Considering an Electric Vehicle? SCE Wants to Help You Get Plug-in Ready

You've probably heard by now that there's a new type of car hitting showroom floors this fall: plug-in electric vehicles, which can run either partly or entirely on electricity.

If you are thinking about purchasing a plug-in electric vehicle, there are a number of decisions you need to make and actions you might need to take **before** you drive one home.

Some questions you'll need to consider:

- Are you buying a plug-in hybrid, which can also run on gasoline, or an all-electric car?
- Are your home's electrical panel and wiring configured to recharge your car?
- Do you need to hire an electrical contractor?
- Will you need to obtain city permits for any electrical work?
- You have different electric rates available to you for vehicle recharging. Which is the best one for you?
- What is the best time of day for you to recharge your vehicle?



If you're considering purchasing a plug-in electric vehicle, please complete a brief survey at [www.sce.com/pev](http://www.sce.com/pev). Your feedback is important and will help us to keep you informed about important electric vehicle information related to rate plans and recharging options, and getting your home plug-in ready.

We're also developing online analysis tools to help our customers make informed decisions about what electric rate plan is best for them. Customers who take our online survey will be notified as soon as these tools are available. Be sure to visit [www.sce.com/pev](http://www.sce.com/pev) for frequent updates and important information about how to get plug-in ready.

## Speakers from SCE Available for Presentations to Schools, Organizations

The SCE Speakers' Bureau is a group of SCE employees committed to educating customers about important issues related to the electricity industry. Our speakers' services are free and our presentations are available in multiple languages for service clubs, schools, business and faith-based organizations as well as senior, consumer and community groups.

To request a speaker, visit [www.sce.com/scespeakers](http://www.sce.com/scespeakers)

## Enjoy "Green" Savings with Solar

Installing a solar energy or solar water heating system for your home can earn you rebates and reduce your electric bill while helping to protect the environment by capturing the sun's renewable energy.

We are offering customers a series of **free Homeowner Solar** classes to learn how to take advantage of the incentives offered through the California Solar Initiative. The classes will provide information about:

- Solar energy basics
- Benefits of installing a solar energy system or solar water heating system
- Tax credits and other financial models that can help reduce upfront costs
- Financial incentives through the California Solar Initiative program

The 90-minute, easy-to-understand sessions are held weekday evenings and Saturday mornings at SCE Service Centers and other convenient locations throughout our service territory.

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. To find a *Homeowner Solar* session near you, call (866) 970-9221, or visit us online at [www.sce.com/solartraining](http://www.sce.com/solartraining). To learn more about the California Solar Initiative Thermal (solar water heating) program, visit us online at [www.sce.com/swh](http://www.sce.com/swh).

## SCE Invites Customers to “Round Up” Bill Payments to Help Less Fortunate

SCE is inviting customers to give a few pennies each month to the Energy Assistance Fund (EAF) to help your neighbors in need. With more Californians struggling than ever before, you can help meet the needs of many in our communities. Just a few pennies a month can add up to a big change.

The EAF program grants up to \$100 per year to help SCE customers who cannot pay their electric bills. This program is funded by SCE employees and the utility's parent company, Edison International, as well as through the voluntary donations of SCE customers.

If 170,000 customers rounded up their bills to the nearest dollar amount, SCE estimates that more than \$1 million would be generated for the EAF program to help keep the program running all year long. Rounding up your bill each month only costs about \$6 per year but can make a difference in helping to keep the lights on for a neighbor in need.

Customers can now donate to EAF via a round-up or fixed option on your SCE bill payment stub. You may opt to have your monthly bill rounded up to the next whole dollar, or you can make your contribution to EAF through a fixed amount option where you specify an amount to be added. The fixed or round-up options can be either one-time gifts or they can occur every month. You must provide your signature on the form to confirm your contribution.

For more details on how to contribute to EAF, please call **(800) 655-4555**, or visit [www.sce.com/energyassistancefund](http://www.sce.com/energyassistancefund).

