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
What to know about your new utility bill

It is important to understand how having solar energy on your building will affect your energy 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?

Depending on your utility company, your bill will be calculated based on one of two different rate structures: tiered rate and time-of-use (TOU). You will have the option to choose which plan works best for you and your household.

**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 usually two to four 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 panels are installed and working, you may be switched to TOU rate by your utility company. 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 your utility company, call SDG&E at 800-411-7343.

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contact@calsomah.org