



# SOMAH

SOLAR ON MULTIFAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## Changes to expect with SOMAH

Name  
Title



# Workshop agenda

1. VNEM & utility bill
2. Energy saving tips
3. FAQs
4. Handouts



# Virtual net energy metering (VNEM)



# VNEM



- 1 The electricity created by the solar panels on your building.



# VNEM

- 
- 2** The electricity is sent to the electric grid and measured by the solar meter.

The electric grid is the network that is run by your utility company that delivers electricity to homes, businesses and other users.



# VNEM

**3** The electricity your household uses is measured by your electric meter.



# VNEM

- 4 Your utility company will add the solar credits allocated to your household, lowering your monthly bill.



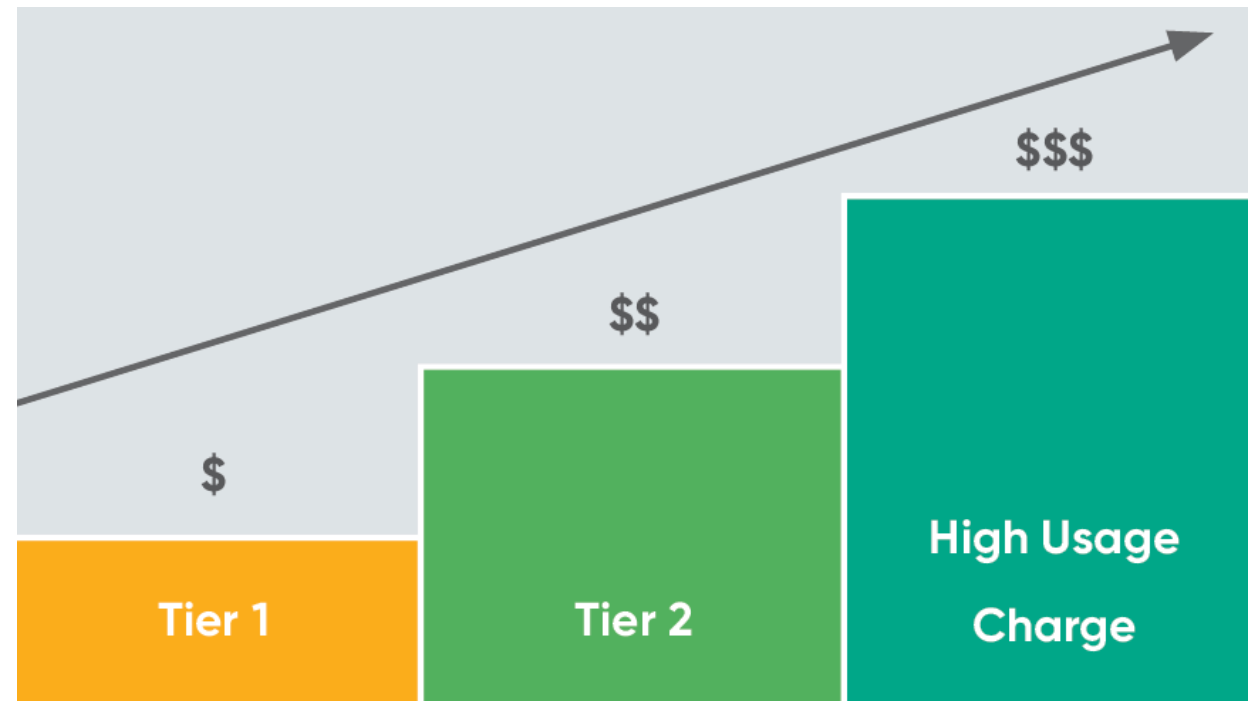
# Understanding your utility bill

- Tiered rate
- Time-of-use (opt in)