Since 1982, the Energy Assistance Fund has helped thousands of SCE low-income families. In 2009 alone, it served about 8,600 customers with the help of SCE customer donations of \$58,000 directly in 2009, and another \$53,500 when customers designated their rebates for recycling refrigerators to go to the fund. United Way of Greater Los Angeles administers the funds for the company through 75 community-based organizations.

Change of Mailing Address: 0-00-000-0000				Direct Payment (Automatic Debit) Enrollment: 0-00-000-0000					
STATE #	STREET NAME	APARTMENT #		I hereby authorize SCE and my financial institution to automatically deduct my monthly payments from the checking accounts shown on my address check, on calendar days after my bill is mailed.					
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE		Signature _____ Date _____					
TELEPHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS		To ensure your checking account information is reliable, please verify with the Direct Payment program administrator at (800) 655-4555.						
<b>Energy Assistance Fund (EAF):</b> I want to help people pay their energy bill through EAF. For info visit <a href="http://www.sce.com">www.sce.com</a> or call (800) 205-8695.									
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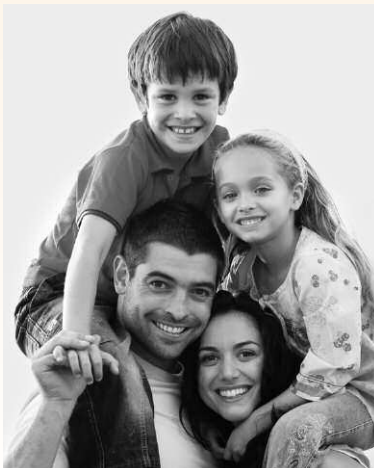
### We're Here to Help

In these challenging economic times, many customers are looking for ways to save money. SCE can help.

#### Find out if you qualify for these helpful programs offered by SCE:

- **Payment Arrangements and Extensions** – If you are having difficulty paying your SCE bill, contact us to request a payment extension. We can also help you work out a more flexible payment arrangement. **(800) 950-2356**
- **Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA)** – If you have three or more individuals in your household, and you exceed your baseline electricity usage by more than 30 percent, you can receive a discount on your energy bill by meeting the program's income requirements. **(800) 447-6620**
- **Level Pay Plan** – Let SCE help you plan and budget your funds more efficiently by dividing the total energy charges over a 12-month period on your SCE bill into equal monthly payments. **(800) 434-2365**
- **Medical Baseline** – If you use electrically-powered medical equipment, or if you have specific medical conditions that require electricity, your household may qualify for an additional baseline energy allowance to help manage your energy costs. **(800) 684-8123**

For details on eligibility and income requirements for these helpful SCE programs, please visit [www.sce.com/billhelper](http://www.sce.com/billhelper), or contact us toll-free at the phone numbers provided. These programs are funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by SCE under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.



### Fight Fire Before It Starts

#### Indoors:

- Do not overload power outlets.
- Keep fire extinguishers close to where you may be using fire – your kitchen, patio or garage. Verify that your fire extinguishers are charged, in good condition and not past their expiration dates. Select a multi-purpose extinguisher that can be used on all types of home fires – choose one that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle. Never use water on an electrical fire: it can cause an electrical shock.
- Be attentive when using heat-producing electrical devices such as blow dryers, flat and curling irons, clothes irons, stoves, ovens, barbecues and fireplaces, and discontinue use of any item that has frayed or broken wires. If such items come in contact with flammable or wet surfaces, they may cause a fire or electrical shock.

#### Outdoors:

- Consult with a licensed arborist to help you select plants for your yard that do not reach within 10 feet of power lines when fully grown.
- Remove all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth within at least 30 feet of your home and other structures on your property.
- Check with your insurance company and fire department for your local clearance requirements.
- Follow local authority directions and camp ground rules for using fire outdoors.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for using potentially hazardous products.
- Remember, if you notice smoke or fire at home or nearby, immediately call 9-1-1, alert everyone at home, and prepare to evacuate quickly. Once you have evacuated, let fire professionals handle the danger and do not return until local authorities have declared that it is safe to do so.

Learn more about fire and emergency preparedness at [www.sce.com/firesafety](http://www.sce.com/firesafety) or [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org).