Changes to expect with SOMAH
Workshop agenda

1. VNEM & utility bill
2. Energy saving tips
3. Handouts
Virtual net energy metering (VNEM)
The electricity created by the solar panels on your building.
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.
The electricity your household uses is measured by your electric meter.
Your utility company will add the solar credits allocated to your household, lowering your monthly bill.
Understanding your utility bill

• Tiered rate
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.
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?

How will your utility bill change?

Things you need to know:
The SOMAH program requires that tenants receive at least 5% of the solar credits from each SOMAH project. Virtual Net Energy Metering (VNEEM) is how used to apply solar credits directly to your utility bill. VNEEM is a billing process that allows a single solar pane system to divide bill credits among multiple tenant households and common areas.

VNEEM 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
3. The electric grid is the network that is run by your utility company that delivers electricity to homes, businesses, and other users
4. The electricity your household uses is measured by your electric meter
5. Your utility company will add the solar credits allocated to your household, lowering your monthly bill

Questions about SOMAH?
1-800-562-7525

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 is calculated and how your bill is calculated.

Tiered Rate
Your bill is calculated by different tiers or levels. Each tier has a specific number of units of electricity (kWh) at a rate or price you can pay. When you use all of 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 three to four tiers in your utility bill.

SOMAH and VNEEM
Once solar panels are installed and turned on, you will be switched to a VNEEM rate schedule. Your utility company will change the rate plan in accordance with your otherwise applicable method rate schedule. For further information about rates, call Liberty Utilities at 1-800-762-2255.

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CalSOMAH.org/tenant

Call SOMAH.org/tenant for more information on SOMAH.

 SOMAH

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2. Simple ways to save on 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 let in light and heat your rooms.
- Replace all your light bulbs with long-lasting light-emitting diodes (LEDs).
- 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?

📞 Tenant hotline: 800-843-9728

✉️ Comments: calsomah.org/contact-us
Thank you for joining.