

# Working Together to Create a Brighter Future for Everyone

## Conserving Energy at Work and Home

In Southern California, it costs more to produce electricity in the summer, when energy demand is at its peak, and less in the winter, during periods of lower demand. When you use energy wisely, you'll help save money and the environment.

That's why your City and Southern California Edison (SCE) are partnering to encourage energy efficiency and conservation at work and home. Using energy wisely is a smart way to lower costs, while protecting our planet and its natural resources.

### Simple Changes Can Make a Difference

Simple changes to energy use habits can help. Switch off lights when you're not in the room, and turn off equipment at the end of the day. Using major home appliances before noon or after 6 p.m., and charging your electric vehicle from 10 p.m. – 8 a.m., can help conserve energy when demand is at its highest.

Energy management is the first and best way to take control of your energy lifestyle at work and home, and it can help create a brighter future for everyone. Here are some ideas to help you get started today:

### No Cost/Low Cost Ways to Save Energy at Work

#### Office Equipment:

- Set your computer and monitor to go into "sleep," "hibernate," or an equivalent mode after 20 minutes of inactivity. These modes draw less power, while keeping programs open for when you return to work.
- Switch off power strips. Many computers and other devices draw power, even when they are turned off. With a flip of the switch, you can easily cut off power to multiple devices at once, saving time, energy, and money.
- Turning off your computer at the end of the work day. It could save you up to a third of its energy costs, depending on your use and power management settings.

#### Office Lighting:

- Spotlight your work spaces with task lighting. Overhead bulbs can brighten a space, but often use more light than you really need. Using a small desk lamp brings better light to the task at hand and saves energy.
- Turn off lights when not needed. It's a simple way for you to make a dent in your utility bill.



- Use natural light during the day. Increase the amount of natural light that enters your work space, to reduce the need for artificial lighting. By opening window treatments, you can naturally light your office, saving energy and lowering your lighting costs.

### More Energy-Saving Tips

- Use a laptop instead of a desktop computer. Laptops need less electricity to run, and spend more time in low-power modes than desktops, making them up to 90% more efficient. Consider making a tech-savvy choice that's also energy smart.
- Talk with your co-workers about how they save energy. This may help identify additional things you can do to save. You may discover hidden energy costs, find out how to eliminate them, and learn from each other's good habits.

### Conservation Facts

- Benchmarking is the process of comparing your energy performance to something similar. "Something similar" might be internal, like performance at the same time last year. Or it might be external, like performance compared to similar facilities elsewhere. (Source: [www.ENERGYSTAR.gov](http://www.ENERGYSTAR.gov))
- ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup>-qualified desk lamps and Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs provide high-quality light output, use 75% less energy, and last up to 10 times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs. (Source: [www.ENERGYSTAR.gov](http://www.ENERGYSTAR.gov))
- "Smart" power strips sense when office workers are present, and turn connected equipment on or off, accordingly. (Source: California Energy Commission)
- Many people work from home at least one day per week. Working from home saves energy and time by cutting out the commute, but may increase your home energy bills, unless you use energy-saving office equipment. (Source: U.S. Department of Energy)

## Conserving Energy at Work and Home

### It's Easy to Save Energy at Home, Too!

#### Heating and Cooling:



- Lower your thermostat a few degrees in winter, raise it a few degrees in summer, and program it to avoid using energy when you're not home.
- Heating and cooling consume up to 50% of total home energy use. Clean or replace air filters monthly to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.
- Clear the area around vents. Furniture, carpets, and other objects can block vents and prevent heated or cooled air from moving, making your systems work harder.

#### Lighting:

- Solar lights can significantly reduce outdoor lighting costs without compromising security or style.
- To create a soothing tone in living rooms and bedrooms, use energy-efficient soft white CFLs (bright white CFLs can be used in areas where sharper illumination is desired).
- Use motion sensors and lighting timers. They work automatically, so you can maximize savings without having to remember to turn off the lights.
- Install specialized, efficient light fixtures to make sure you receive the best performance possible from Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs) and CFLs.

#### Appliances and Electronics:

- About 90% of the energy consumed for washing clothes is used to heat the water. Washing in cold or warm water may clean your clothes just as well.
- Hang drying is the most energy-efficient and low-cost approach to drying clothes. If this is not an option, you can still save energy and money by using your dryer efficiently.
- Set your refrigerator's temperature between 35°F - 38°F. Making sure your refrigerator is not too cold will minimize the annual costs of running it.

#### Pools and Spas:

- Lower the temperature on your pool heater, to decrease the amount of energy used to keep your pool warm.
- Cover your pool when not in use – it could save 50-70% on pool heating costs.  
Reduce your pool pump's run time by 60-75% – it may result in an equal percentage of energy savings.

#### Around the House:

- Reducing average shower times by one minute may result in a 13% decrease in shower water use, lowering water heating costs while conserving water.
- Putting weather stripping and caulk around doors keeps cool air from escaping, and warm air from entering.
- Install solar panels on your rooftop or solar thermal water heating system. Visit [www.sce.com/gosolar](http://www.sce.com/gosolar) for details.



#### Learn More

For more information about how you can make energy improvements at home and at work, please contact:

Southern California Edison  
1-800-736-4777  
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
[www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com)

SCE Home Energy Advisor  
1-800-278-8585  
[sce-energyadvisor.opower.com](http://sce-energyadvisor.opower.com)

ENERGY STAR  
1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937)  
[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

California Energy Commission Consumer Energy Center  
1-800-555-7794  
[www.consumerenergycenter.org](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org)



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