

# BrightSide



PALM DESERT

a publication  
of the  
City of Palm Desert

Winter 2007



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Up to \$1,000

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## Get Ready, Get **set to save**

More than ever, people are talking about energy, its rising cost, and how to conserve it. Set to Save is a unique partnership that offers Palm Desert residents and businesses a chance to take part in a pioneering effort to cut energy usage while saving money.

Conceived and designed to be a groundbreaking model for California's utilities and cities to follow, the Palm Desert Partnership Demonstration Project teams the City of Palm Desert with Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, and The Energy Coalition as partners in this aggressive conservation campaign.

The program is designed to empower the community to save money and energy by reducing energy consumption and peak demand within the City by 30% (adjusted for growth) within five years through education, added financial incentives, new technologies and services, and a variety of community-wide efforts to heighten awareness and participation by Palm Desert residents.

With this innovative program, the City of Palm Desert and its partners offer you a chance to do more than just talk about this important issue – now you can take action.

### Palm Desert Office of Energy Management

73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200-A

Phone: 837-0287

Visit online: [www.cityofpalmdesert.org](http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org)

and click on "Set to Save Energy Partnership"



Palm Desert residents and businesses can take advantage of thousands of dollars in cash incentives by replacing old heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, refrigeration, and pool pumping equipment with new, more energy efficient models.

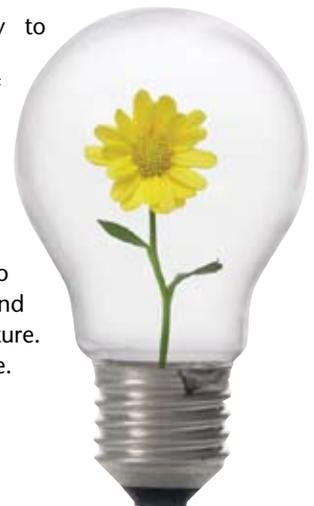
Energy savings from the early replacement of inefficient residential air conditioners alone is conservatively estimated at 4.8 million kilowatt hours per year. That is enough to supply the annual electricity needs of more than 695 California households.

Keep reading this special edition of the *BrightSide* to discover the many ways you can save money and energy by participating in Set to Save rebates and programs. In addition, you will find many, no-hassle tips on how to conserve electricity and gas at home and work.

It's easy to participate.

For a complete list of rebates and program details, just contact Palm Desert's Office of Energy Management.

Get involved and help Palm Desert lead the way to a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly future. Get ready – Get Set To Save.



### Palm Desert Energy Partnership:



PALM DESERT



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**EDISON**  
An EDISON INTERNATIONAL Company



The  
**Energy  
Coalition**



The  
Gas  
Company

A Sempra Energy utility™

# TIP



## Air Conditioners

Set thermostat to 78°F or higher when at home. Set at 85°F or turn off when away.

Install a programmable thermostat to automatically regulate your home's temperature.



The City of Palm Desert  
Southern California Edison  
The Energy Coalition  
Southern California Gas Company

## CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING INCENTIVES

EQUIPMENT TIER	EQUIPMENT REQUIRED EFFICIENCIES (MINIMUMS)	REBATES	A/C \$1,400 REBATE LIMIT	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
<b>SUPER HIGH PERFORMANCE</b>	SEER 17 (2-speed compressor) or EER 14	\$1,000	There is a \$1,400 rebate limit for every air conditioning system installed in your home. Homeowners replacing more than one system could be eligible for more money. Rebate eligibility is at the discretion of Southern California Edison.	Coil and condenser model numbers on invoice can be matched to performance data in CEE database ( <a href="http://www.ceehvadirectory.org">www.ceehvadirectory.org</a> ). Documentation is also available from the manufacturer.
<b>2</b>	SEER 15 and EER 12.5	\$600		
<b>1</b>	SEER 14 and EER 12	\$300		
<p>Obtain a manufacturer data sheet or a performance printout from the CEE database (<a href="http://www.ceehvadirectory.org">www.ceehvadirectory.org</a>) to find out what level rebate your air conditioner qualifies for. Ensure that the contractor provides this and includes manufacturer model numbers for the installed products.</p>				
<b>EARLY RETIREMENT</b>	Verify that equipment is fully operational. Call 1-800-736-4777 for more information or to schedule a verification appointment.	\$300	Older air conditioners do not perform at their designed level of efficiency. For your system to qualify for early retirement, you must:	Verification by SCE Inspector that unit is:
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have evidence that your existing system is fully operational and does not need replacement.</li> <li>Replace your old unit with a new system that meets the Tier 1, Tier 2, or Super High Performance Criteria.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully operational/replacement was not required.</li> <li>You must also install a new central air conditioning system qualifying for one of the above tiers. Your application must be received within six months of the verification date.</li> </ol>