# Tiered rate structure

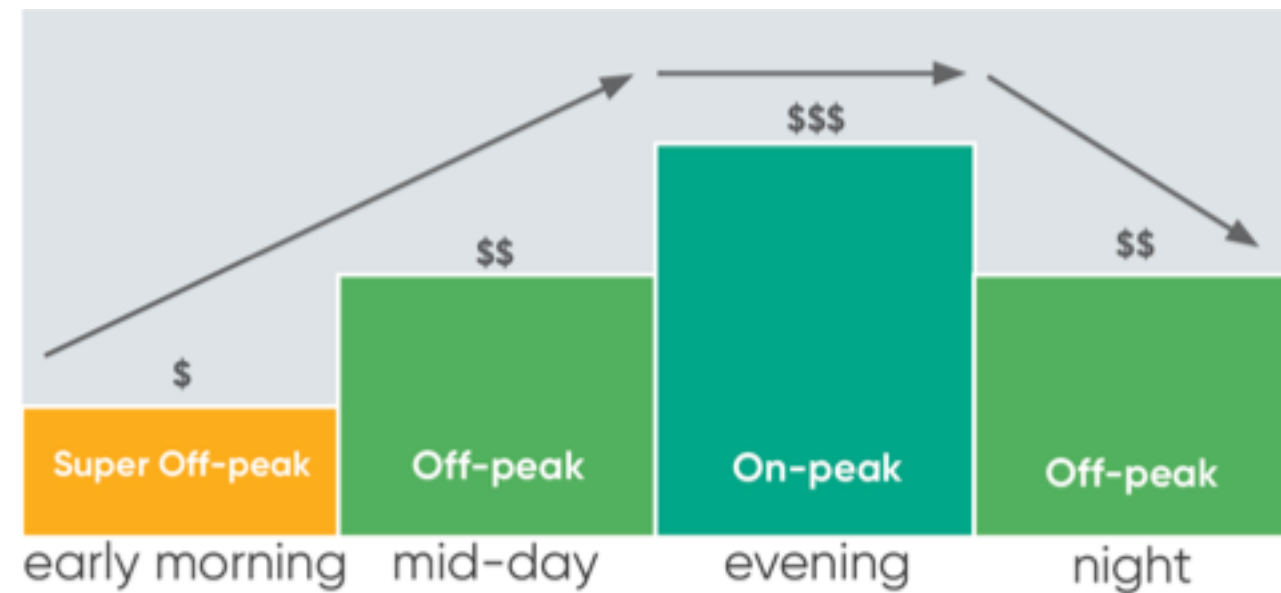
- Your bill is calculated by different tiers or levels.
- Each tier has a specific number of units of electricity.
- As you move up tiers you pay more.



For more information contact your utility company

# Time-of-use (TOU) rate structure

- Time-of-use offers different rates at different times during the day.
- TOU rates have peak and off-peak hours.
- Electricity prices are higher during peak hours.

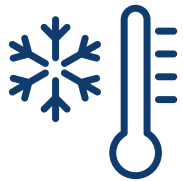


For more information contact your utility company

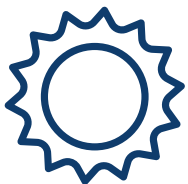
# Energy-saving tips



**Stay cool in the summer.** Set your thermostat at 78°F or higher.



**Stay warm in the winter.** Set your thermostat at 68°F or lower and wear a cozy sweater. Close the drapes or blinds at night to insulate from the cold.



**Take advantage of natural sunlight.** Open your blinds or curtains to light and heat your rooms.

# Energy-saving tips



**Replace all your lightbulbs** with long-lasting light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs.

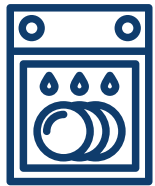


**Take shorter showers.** Play a three-minute song while showering to help.



**Increase your refrigerator temperature.** Set your refrigerator between 36°F and 40°F and freezer to 5°F.

# Energy-saving tips



**Use the dishwasher for full loads.** Use the cool-dry cycle or turn it off after the final rinse and let dishes air dry.



