

## Save Money and Enjoy a Greener Lawn

You'll spend less time on chores and more time enjoying fresher air and a greener lawn when you switch out your old gas-powered mower for a cleaner electric one. An electric mower not only lowers your exposure to emissions from gas-powered equipment, it reduces smog-forming pollutants in the atmosphere. Getting rid of your old gas mower also reduces the chance of gas spills on your grass, tool shed or garage.

For a limited time, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is providing an incentive to help you save energy, money and the environment with its Lawnmower Exchange Program. This spring, save big and pay just \$100 or \$165 for a new electric cordless mower valued at \$400 or \$500 when you exchange your gas mower.

This limited program is available only for residents in areas served by AQMD: Orange County and portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Quantities are limited and exchanges will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, upon prior registration.

Save the date: Registration begins **Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.** Find registration instructions and program details online at [www.AQMD.gov](http://www.AQMD.gov), or call AQMD's Lawnmower Program at **(888) 425-6247** once registration opens.



## Important Update...

On August 26, 2009, SCE filed Advice Letter 2377-E to request authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to include a 1.134% surcharge on bills for all SCE customers within the City of San Buenaventura. The surcharge will fund a 1% increase in franchise payments to the City by SCE, pursuant to City Ordinance No. 2009-015.

The remainder of the surcharge is temporary (expected to last 2 years) and will recover the cost of implementing systems to bill and collect the surcharge. The surcharge is authorized by CPUC Decision 89-05-063. SCE customers in the City of San Buenaventura may protest the Advice Letter by May 14, 2010. Information on how to file a protest is described in the Advice Letter. To obtain a copy of the Advice Letter visit SCE at <http://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/2377-E.pdf> or **626-302-2509**, or contact the CPUC's Energy Division at [dlf@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:dlf@cpuc.ca.gov) or **415-703-1063**.

## Take Control of Your Electric Bill



In these challenging economic times, many customers are looking for ways to save money. SCE is here to help. We offer bill payment assistance, educational tips and tools to help you reduce your bills, and incentives to switch to appliances that cost less to operate.

Our customer care specialists are ready to answer your questions and assist you with programs and options to help you keep the lights on. Or visit [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) to learn more about our programs.

*You may qualify for one or more of these programs offered by SCE:*

**Payment Arrangements and Extensions** If you are having difficulty paying your SCE bill, contact us to request a payment extension. We can also help you work out a more flexible payment arrangement. **(800) 950-2356**

**California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)** You can receive a discount of 20 percent or more on your monthly electric bill if

you meet this program's income qualifications. **(800) 447-6620**

**Energy Management Assistance Program (EMA)** You can receive free energy-saving appliances and services, such as refrigerators, air conditioners, home weatherization, and energy-efficient light bulbs at no cost to you if you meet the program's eligibility and income requirements (not all services are available in all areas). **(800) 736-4777**

**Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA)** If you have three or more individuals in your household, and you exceed your baseline electricity usage by over 30 percent, you can receive a discount on your energy bill by meeting the program's income requirements. **(800) 447-6620**

**Level Pay Plan** Let SCE help you plan and budget your funds more efficiently by dividing your SCE bill annual energy charges into equal monthly payments. **(800) 434-2365**

**Medical Baseline** If you use electrically-powered medical equipment, or if you have specific medical conditions that require increased electric usage, your household may qualify for an additional baseline energy allowance to help manage your energy costs. **(800) 684-8123**

For details on eligibility and income requirements for these SCE programs, please visit [www.sce.com/billhelper](http://www.sce.com/billhelper), or contact us toll-free at the phone number listed with each program.

These programs are funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by SCE under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

## Partial Re-Opening of Direct Access Under Senate Bill 695

Direct Access (DA) service is an optional program that gives customers the choice of purchasing electricity directly from an electric service provider (ESP) instead of from SCE. As a result of the energy crisis of 2000-2001, customers' ability to switch to DA service was suspended by the California Legislature effective September 2001.

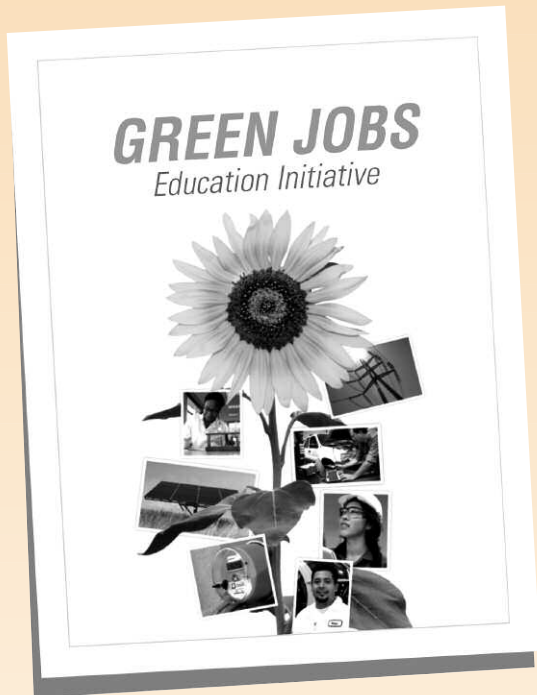
On October 11, 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill (SB) 695 into law, allowing for a partial re-opening of DA service. Under SB 695, all retail non-residential customers in SCE's service area are permitted to switch to DA service starting in 2010, subject to the following conditions:

- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is expected to adopt rules for the partial DA re-opening and implement a reopening schedule by April 2010 to phase in new DA load over a period of 3 to 5 years.
- For SCE's service area, SB 695 allows for an increase in DA load of approximately 4,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) over existing DA load levels of approximately 7,700 GWh.
- For all other customers in SCE's service area (i.e., residential customers), SB 695 suspends their ability to switch to DA service until further action by the Legislature.<sup>1</sup>

For more detailed information on SB 695 and the partial re-opening of Direct Access, please visit [www.sce.com/sb695](http://www.sce.com/sb695). Please check the web page periodically to stay current on CPUC decisions, program rules, and participation forms for the partial re-opening of Direct Access.

