



# VCREA

Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance



[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)

[vcreea.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcreea.admin@ventura.org)

(805) 654-3874

## Cold Water Washing

### About VCREA

VCREA is a Joint Powers Agency composed of public agencies working in collaboration to address good energy stewardship through integrated demand side management practices in the Ventura County region.

### Ventura Partnership

The Ventura Partnership encompasses the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura to support energy efficiency improvements in public agencies and throughout the community.

### Our Website and Newsletter

Energy Leader is a quarterly publication published to provide valuable resources and information regarding energy efficiency in the Ventura County region. To sign up to receive our newsletter by e-mail, please log on to [www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org).

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We are in the middle of one of California's hottest Summers. So how do you stay cool? Cold water... for your laundry! Switching to cold water gets clothes just as clean while saving money and energy that would normally be consumed to heat water. ENERGY STAR states almost 90% of the energy consumed by a washing machine goes to heating water.

Many people think that not using hot water leaves clothes less clean. New detergents are made to work better in cold water and in most cases, cold-water specific detergents are ranked higher than traditional detergents according Consumer Reports' detergents list.

In addition to saving energy and water, according to the Sierra Club, for every household that changes to cold-water washing approximately 1,600 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions are eliminated each year. If the added benefits of saving money, energy, water and the planet are not enough to encourage cold-water washing, then look at the wear washing and drying with heat has on your clothes. Washing in cold water preserves your fabric from weakening and color vibrancy.

Other useful energy-efficiency laundry recommendations include washing full loads, cleaning your dryer lint filter after each load to improve air circulation and shorten drying times, separating clothes before washing and drying by soil level and weight, and trying not to over wash lightly soiled or over dry clothes (use an auto dry cycle or air dry). To learn more about Energy Star Best Practices for clothes washing, visit [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clotheswash.clothes\\_washers\\_performance\\_tips](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=clotheswash.clothes_washers_performance_tips).

Another way to ensure thorough cold water washing is to apply for a **SoCalGas \$200 rebate on a new Whirlpool Cold Water Technology Washer** (Model Number WTW4715EW). This cold-water washer is both energy and water efficient. Visit <http://socalgas.com/for-your-home/rebates/cold-water-washer.shtml> to learn more about the SoCalGas rebate and the benefits of cold water washing.



### UPCOMING VCREA OUTREACH

August 22nd-23rd - Port Hueneme Beach Festival, Hueneme Beach Park @ Surfside

August 29th - "Golden Lawn" Conservation Expo, Fox Fine Jewelry in Ventura

Sept 12 - Ojai Valley Green Coalition Energy Education Seminar, 441 Ojai Ave

Sept 18-20 - Ventura Home and Garden Show, Seaside Park VC Fairgrounds

Sept 26 - Simi Valley Green Living Expo, Simi Valley Town Center (tentative)

# Smart Plug Load Management

## Plug In To Greater Energy Savings— With Smart Plug Load Management

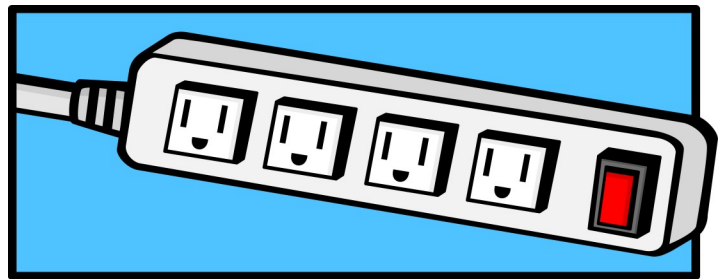
A typical small to medium-size business uses an ever-increasing array of electronic devices that plug into a wall outlet, and which have multiple power modes. The resulting “plug loads” are now one of the fastest growing uses of energy.

Part of our Energy Conservation Series, [Plug In To Greater Energy Savings— With Smart Plug Load Management](#) provides an overview of plug loads— plus so called “vampire” loads, showing how easy, low-cost steps can help businesses meet their energy goals by reducing plug loads by up to 40%.

In their drive to conserve energy and ease the burden on the electrical grid, business owners will appreciate knowing the importance of the various power modes that drive today’s electronic devices,

among them Active, Idle and Sleep. They will also discover how adjusting these modes, plus incorporating advanced power strips (APSS), can go a long way toward saving energy every year.

