

energynotes

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See if you qualify for a monthly energy bill discount of 20% or more

When money is tight, a lower energy bill can make life a little easier. You can get a discount of at least 20% every month on your SDG&E® bill if you qualify for California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE). You can save even more with free home improvements and energy-efficient appliances through the Energy Savings Assistance Program. Eligibility requirements are the same for both programs, and you can complete one online application for both at sdge.com/apply-to-save.

Approximately 300,000 local residents receive the CARE discount, yet an estimated 80,000 more are eligible based on their total household income or participation in certain public assistance programs such as Medicaid, Medi-Cal or Supplemental Security Income.

Toni of La Mesa said her energy bill used to be “a pretty big expense.” Working part-time as a hair stylist, she wasn’t sure she’d be able to make it on her own after her husband died. A client suggested that she contact SDG&E.

▶ Applying is easy

You can apply for the CARE discount online by visiting sdge.com/apply-to-save. Or you can use our automated, toll-free number, **1-877-646-5525**.

It takes about two minutes and all you need is your SDG&E account number.

To schedule a short qualification appointment for the Energy Savings Assistance Program, call **1-866-597-0597**.

Toni’s condo now has energy-efficient lighting, a new door and weatherstripping around windows – all installed at no cost through the Energy Savings Assistance Program. She’s also saving 20% or more on her energy bill every month with the CARE discount.

“I don’t have to worry as much,” she said. “I know for a fact I can call SDG&E and they’ll find some way to help.”

These programs are funded by California utility customers and administered by SDG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. These programs may be modified or terminated without prior notice and are provided to qualified customers on a first-come, first-served basis until program funds are no longer available. Eligibility requirements apply.

Energy savings have helped Toni, who likes having the extra cash available for activities with her four grandkids, including Cooper, left, and Jake.



▶▶▶ For more information, visit sdge.com/assistance.

For winter safety, savings and comfort, home heating is an inside job

Heat small spaces safely with a portable electric heater

A portable electric space heater may be a helpful solution for heating a small space. Proper use will reduce the risk of fire hazard, so keep the following safety tips in mind.

- Keep your portable heater at least 3 feet away from bedding, draperies, rugs and other flammable objects. Never hang clothes to dry on it.
- Always place your portable heater on the floor, not on countertops or tables.
- Plug the heater directly into an electrical outlet. Avoid using an extension cord.
- Always unplug it before you leave the room or go to sleep.



Also, never use your oven, range or outdoor barbecue to heat your home. Using appliances that are not designed for indoor heating can result in carbon monoxide poisoning.

For more winter safety tips, visit sdge.com/winter.

When it comes to heating your home safely, efficiently and comfortably, even the littlest things inside your furnace can make a big difference.

“Dust, spider webs, a spider or a green fly can block a burner orifice and prevent a gas heater from working properly,” said SDG&E service technician Jorge Hernandez. “Green flies like the smell that’s added to natural gas. I’ll see the little culprit, dried up and dead, clean it out, fire up the furnace and it’s good to go.”

SDG&E offers safety checkups year-round on gas appliances such as furnaces, water heaters and ovens. “Service techs troubleshoot and make simple adjustments, such as turning a water heater thermostat down to 120 degrees, putting a pilot light back on or tightening a loose wire,” Hernandez said.

“Every winter, I see people who have been living without a working furnace and can’t afford a new one, when all it needed was to be unplugged and plugged back in to reset a safety switch,” he said.

“Our number-one goal is safety, but people usually ask me how to



SDG&E service technician Jorge Hernandez checks a furnace to be sure it’s safe to use.

save money,” he said. “Turn your thermostat down to 68 degrees and off if you’re not home. Also change dirty filters. A clogged filter makes your furnace work harder and costs you money.”

For tips on winter safety and savings, visit sdge.com/winter.