## SERVICES INCENTIVES

SERVICE	REBATES	DESCRIPTION	REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
<b>DUCT TESTING</b>	\$100	Duct testing checks for leakage in your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The contractor must provide a printout of your home's test results for rebate eligibility. You can apply for this rebate with or without applying for central air conditioning replacement.	Invoice with printout of test results. If test reveals sealing is required, sealing must be performed.
<b>DUCT SEALING</b>	\$500	Sealing ducts increases the efficiency of your HVAC system. If a duct test indicates a leakage of 20% or more, you can apply for the duct seal rebate if the leakage has been reduced by at least 50%.	Invoice with printout of test results, before and after.
<b>ZONING</b>	\$500 – 2 zones \$750 – 3 zones \$1,000 – 4 or more zones	Increase HVAC efficiency by directing airflow away from unoccupied areas of your home using a zoning system. Zoning employs contractor-installed dampers and controls to regulate airflow. <i>Note: Zoning is not having two or more central air conditioning units focused on different areas of the home.</i>	Detailed description included on invoice, specifying the equipment installed and the number of zones.
<b>MAINTENANCE CONTRACT</b>	\$150	Keeping your HVAC system properly maintained could save a significant amount of energy and trouble. To be eligible for this rebate, sign a minimum three-year agreement with a qualified C-20 contractor. The contract must specify your address and the contract's term.	Minimum 3-Year Contract. Contract is signed by owner/resident. Contract specifies address and timeframe.

Maximum rebate total per system is \$1,400.

## set to save

# Getting Started

Set To Save offers a wide variety of energy efficiency rebates and incentives to help you save energy and money.

The best way to get started is to take an energy survey. Palm Desert residents can visit the Southern California Edison (SCE) website at [www.sce.com/survey](http://www.sce.com/survey) and take a personalized online energy survey of their home.

Small business owners can conduct an online energy survey by going to [www.sce.com/\\_CustomerView/SmallBusiness/](http://www.sce.com/_CustomerView/SmallBusiness/).

Be sure to have a copy of your electric bill handy, as the survey will ask you for your account number. SCE's



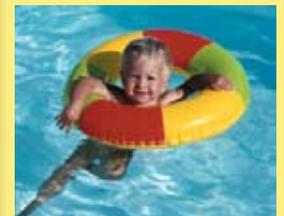
online surveys utilize a customer's service account number to tie into their energy usage history and provide energy saving tips tailored specifically to them.

After completing the approximately 15-minute survey, the computer performs its calculations, detailing energy use and how much has been spent on items such as air conditioning, appliances, lighting, and pool operation. Mail-in and telephone surveys are also available from SCE for those without Internet access.

Customers unable to take an energy survey can contact the City's new Office of Energy Management and schedule an appointment for a personal in-home energy survey. The technician will inspect the home and discuss potential energy saving measures with the resident. The technician also will provide a list of contractors who can install the recommended measures and financial institutions that can assist with funding.

The Office of Energy Management is located at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200-A, Palm Desert.

For more information go to [www.cityofpalmdesert.org](http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org) and click on "Set to Save Energy Partnership" or call the Office of Energy Management at **837-0287**.



## TIP

### Swimming Pools

Consider purchasing a solar pool cover.

When purchasing new pool equipment, look for energy efficient pump and motor combinations.

Filter during off-peak hours before 11 a.m.

and after 6 p.m.

