

Sustainable Communities Program

The Sustainable Communities program is designed to encourage sustainable development, promote green building design practices, and create a variety of demonstration sites that will serve as models for other projects in SDG&E's service area. This regional program provides incentives for qualified projects that greatly exceed the California Energy Efficiency Standards, obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification, or equivalent, and evaluate on-site renewable energy systems.

Why build sustainable?

Sustainable development provides the framework for communities to create efficient infrastructures as well as use resources more efficiently. It helps to enhance quality of life by protecting and preserving natural resources and improving economic development.

Potential benefits to building sustainable include:

- Reduced project costs for infrastructure, equipment, landfill, materials, and construction
- Lower operating and maintenance costs
- Enhanced occupant comfort, health, and productivity
- Increased building marketability

Eligible Projects

Residential Multifamily New Construction

Any residential new construction apartment, town home, or condominium project that meets the following criteria in the schematic or design development phase: (1) has a minimum of 10 dwelling units*; (2) is located within the service territory of SDG&E; (3) exceeds the 2005 California



Energy Efficiency Standards **by a minimum of 15%** for the applicable climate zone; (4) commits to sustainable design practices, and; (5) evaluates installation of on-site renewable energy.

*(*Motels, remodels, additions, manufactured housing, mobile homes, residential care facilities, and dormitories are excluded.)*

Nonresidential New Construction

Any nonresidential new construction or major renovation building project that meets the following criteria in the schematic or design development phase:

(1) is located within the service territory of SDG&E; (2) exceeds the 2005 California Energy Efficiency Standards **by a minimum of 20%** on a whole building performance basis; (3) obtains LEED certification (or equivalent), and; (4) evaluates installation of on-site renewable energy.

Note: Projects receiving funds from the California statewide Savings By Design program or duplicative energy-efficiency incentives from any other ratepayer funded sources are not eligible.

Owner Incentives

Owner incentive payments are available to either building owners or builder/developers, but not both, with respect to the same project.

Residential Multi-family

Climate Zones 1-7 – \$165 per dwelling unit

Climate Zones 8-16– \$220 per dwelling unit

(\$50,000 maximum per development project)

Nonresidential

\$0.10 – \$0.25 per annualized kWh saved

\$0.34 – \$1.00 per annualized therm saved

An additional 20% incentive is available to projects that exceed the 2005 California Energy Efficiency Standards by 20%, certify for LEED or equivalent, and complete an evaluation of on-site renewable energy.

(\$150,000 maximum per project)

Design team incentives are also offered for non-residential projects. Please have your design team contact a program representative for details and availability.

Owner Participation Procedures

To participate in the Sustainable Communities program, perform the following:

- Review the program Eligibility and Conditions to determine if your project can qualify.
- Contact a program representative to determine if your project is a good candidate and that program funds are available.

- Sign a “Letter of Interest” obtained from the program representative.
- Arrange for your design team to work with a project manager from SDG&E to determine the best strategy to achieve energy performance requirements, obtain LEED certification, and review renewable generation options for the project.
- Sign an “Owner Agreement” to reserve funds for the project prior to construction.
- Upon completion of the project, provide required documentation to the SDG&E project manager and schedule an on-site verification of energy-efficiency features.
- Receive an incentive check upon successful completion and on-site verification.

Conditions

- Construction must be complete and all required documentation must be submitted to SDG&E in accordance with Program guidelines.
- A green building charrette must be conducted early in the project’s design phase and the project must be registered for LEED or equivalent.
- SDG&E must be allowed to create a case study on the project.

For more information, contact a SDG&E representative at: **1-800-411-SDGE (7343)** or visit our Web site at **www.sdge.com**.



**For more information about the Sustainable Communities Program,
go to www.sdge.com/sustainable**



*Serving you today.
Planning for tomorrow.®*

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