[Plug In To Greater Energy Savings— With Smart Plug Load Management](#) also discusses the major contribution computers and servers make to the plug load of a typical business and how modifying company procedures, or adjusting machine settings, can produce significant energy savings here as well. For the full article, go to [sce.com/energytips](http://sce.com/energytips).



## Identify Vampire Load

Vampire (or phantom) load is the amount of energy a plugged in device consumes while in standby or “Sleep” mode, discretely draining energy.

An example of a vampire appliance often used in the workplace is a microwave oven. These devices often draw more than one type of vampire load because they always keep an electronic touchpad active and also runs an internal clock.

Contact your **SCE Account Manager** to talk about energy incentive programs for your industry and prevent vampire load.

## Curb Consumption

Use cost-saving strategies such as:

- Using power strips for all appliances and computer equipment (then turn them off when not in use).
- Attaching and setting timers for power strips and other equipment.
- Replacing CRT monitors with Energy Star flat panel models.
- Purchasing [Energy Star](#) copiers, printers, and breakroom appliances and all equipment into power strips.



## Be Informed

- Sheppy, Michael, et al. **Assessing and Reducing Plug and Process Loads in Office Buildings**. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), November 2014. [apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/publications/pdfs/alliances/20111121\\_webinar\\_assessing\\_plugins.pdf](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/publications/pdfs/alliances/20111121_webinar_assessing_plugins.pdf)
- **Plug Load Best Practices Guide**. New Buildings Institute (NBI). 2014. [advancedbuildings.net/index.php?q=plug-loads](http://advancedbuildings.net/index.php?q=plug-loads)
- **Standby Power** product energy use measurement comparisons: <http://standby.lbl.gov/data.html>

# Summer Efficiency Tips

## Ways to Save Energy This Summer

- Automate:** Get automatic timers, motion/daylight sensors, upgrade technology to programmable systems and raise thermostat settings to the highest comfortable temperature. You can save 3 to 5 % on your air conditioning costs for each degree you raise the thermostat.
- Turn Off:** Plug appliances into power strips and turn off the switch when not in use. Turn off lights when you leave the room. Change settings and power down game consoles. A game console consumes 10 to 20 times more energy to stream than an Internet-ready TV or small media player such as Roku or Apple TV (these use 4 or less watts for streaming).
- Use Appliances Efficiently:** Check temperature settings on freezer (0 to 5°F), refrigerator ( to 35°F) and hot water heater (120°F). Run fully loaded washing machine and dishwasher at night (between 2 PM and 8 PM). Air dry clothes and dishes. Maintain appliances for optimal efficiency and replace air conditioner filters regularly. Reduce daily pool filtration by 30 minutes.
- Eliminate Leaks:** Get your house checked for leaks. Seal your ducts, patch any holes in walls and ceiling, install weather-strip, seal and caulk to leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers, and increase your attic insulation to at least R-38. Close blinds, install window shading, apply solar control window film,
- Measure Your Use:** Electricity monitor meters, such as a Kill-a-Watt Meter, measures how much energy your appliances use when in “off” mode. Sign up online with each utility to view online billing. Knowing how much you use helps track your savings! Also, go to the following websites to find

## More Energy-Saving Opportunities

Energy Upgrade California:

[www.energyupgradeca.org](http://www.energyupgradeca.org)

Energy Savings at Home Tool:

[www.energystar.gov/campaign/home](http://www.energystar.gov/campaign/home)

Home Energy Guide:

[www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/residential/home-energy-guide](http://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/residential/home-energy-guide)



# Education and Training Resources

**Southern California Edison:** Offers training and workshops at two Energy Education Centers (Irwindale and Tulare), in addition to online webinars. **To enroll** and for more information visit [www.sce.com/ctac](http://www.sce.com/ctac) or [www.sce.com/workshops](http://www.sce.com/workshops)

Highlighted courses offered this quarter include: Zero Net Energy, Go Solar California! Webinar For Residential and Commercial, Pump and Water Delivery courses, Lighting Technologies Series, HVAC/R Systems and Technologies Trainings and Certifications, Foodservice Technologies Training, Electrical Training Workshops, Commercial and Industrial Benchmarking, Building Envelope, Construction and Software Training.