**Turn off your lights** when leaving a room, even if it's only for a few minutes.



**Unplug appliances.** Power strips make it easier to turn them all off at once.

# Handouts

1. How will your utility bill change?
2. Simple ways to save on energy


# Handouts

## 1. How will your utility bill change?

Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing
How will your utility bill change?

**Things you need to know:**


The SOMAH program requires that tenants receive at least 51% of the solar credits from each SOMAH project. Virtual Net Energy Metering (VNEM) will be used to apply solar credits directly to your utility bill. VNEM is a billing process that allows a single solar panel system to divide bill credits among multiple tenant households and common areas.



**VNEM keeps track of**

- 1 The electricity created by the solar panels on your building
- 2 The electricity is sent to the electric grid and measured by the solar meter  
The electric grid is the network that is run by your utility company that delivers electricity to homes, businesses, and other users.
- 3 The electricity your household uses is measured by your electric meter
- 4 Your utility company will add the solar credits allocated to your household, lowering your monthly bill

**Questions about SOMAH?**  
Tenant Hotline: 800-843-9728



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Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing
How will your utility bill change?

**What to know about your new utility bill**

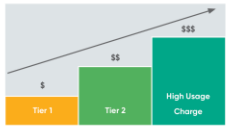
It is important to understand how having solar on your building will affect your utility bill. There will be changes to both the way your bill looks and how your bill is calculated.

**What are the different types of utility rate structures?**

Your bill will be calculated based on one of two different rate structures: tiered and time-of-use (TOU). Currently, you are most likely on tiered rate, but with solar, you may be moved to time-of-use rate.

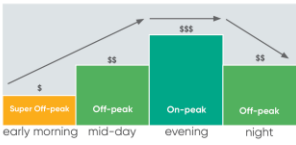
Tiered Rate

Your bill is calculated by different tiers or levels. Each tier has a specific number of units of electricity (kilowatt-hours or kWh) you can use. When you use all the electricity units in one tier you are bumped up to the next tier. When you move up from one tier to a higher tier you will pay more. There are two tiers in your utility bill.



Time-of-use (TOU)

Time-of-use offers different rates at different times. This means that the price of each unit of electricity (kilowatt-hour or kWh) will vary based on the time of day that it is used or consumed. TOU rates have peak and off-peak hours, and electricity prices are higher during peak hours.




**TOU and SOMAH**

Once solar PV system are installed and working, you may be switched to TOU rate by SCE. If you prefer, you may choose to use a tiered-rate plan instead. For further information about the TOU rates and tiered rates offered by SCE at 800-655-4555.

**CalSOMAH.org/tenant**  
contact@calsoimah.org

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# Handouts

## 2. Simple ways to save on energy

**Solar on Multifamily  
Affordable Housing**

### Simple ways to save energy

- **Stay cool in the summer.** Set your thermostat at 78°F or higher.
- **Stay warm in the winter.** Set your thermostat at 68°F or lower and wear a cozy sweater. Close the drapes or blinds at night to insulate from the cold.
- **Take advantage of natural sunlight.** Open your blinds or curtains to light and heat your rooms.
- **Replace all your light bulbs** with long-lasting light emitting diodes (LED) bulbs.
- **Take shorter showers.** Time your shower by playing a three-minute song.
- **Use the dishwasher for full loads.** Use the cool-dry cycle, with, turn it off after the final rinse and let dishes air dry.
- **Set your refrigerator** between 36°F and 40°F and freezer to 5°F.
- **Turn off lights** when leaving a room, even if it's only for a few minutes.
- **Unplug appliances.** Power strips allow you to turn them all off at once.



**Questions about SOMAH  
or your building's solar  
energy project?**

CALL THE TENANT HOTLINE AT  
800-843-9728

[CalSOMAH.org/tenants](https://CalSOMAH.org/tenants)  
858-244-1177 ext. 5

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# Questions?

 **Tenant hotline: 800-843-9728**

 **Comments: [calsomah.org/contact-us](https://calsomah.org/contact-us)**

**Thank you for joining.**