Do not run the filter longer than required.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVES

PRODUCT	REBATE/UNIT	DESCRIPTION
<b>SHADE COVERS AND AWNINGS</b>	\$20/ linear ft.	Dramatically reduce the heat that comes into your home by installing shade covers and awnings over west, south, and east-facing windows. North-facing window awnings and trellis style shade covers are not eligible.
<b>WINDOW FILM</b>	\$.75/ sq. ft.	Cut sunshine generated heat further with window film. West, south, and east-facing windows with clear, single-pane glass are eligible for a window film rebate. Film must have at least a five-year manufacturer's warranty and have a solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) of less than 0.39 or of less than 0.47 with a visible transmittance/SHGC ratio of greater than 1.3. If you installed the window film, you must provide copies of receipts for materials, window dimensions, and the specification sheet that came with the film.
<b>ENERGY STAR® QUALIFIED ROOM AIR CONDITIONER</b>	\$75/ unit (\$25/ unit if purchased at Point-of-Sale*)	A list of qualifying models is available at <a href="http://www.sce.com">www.sce.com</a> . Click on "Rebates & Savings," "Residential," "Heating & Cooling," "Energy Star® Qualified Air Conditioner."
<b>VARIABLE SPEED POOL PUMP</b>	\$500/ unit	Reduce the energy cost of operating your pool pump up to 90%. Single-speed and two-speed pumps do not qualify. Installed pump must have a controller enabling you to program the model to function at different speeds at different times. Pumps used solely for spas, boosters, or fountains are not eligible.

\*An on-site verification of the product(s) purchased and installed may be required before the rebate is paid.

# Checklist

## Save Energy And Money **At Home**

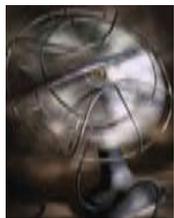
### Air Conditioners

- Set thermostat to 78°F or higher when at home. Set at 85°F or turn off when away.
- Save up to 20% of cooling costs by purchasing a new energy efficient air conditioner or evaporative cooler.
- Save up to 25% on cooling and heating costs by installing/upgrading insulation.
- Have air ducts tested for leaks and then sealed to save an additional 5% to 20% on cooling and heating costs.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automatically regulate your home's temperature.
- Save up to 5% on cooling and heating costs by caulking and weather stripping drafty doors and windows.
- Clean and inspect air conditioner filter regularly.
- In summer, close window coverings to keep sun out.
- Install and use ceiling fans to stay cool.
- Open windows at night to let cool air in.



### Heaters

- Save up to 20% on heating costs by lowering your thermostat by 3 to 5 degrees. Turn furnace off when not at home.
- Purchase a new energy efficient gas furnace with a high Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) or an Energy Star® label\*.
- Keep furnace tuned up with regular maintenance.
- Save up to 2% on heating costs by cleaning or replacing furnace filter regularly.
- In winter open window coverings during the day to let sun in.



### Water Heaters

- Lower the thermostat setting and save up to 15% on water heating costs.
- Take shorter, cooler showers, which can account for more than half of hot water usage.
- Save up to 10% on water heating costs by installing low-flow showerheads.
- Insulate exterior uncovered hot water pipes.
- Save up to 10% of hot water costs by washing full laundry loads in cold water.
- Only run the dishwasher when full.
- Fix leaky faucets. One drop of hot water per second can waste 2,500 gallons per year.
- Buy an energy efficient gas water heater with a high Energy Factor (EF) rating. Installing a .60 EF 40 gallon water heater can save up to 10% on water heating costs.
- Consider purchasing an Energy Star® clothes washer. These models use up to 50% less water and energy per load.



### Lights

- Turn off lights when you leave a room, or when they are not in use.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. Energy Star® compact fluorescent bulbs can reduce lighting costs up to 75%.
- Use low wattage light bulbs wherever possible.
- Install dimmer switches on indoor lighting.
- Install timers, motion sensors, or photocells to ensure exterior lights turn off at the appropriate time.
- Install more efficient Energy Star® outdoor light fixtures.



### Refrigerators

- Unplug and recycle your extra refrigerator or freezer.
- Save up to 50% on refrigeration costs by replacing your old refrigerator with a new energy efficient model.
- Clean and vacuum coils twice a year.

### Clothes Dryers

- Always dry full loads. Never over dry.
- Line dry clothes whenever possible.
- Clean lint filter before each load.
- Save up to 50% on operating costs by switching from an electric to a gas dryer.
- Ensure the dryer's outside moisture exhaust is open and operating properly. Remove lint buildup.



### Pools and Spas

- Save up to 50% on operation by keeping pool and spa covered when not in use.
- Consider purchasing a solar pool cover.
- Install a timer to pre-set heating hours.
- When purchasing new pool equipment, look for energy efficient, variable speed pump and motor combinations.
- Filter during off-peak hours before 11 a.m. and after 6 p.m. Do not run the filter longer than required.
- Reduce pool heater temperature setting.



