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
1. How will your utility bill change?

**Questions about SOMAH?**
- Tenant hotline: 800-848-1030

**How will your utility bill change?**

Things you need to know:
The SOMAH program requires that tenants receive at least 30% of the solar credits from each SOMAH project. Virtual Net Energy Metering (VNEP) is the process used to apply solar credits directly to your utility bill. VNEP 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 meter

**What is TOU?**
- Time-of-use (TOU) rates offer different rates at different times. This means that the price of each unit of electricity varies depending on whether it is supplied during peak or off-peak hours.

**Questions about SOMAH?**
- Tenant hotline: 800-848-1030

- CallSOMAH.org / tenant
- SOMAH.com/tenants/asking
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 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 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 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.