Changes to expect with SOMAH
Workshop agenda

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

• 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?

How will your utility bill change?

Things you need to know:
The SOMAH program requires that tenants receive at least 50% of the solar credits from each SOMAH project. Virtual Net Energy Metering (VNEEM) is used to apply solar credits directly to your utility bill. VNEEM is a billing process that allows a single solar panel 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 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?
Tenant hotline: 800-842-0123

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?
Depending on your utility company, 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 (TOU).

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 in one tier, you are charged 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 (TOU) rates offer 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 times, and electricity prices are higher during peak times.

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 PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 (Spanish: 1-800-686-6789).

Questions about SOMAH?
SOMAH.org/tenant
Tenant hotline: 800-842-0123
Handouts

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 diode (LED) bulbs.
- Take shorter showers. Time your shower by playing a three-minute song.
- Use the dishwasher for full loads. Use the cold-water 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 0°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.