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
How will your utility bill change?

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.

Questions about SOMAH?

CalSOMAH.org  
Tenant Hotline: 800-843-9728

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Understanding your SOMAH bill

Below are summarized sections of your bill. Details about your energy use such as when and how your home uses energy are available in My Account, SDG&E’s online energy management tool. To get started, you just need your account number. Visit sdge.com/MyAccount.

1 Your SDG&E® Bill Account Number
You will need this information whenever you contact SDG&E.

2 Total Amount Due
Includes all your current and past due charges.

3 Electric
The total charges billed for electric in this billing period.

4 Regulatory Notice
Provides various information including the Competition Transition Charge (CTC). Through this charge, SDG&E recovers costs for power plants and long-term power contracts approved by state regulators that have been made uneconomic by the shift to competition. You will find a CTC line item in the Breakdown of Current Charges on your bill.
Electric Service provides details on SDG&E’s electricity charges.

Total Usage shows the amount of electricity used during the billing period.

Solar Credits The number of credits that the solar system generated on behalf of the customer.

Solar Credits Used The total number of solar bill credits that have been applied to the current month’s usage.

Remaining Solar Credits The total number of remaining solar credits.

Electricity Dashboard Your electricity dashboard focuses on your power use for the current billing period, including the average use per hour graphed over a 24-hour period and highest usage hour (demand). In this example the customer uses most of their electricity during the off-peak and super off-peak hours of 6am – 1pm, which is when electricity is least expensive. However, the customer’s most costly electric usage happens between the on-peak hours of 4pm – 9pm. Reducing electric usage during on-peak hours will result in the largest cost savings.