<sup>1</sup>A proposed decision, dated February 9, 2010, would allow any existing DA-eligible residential customer who has an accepted Six-Month Advanced Notice to Transfer to Direct Access on file as of the date of the CPUC's final decision to complete its switch to DA. The proposed decision is subject to modification pending the CPUC's final approval.

## SCE Announces \$1 Million Green Jobs Education Initiative for California Community Colleges



SCE has launched a \$1 million Green Jobs Education Initiative to fund sustainable or “green” education and job training at 10 California community colleges. This initiative underscores SCE’s commitment to two of its core philanthropic priorities – education and the environment.

SCE will provide \$100,000 to each of 10 selected colleges. Each college has the option to invest these funds in the California Community College Scholarship Endowment to receive an additional match from the endowment’s lead benefactor, The Bernard Osher Foundation.

*The 10 community colleges selected for funding through the Green Jobs Education Initiative are:*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cerritos College, Norwalk</li> <li>■ Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest</li> <li>■ El Camino College, Torrance</li> <li>■ Golden West College, Huntington Beach</li> <li>■ Long Beach City College</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Los Angeles Southwest College</li> <li>■ Los Angeles Trade-Technical College</li> <li>■ Rio Hondo College, Whittier</li> <li>■ San Bernardino Valley College</li> <li>■ Ventura College, Ventura</li> </ul> |
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The Green Jobs Education Initiative is designed to provide scholarships for dozens of students, each of whom will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. The funding will support students with financial need who are enrolled in green job workforce preparation programs. This includes training programs or study of solar panel installation, water and wastewater management, transportation and alternative fuels, biofuels production and farming, environmental compliance or sustainability planning.

For more information about the Green Jobs Education Initiative, visit [www.sce.com/greenjobs](http://www.sce.com/greenjobs).

### Playing it Safe Around Electricity

Kites and metallic balloons are dangerous if they come into contact with power lines or electrical infrastructure. When these items get tangled in power lines, they can short out the electrical circuit – resulting in power outages, damaged electronic equipment, fires, injuries or even death.

Last year, there were 415 balloon-related outages. These outages caused more than 9.4 million minutes of service interruption for customers last year.

**Here are a few tips to help you stay safe while you enjoy the outdoors:**

- Fly kites only in open areas where there are no overhead power lines or electric facilities nearby.
- Never use metal, wire or metallic string or cloth on kites. Keep the string, wood and paper parts completely dry.
- Do not attempt to retrieve a kite, balloon or any foreign object tangled in power lines. Instead, call SCE at **(800) 611-1911** and report the problem.
- Keep metallic balloons indoors, and never release them outside.
- Never attach metallic streamers to any balloon.
- Secure helium-filled balloons with a weight heavy enough to prevent them from drifting away. It is against the law to sell metallic balloons without a string weight.
- Never go near a downed or dangling wire. Anyone finding a downed or dangling wire should keep others away. Immediately call SCE at **(800) 611-1911** to report the problem or contact the police or fire department.

To learn more about staying safe around electricity, visit us online at [www.sce.com/kiteballoonsafety](http://www.sce.com/kiteballoonsafety).

Change of Mailing Address: 0-00-000-0000

S-CUSTOMER #	S-DEPT # NAME	APARTMENT #	
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
TELEPHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS		

**Energy Assistance Fund (EAF):** I want to help people pay their energy bill through EAF. For info visit [www.sce.com/eaf](http://www.sce.com/eaf)  
 See and apply bill to next whole dollar away from EAF. Add this amount for EAF.

Direct Payment (Automatic) by authorizing SCE to automatically pay from the checking account shown on your bill is also an option.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 To change your checking account information or payment program please call SCE @ 1-800-6

Select one box only and date bill

Every Month     One month only     Every Month     One month only

### Donate to the Energy Assistance Fund and Help Those in Need

Your donation to the Energy Assistance Fund (EAF) will help your fellow SCE customers who find it financially difficult to pay their electric bills, whatever the cause. SCE customers in need may qualify for help in paying their electric utility bill at their primary residence, if their household income falls within specific guidelines. Qualified customers can receive up to \$100 toward their electric utility bill once during a 12-month period.

You can now donate to EAF via a round-up or fixed option on your SCE bill payment stub. You may opt to have your monthly bill rounded up to the next whole dollar, or you can make your contribution to EAF through a fixed amount option where you specify an amount to be added. The fixed or round-up options can be either one-time or they can occur every month.

For more details on how to contribute to EAF, please call **(800) 205-8596**, or visit [www.sce.com/energyassistancefund](http://www.sce.com/energyassistancefund).