

EnergyUpdate

connected to better business ideas

Small businesses like the way their energy-saving choices add up

Hear small-business owners and operators share how they reduced energy expenses in two new videos posted at sdge.com/smallbiz.

"A huge asset"

Eastlake Tavern+Bowl invites customers to "let the good times roll," but owner Dan Hurd doesn't relax when it comes to minding the shop.

"This is a business of nickels and dimes," he said. "Utilities really are a big line item and energy efficiency is important just for the bottom line of saving money."

Hurd started with the Direct Install Program and an on-site inspection by SDG&E®. This led to rebates and incentives totaling \$10,255 toward energy-efficiency upgrades at the Chula Vista sports tavern and bowling alley, including new light-emitting diodes (LEDs), a freezer door shield, walk-in screens and door sealants. He's saving more

than 100,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh), or about \$15,000 per year.

"My advice to other business owners would be to really look at the numbers," Hurd said. "It makes financial sense. We're saving money month after month and SDG&E has been a huge asset for us. In my book, that's the best compliment I can give anybody that we're working with."

"Great benefits"

Gabriel Camacho, general manager of two restaurants at Seaport Village, agrees: "There are great benefits for any business owner to call SDG&E and ask for a site overview."

Camacho estimates savings of 25% to 30% on his monthly energy bills for Margaritas Kitchen and San Diego Burger Co. through SDG&E's Direct Install Program. Qualifying businesses receive a free energy consultation and

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select energy-efficiency retrofits. At Camacho's restaurants, SDG&E's contracted specialist replaced older lighting with new LEDs, cleaned condensers on refrigerators and freezers, and checked all the gaskets on his appliances. He also received \$2,000 in SDG&E incentives that offset the cost of additional energy-efficiency upgrades. Altogether, he's saving more than 7,500 kWh, or about \$1,375 per year.

A neighboring restaurant owner, Melissa Moore, liked what she saw and got similar results. Through SDG&E's Direct Install Program, her Greek Islands Café and Asaggio Pizza tallied combined savings of more than 6,500 kWh, or about \$1,185 per year.


These success stories and others stemmed from an energy-efficiency collaboration by SDG&E with the cities of Chula Vista and San Diego, the Port of San Diego and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). ■

NOTE: Energy-efficiency programs are funded by California utility customers and administered by SDG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

◀ "It makes financial sense," said Dan Hurd about lighting and refrigeration upgrades made to Eastlake Tavern+Bowl through SDG&E's Direct Install Program.

▶▶▶ For more info, visit us anytime at sdge.com.





Energy SHOWCASE

Sample the best and brightest energy solutions

On May 8, take a break from your daily routine to sample the best and brightest energy solutions for your business at SDG&E's annual Energy Showcase. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the 20,000-square-foot pavilion at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina will be transformed into a one-stop shop for businesses interested in saving energy and money.

- **Stroll more than 75 exhibits** of state-of-the-art products and services for facilities of all types and sizes.
- **Test-drive an electric vehicle** or sit back and enjoy the ride after you've seen the expanded display of electric vehicles, including oversized commercial vehicles.
- **Talk to an SDG&E energy advisor** about your bill, your business needs, and how best to put our business programs and services to work for you. Meet them at the Energy Solutions Center, which is new to the expo.

Admission is free. Parking is available on site for \$10.

To reserve your spot, visit sdge.com/energyshowcase.

For updates, follow us on Twitter @sdge and #energyshowcase. ■

New medical facility prescribes clean energy for the community

One of San Diego's first medical office buildings designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standards is also the 36th facility to add to the community's supply of locally generated clean energy through SDG&E's Sustainable Communities program.

The new Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Center Downtown is seeking LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for energy efficiency, water efficiency, stewardship of resources and other environmentally sustainable design and construction features. The three-story, 66,365-square-foot medical center is situated across the street from the original 86-year-old Sharp Rees-Stealy location. It houses primary and specialty care, occupational health, physical therapy, radiology, pharmacy, urgent care and laboratory services. The 300-space parking structure includes reserved parking for electric vehicles.

On top of the building's roof and parking structure, SDG&E installed a 75-kilowatt solar panel system that will produce power for the local community. Down in the lobby, visitors will soon find a state-of-the-art, interactive touch screen where they can view the solar power



Solar panels atop Sharp Rees-Stealy's new medical center catch the last rays of sun. The system is SDG&E's 36th Sustainable Communities project.

production in real time and easily access the building directory.

The new medical center received an SDG&E Sustainable Communities Champion award for excellence in energy efficiency and sustainable design. The Sustainable Communities Program advances and promotes smart grid technologies within SDG&E's service area. The program strategically integrates utility-owned clean generation systems, such as photovoltaics and advanced energy storage, with sustainable building projects to provide energy to the grid. All these systems are maintained and operated by SDG&E.

To learn more about the program and the benefits of participating, visit sdge.com/sustainable. ■



Featured seminar: Serving up savings

If you're in the food-service business, don't miss "Sell More. Save More. Food Service Goes Green" on May 14. Nationally recognized green business coach Bill Roth will cover green best practices for a better bottom line in morning and afternoon seminars.

Get details and register online at sdge.com/seminars. You'll also find the latest listings of seminars on energy-saving technologies and practices for businesses of all types and sizes. ■