**SoCalGas:** Offers Commercial and Industrial, Sustainability and HVAC seminars at the Energy Resource Center (Downey).

**To enroll** and for more information visit [www.seminars.socalgas.com](http://www.seminars.socalgas.com)

Highlighted courses offered this quarter include: NATE Certification Training Series, Gas Engines Seminar, Certified Green Building Professional Training, Boiler Water Treatment for Energy Efficiency, Energy Smart Landscapes Sessions, and Best Practice Design for High Performance Recommendations Building Enclosures.

**ENERGY STAR:** Offers a variety of information and tools through the [ENERGY STAR Training Center](http://ENERGY STAR Training Center).

**To enroll** and for specific courses and more information visit [esbuildings.webex.com](http://esbuildings.webex.com)

**California Energy Commission:** Offers webinars on current energy efficiency programs and rulings. **To enroll** and for more information visit [www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency/) and click on the Notices & Workshops link.

[sce.com/ctac](http://sce.com/ctac)

[socalgas.com/erc](http://socalgas.com/erc)

[vcenergy.org](http://vcenergy.org)

# Resources to Reduce Your Electric Bill

Southern California Edison wants you to know about the many resources available to help reduce your monthly energy costs. You may qualify for one of more of these solutions.

## California Alternate Rates for Energy

You can receive a discount of approximately 30 percent on your monthly electric bill, if you meet this program's income qualifications. **(800) 447-6620**

## Energy Assistance Fund

We help by providing you with up to \$100 toward your SCE energy bill, if you meet the program's income qualifications. This assistance is available to you once during a 12-month period. **(800) 205-8596**

## Energy Savings Assistance Program

You can receive free energy-saving appliances and services, such as refrigerators, air conditioners, home weatherization, lighting, and a smart power strip at no cost if you meet the programs' eligibility and income requirements (not all services are available in all areas). **(800) 736-4777**

## Family Electric Rate Assistance

If you have three or more individuals in your household, and exceed your baseline electricity usage by over 30 percent, you can receive a discount on your energy bill by meeting the program's income requirements. **(800) 447-6620**

To learn more about these helpful programs, please visit [sce.com/billhelper](http://sce.com/billhelper).


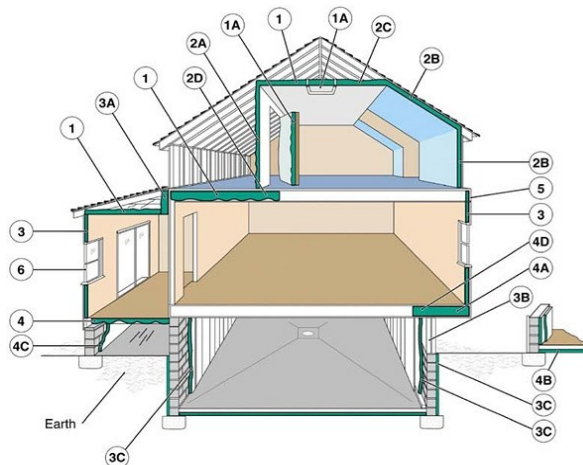
*These programs are funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by SCE under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.*

## Home Energy Audits

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Home Energy Audits can identify how we use energy in our homes. Receiving a home energy assessment means getting advice from professional auditors to help you find cost-effective energy improvements and identify how to create a healthy home airspace envelope. These improvements will enhance the safety and comfort in your home.

The infographic to the right shows examples of where to insulate: 1. In unfinished attic spaces, insulate between and over the floor joists to seal off living spaces below. If the air distribution is in the attic space, then consider insulating the rafters to move the distribution into the conditioned space. 2. In finished attic rooms with or without dormer, insulate 3. All exterior walls, including 4. Floors above cold spaces, such as vented crawl spaces and unheated garages. Spaces. 5. Band joists. 6. Replacement or storm windows and caulk and seal around all windows and doors.

Learn more at about where to insulate in your home at [www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/where-insulate-home](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/where-insulate-home). For more information on audits visit [energy.gov/articles/energy-saver-101-infographic-home-energy-audits](http://energy.gov/articles/energy-saver-101-infographic-home-energy-audits) or for more information on specific energy efficiency improvement guidelines, visit [homeenergyscore.gov](http://homeenergyscore.gov).



**Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance**  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue L#1940  
Ventura, CA 93009  
805-654-3874  
[www.vcenergy.org](http://www.vcenergy.org)  
[vcera.admin@ventura.org](mailto:vcera.admin@ventura.org)

## Our Partners



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