## energynotes

connected ••••• to lighting solutions

# Add sparkle, style, savings and safety to the season with LEDs

ou can add sparkle and style to the holiday season – and get a lot more lighting for your energy dollars – by switching to decorative light-emitting diodes (LEDs). LED holiday lights:

• Use up to 90% less electricity to produce the same amount of light as strands of traditional incandescent lights. The electricity consumed by just one 7-watt incandescent bulb, for example, could power 140 LEDs – enough to light two 24-foot strings, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® program.

- Are safer because they're cool to the touch, which also reduces fire risk. By contrast, an incandescent bulb wastes about 90% of its electricity to heat and converts only 10% to visible light.
- Can last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent strands because LEDs don't have moving parts, filaments or glass.



Now you can connect with us through YouTube, the video-sharing website, at *sdge.com/youtube*. Check out our YouTube channel to see SDG&E® featured playlists, catch up on company news, and learn about money-saving programs, helpful services, safety, community involvement and more.

 Come in a variety of colors, shapes and sizes for indoor and outdoor uses. Some are dimmable.

Learn more about lighting solutions that can save energy and money during the holidays and every day. Visit *sdge.com/lighting* and download our lighting brochure.

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

Switching to ENERGY STAR-qualified decorative light strings, especially those featuring LED technology, can reduce your electricity use for holiday lighting by up to 90%. It also helps protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



**>>>** For more info, visit us anytime at **sdge.com**.

## Tips to help heat your home for less

Your biggest energy expense in the winter is likely to be home heating. To save money:

- Make sure your furnace is in good working order before cold weather arrives. Schedule a safety inspection of your gas furnace by calling
  1-800-411-7343 or visiting sdge.com/serviceorder. We offer this checkup at no charge to our natural gas customers.
- Weatherstrip and caulk around drafty doors and windows.
- Get rebates of \$0.15 per sq. ft. for qualifying attic and wall insulation, which can cut heating costs by up to 25%.

Visit *sdge.com/winter* for more tips. ■



An easy, inexpensive way to help trim winter heating bills is to seal small air leaks with caulk.

### Taking community service to heart

He only had lunch in mind when he walked into the Chinese restaurant, but by the time he walked out, Alton Kwok had helped his waitress start saving up to 35% on her SDG&E bill.

"She noticed I was wearing an SDG&E polo shirt, so she told me how much she makes a year and asked if she'd qualify for the 'discount program,'" recalled Kwok, a customer programs specialist.

He felt touched by the trust that the waitress, a Chinese woman in her 60s, placed in him. "I checked the criteria on my smartphone and let her know she gualifies for our CARE program," said Kwok of California Alternate Rates for Energy at sdge.com/care. "The next day, I brought her a printed application in Chinese." Kwok's informal service as an "ambassador" for SDG&E is not unusual, since the company encourages employees to contribute time, talent and funds in support of the communities we serve.

#### Volunteers available to speak

To stay connected to our communities, we created the SDG&E Ambassador Corps and developed two presentations:

• The San Diego Energy Revolution explains our region's leadership in

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Helping customers is all in a day's work - or lunch break - for SDG&E employees such as Alton Kwok.

renewable energy, smart grid, energy efficiency and electric vehicles.

• Helping You Save Money & Energy explains our income-based and energy-efficiency programs.

At your request, we're available to your community organizations. To arrange for an Ambassador presentation, visit *sdge.com/ community* and click "Ambassador Corps."