\*Energy Star® – Co-managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, the Energy Star®

program helps consumers identify the most energy efficient products on the market.

# Checklist

## Timely Tips Help Businesses Save Too



### Summer Season

- Before season starts, have a qualified technician test, clean, and adjust your air conditioning equipment.
- Perform routine maintenance including replacing dirty air filters, cleaning intake screens, condenser coils, supply registers, and return grills.
- Keep programmable thermostats set to turn air conditioning on 30 minutes before people arrive and 30 to 60 minutes before they leave. Set them no lower than 78°F during occupied periods.
- Shade windows, doors, and skylights with awnings, sunscreens, and blinds.
- Shut off exhaust fans when the rooms they serve are unoccupied unless health codes require constant ventilation.
- Turn off air conditioning when not needed.
- Remember for budgeting purposes that the price of a kilowatt-hour of electricity might be higher in summer than in winter.



### Daylight Saving Time

- Adjust timer controls and programmable thermostats to adjust for Daylight Saving Time.
- Check all lighting timers to be sure they are turning interior and exterior lights on and off at proper times.

### Before Closing on Weekends, Holidays, or Two or More Days

- Lower thermostats for heating or air conditioning. Each degree can adjust cooling and heating energy use by about 5%.
- Turn off circulating pump if your water heating system includes one.
- Turn off all lights except for safety and security lighting.
- Turn off all unused office equipment including computers, monitors, printers, copiers, fax machines, and scanners.



### Winter Season

- Before season starts, have a qualified technician test, clean, and adjust your heating equipment.
- Perform routine maintenance including replacing dirty air filters, cleaning intake screens, condenser coils, supply registers, and return grills.
- Check thermostat accuracy.
- Identify and repair leaky or disconnected ducts.
- Caulk cracks around windows, doors, and other openings.
- Keep programmable thermostats set to turn heating on 30 minutes before people arrive and off 30 to 60 minutes before they leave. Set thermostats no higher than 68°F during occupied periods.
- Close curtains, shades, and blinds at night and during unoccupied periods to help your building retain heat. Keep window coverings open on sunny days.
- Gradually decrease the temperature setting if occupants feel some areas are too warm.



### All Year

- Save money by following recommended maintenance schedules for equipment. Properly maintained equipment operates more efficiently and lasts longer. Create a master calendar for preventive maintenance.
- Update maintenance master calendar as you add or replace equipment.
  - Replace old equipment with more energy efficient models. Set To Save and the utility companies offer incentives and rebates to help businesses do this.



The City of Palm Desert  
Southern California Edison  
The Energy Coalition  
Southern California  
Gas Company

For a complete list of Set To Save rebates and incentives that will help your business save money and energy, contact the Palm Desert Office of Energy Management at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200-A. Call 837-0287 or visit online at [www.cityofpalmdesert.org](http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org) and click on "Set to Save Energy Partnership."



# TIP

## Lights

Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. Energy Star® compact fluorescent bulbs can reduce lighting costs up to 75%.

Use low wattage light bulbs wherever possible.

## You Can Help Reduce Peak Load

Increased demand for electricity during peak hours, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., strains the power grid's ability to supply electricity. This demand can lead to rolling brown-outs – a temporary loss of power with little or no notice.

Peak load control is a smart, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly way for people to help alleviate this problem simply by modifying their behavior.

There are many simple things that businesses and residents can do to reduce their peak electricity usage; doing laundry and washing dishes during off-peak hours such as mornings, nights, and weekends. Installing a thermostat and setting it at a higher temperature or turning it off completely when not at home during daylight hours can also make a big difference.

As part of Set To Save, the City's goals include reducing peak load within Palm Desert by 30%, adjusted for growth, within five years.

Reducing peak energy use helps ensure reliable and affordable electricity for everyone, minimizing the need for new power plants and the pollution they produce. It is much cheaper and easier to create a "negawatt" of reduced energy demand than to generate a megawatt of electricity.

Peak load reduction is good for people and for the environment we all share.

For more information, contact the Palm Desert Office of Energy Management at 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200-A. Call 837-0287 or visit online at [www.cityofpalmdesert.org](http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org) and click on "Set to Save Energy Partnership."



PALM DESERT

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It's Your City

*Look what's on the Bright Side...inside!*