Starting in 2014, most businesses will transition to a Time-Of-Use rate.

Time-Of-Use (TOU) is part of a statewide initiative designed to keep the electric grid reliable so everyone will have power when they need it. Unlike flat rates, TOU rates vary by the time of day and season the energy is used. We encourage business customers to learn more about TOU and take advantage of a full suite of available tools and solutions.

To learn more about TOU, go to sce.com/tou or call us at 1-866-743-1645.
Time-Of-Use Rates For Business

With Time-of-Use rates, the cost of electricity changes depending on the time of day you use it. Instead of a single flat rate for electricity use, the cost of electricity on a Time-of-Use rate varies based on the time of day, day of week, and season in which it is used. This means that when you use electricity is just as important as how much you use.

The key to reducing cost on Time-of-Use rates is to limit usage during the higher-priced “On-Peak” hours and shift to lower-priced “Mid-Peak” and “Off-Peak” hours. You may already be conserving your energy use and with some additional changes in when you use electricity you could maximize your energy savings.

Tips to Help You Reduce

As a business owner or manager, finding ways to manage your energy use and costs is more important than ever. Simple modifications to your operations and equipment maintenance procedures can go a long way toward saving energy and money for your business. Here are a few helpful tips to get you on your way:

No-Cost, Temporary Reduction Tips

- Turn off unneeded, ornamental or display lighting
- Reduce lighting levels
- Raise cooling thermostat setting to 78 degrees
- Pre-cool building/work areas or cycle air conditioning and ventilation
- Turn off equipment when not in use
- Shut down unused rooms and facilities
- Charge batteries and battery-operated equipment before noon and after 6 p.m. on weekdays
- Turn off decorative fountains

Low-Cost, Permanent Reduction Tips

Lighting/Equipment

- Install occupancy sensors in general usage areas so lights automatically turn off when unoccupied
- Replace incandescent or halogen lamps with LED lamps

Motors

- Practice preventative maintenance on motor systems
- Install variable-frequency drives to control motor speed

Refrigeration

- Install strip curtains or swing doors on walk-in refrigerators
- Install auto-door closers on walk-in doors

HVAC

- Install timers or program thermostats to power down after closing
- Perform routine maintenance on heating and air-conditioning filters, belts, coils and bearings

Weatherize

- Inspect weather stripping for deterioration or gaps around doors and windows
- Add interior or exterior blinds or window film to block heat in summer and allow daylight during winter

Water Heating

- Set water at 100-110 degrees Fahrenheit unless required higher for health or legal reasons
- Install an insulation blanket on your water heater

How They Work

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Visit sce.com/EnergyTips for more customized tips and information by business type and industry or call us at 1-800-990-7788.

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Managing Your Electricity Costs on Time-Of-Use Rates

We offer various easy-to-use online tools, designed to help you better manage your energy use and create opportunities for savings. The sooner you sign up, the sooner you can start enjoying the benefits these tools offer.

Stay On Track and In Control
Want a one-stop shop for tracking and managing your electricity use? My Account is your business energy-use command center, where at a glance you can view usage history charts, track your current use and your projected bill, and access your daily demand report.

Fit the Bill
To help you stay in control of your costs, My Account also includes Budget Assistant, a free and easy-to-use tool to help you plan and manage your bill, and keep you within budget. You can set monthly spending goals online, and set alerts to keep you on track.

Real Solutions, Right Now
We're your ally to help you find ways to make your business more efficient — and it’s easier than you think. From simple no-cost actions that instantly conserve energy to easy-to-implement upgrades that will permanently reduce energy consumption, we have the information and resources you need to get started. Visit us at sce.com/businessadvisor to learn more.

For more information on Time-of-Use rates, tools, and solutions to help manage your energy costs, visit sce.com/TOU or call us at 1-800-990-7788 to request a rate analysis.
1. What are Time-of-Use rates and how do they work?
With Time-of-Use rates, the cost of electricity changes depending on the time of day you use it. Instead of a single flat rate for electricity use, the cost of electricity on a Time-of-Use rate varies based on the time of day, day of week, and season in which it is used. With Time-of-Use rates, *when* you use electricity is just as important as *how much* you use.

2. What are the Time-of-Use time periods?
There are three different Time-of-Use periods: On-Peak (highest energy charge), Mid-Peak (medium energy charge), and Off-Peak (lowest energy charge). For an overview of the exact time periods by time of day, day of week and season, see the detailed chart in this document.

3. Why do Time-of-Use rates vary?
Time-of-Use rates better align the price of electricity with the cost of electricity at the time it is produced and the cost to deliver it to your business. Rates will generally be higher during summer weekday afternoons when electric demand is higher and lower at all other times, which provides an incentive to shift electricity use away from more expensive peak hours. This can help you save money and reduce strain on the electric grid.

4. How can I save money on Time-of-Use rates?
With a Time-of-Use rate, you can lower your bill by shifting energy use to the mid-peak and off-peak hours of the day when rates are lower.

5. Do I have options with Time-of-Use rates?
Yes, there are several rate options available. Learn more about your options at sce.com/MyAccount, or call us at 1-800-990-7788 to request a rate analysis.

6. What is the difference between demand charges and usage charges?
Demand charges come in two types—Facilities-Related Demand Charges, and Time-Differentiated Demand Charges, which is explained in the next two frequently asked questions. In general, demand charges are based on the highest amount of electricity used within any 15-minute period during the customer’s monthly billing period. This will be considered your maximum or “peak demand.” The unit of measurement is the kilowatt (kW). By contrast, energy usage charges are based on the total amount of electricity used in a billing period and vary by season and time of day. The unit of measurement is the kilowatt hour (kWh).
**7. What are Facilities-Related Demand Charges?**  
A Facilities-Related Demand Charge is billed on a per kW basis, and it is in effect during each billing period throughout the year. It is applied to the registered maximum demand in each billing period. This charge is necessary to recover costs for the installed transmission and distribution facilities required to serve your highest demand throughout the year.

**8. What are Time-Related Demand Charges?**  
Several Time-of-Use rates have a Time-Related Demand Charge, which will be applied only during SCE’s summer season (June 1st through October 1st). This charge, which is in addition to and separate from a Facilities-Related Demand Charge, helps recover part of SCE’s higher costs of providing transmission and distribution services during the high-demand summer season. It is a per-kW charge applied to the greatest amount of registered demand in the on-peak and mid-peak periods of each summer-season billing period. Time-of-Use rates that do not have Time-Related Demand charges during the summer season have higher usage (kWh) charges in the mid- and on-peak time periods. This type of rate could be beneficial for businesses that use a lot of electricity at once, but have shorter operating times.

**9. How can I reduce my electricity use during summer season On-Peak hours?**  
Small changes can make a big impact on your electricity saving efforts. Cooling costs can really add up in the summer. Visit us at sce.com/EnergyTips to view a quick list of tips designed to help you control and reduce your electricity costs during the summer months.

**10. I can’t reduce how much electricity I use between noon and 6 p.m. — what other options do I have?**  
If you can’t reduce or shift how much electricity you use during this time frame, consider installing more energy-efficient equipment to help you reduce electricity use at all times. Visit us at sce.com/Business for solutions specific to your type of business.

For more information on Time-of-Use rates, tools, and solutions to help manage your energy costs, visit sce.com/TOU