



Community Environmental Council

# Rebates & Incentives

Join your neighbors in saving energy and money

Greening your life



Energy efficiency is more **cost-effective** than ever. New rebates and tax incentives have drastically reduced the upfront cost of many new and **efficient technologies**, providing a payback period that may fit your budget. And let's face it, in this economic climate, who couldn't use a little extra cash?

## Around the home

Home renovations are now more affordable with rebates from Energy Upgrade California (EUC), a program offered by the state of CA and investor owned utilities, and low-cost loans through EmPowerSBC.

The **Basic Upgrade Package** includes seven required measures that together can reduce your energy consumption by an average of 10%. **The fixed incentive is \$1,000.** Measures include air sealing, attic insulation, duct sealing, hot water pipe insulation, thermostatic shower controls, combustion safety testing, and smoke detector/carbon monoxide detector testing.

The **Advanced Upgrade Package** is a customized solution for your home based on a Home Performance Assessment (check out our 'Get Started with Home Performance' brochure to learn more). **Incentives range from \$1,250 - \$4,000.** Eligible measures include installation of a high efficiency furnace, air conditioner or water heater, new energy efficient windows, wall insulation, variable speed pool pumps, and cool roofs.

You must work with a participating contractor to take advantage of these rebates. Check out [www.energyupgradeca.org](http://www.energyupgradeca.org) for more information.

**EmPowerSBC** is a financing program that partners with CoastHills Federal Credit Union and Ventura County Credit Union to offer

unsecured loans with low rates and flexible terms of loan repayment up to 15 years in order to achieve manageable monthly costs customized for each homeowner qualifying for a loan. EmPowerSBC is a partner with EUC and takes the ease of upgrading your home one step further, by offering home upgrade loans on top of the rebates provided through EUC.

The program offers unsecured loans that do not effect home equity, **interest rates as low as 5.90%**, low monthly payments, and no pre-payment penalty. Homeowners are able to select a Basic or Advanced upgrade package, which corresponds with the EUC program packages. Homeowners also have the option of adding in solar as part of the program package.

You must work with a participating contractor to take advantage of the emPowerSBC program. Check out [www.empowersbc.org](http://www.empowersbc.org) for more information.

### UTILITY REBATES

Our electric utilities offer rebates and tax incentives ranging from \$30 to \$200 on many efficient household upgrades, appliances and systems.

#### Southern California Edison

[www.sce.com/residential/rebates-savings](http://www.sce.com/residential/rebates-savings) (South County SB)

#### Pacific Gas & Electric

[www.pge.com/myhome/saveenergymoney/rebates](http://www.pge.com/myhome/saveenergymoney/rebates) (North County SB)

#### Southern California Gas Company

[www.socalgas.com/rebates/residential/](http://www.socalgas.com/rebates/residential/)

## On the roof

The State of California offers incentives on solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar water heating systems through the California Solar Initiative (CSI). Incentives are based on system size or performance.

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### STATE REBATES

#### Photovoltaic systems smaller than 30 kilowatts

Earn up to \$.65/watt in a one-time, up-front rebate based on expected system performance, which is calculated from equipment ratings and installation factors such as geographic location, tilt, orientation, and shading.

#### Solar water heating

Natural gas - \$12.82/therm with a residential cap of \$1,875 and a commercial cap of \$500,000  
Electric - \$0.37/kWh with a residential cap of \$1,262 and a commercial cap of \$250,000

### FEDERAL INCENTIVES

**The Federal Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008** provides a 30% tax credit for homeowners and businesses to install solar (PV or water heating) by extending the federal tax credit through 2016.



## On the road

The most substantial energy decision you make every day is how you get around town. Transportation incentives and rebates are available through auto manufacturers and many personal actions.

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### FIND A LOCAL CARPOOL

The easiest way to double your gas mileage, cut car expenses, and help fight congestion is to rideshare. Even if you just start with 2 days a week, you can make a large difference! Find a rideshare partner easily online. Visit <http://www.trafficsolutions.info/carpool.htm>.

### PLUG IN HYBRIDS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Federal tax credits of up to \$7,500 are available for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids. Visit <http://fueleconomy.gov/feg/taxcenter.shtml> for more information. California also offers rebates of up to \$2,500 for passenger vehicles (<http://energycenter.org/cvrp>) and rebates of up to \$30,000 for heavy duty vehicles ([www.Californiahvip.org](http://www.Californiahvip.org)).

### HYBRID AND CLEAN DIESEL VEHICLES

Tax credits for these vehicles expired in 2010.

### COMMUTER BENEFITS

If you ride transit or vanpool, or want to start, there is a federal commuter tax benefit of up to \$125/month, though not all businesses offer them. Many large businesses offer commuter benefits, or you could ask your employer to offer them. See <http://www.nctr.usf.edu/programs/clearinghouse/commutebenefits.htm> for more information.



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