

October is Energy Awareness Month

PG&E is proud to be participating in Energy Awareness Month sponsored by the [U.S. Department of Energy](#). This year's theme, "Energy Independence Depends on Us -- Choose Wisely, Use Wisely," reminds us that choices we make about our energy use and consumption impact our environment and our future. The goal of the Energy Awareness Month is to educate PG&E customers and employees about making conscious decisions to reduce energy use in their everyday lives.



This Thursday from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. is the Energy Awareness Month Kickoff Event in the Atrium of the General Office. Browse the PG&E Customer Energy Efficiency tables and pick up information on residential and business energy efficiency programs and services from many CEE programs, including CARE, Emerging Technologies, the Food Service Technology Center, Mass Market, Targeted Markets, the Pacific Energy Center and the Energy Training Center. The kickoff will feature PG&E's mobile customer education center, an energy-efficient pool pump trailer, and lighting and HVAC displays. Special appearances will be made by PG&E's mascots Helmet, Thermalott, and Wattalot, so take some time on your lunch hour to learn more about energy efficiency.

The Customer Energy Efficiency team has rounded up thirty useful energy saving tips to provide you with a month's worth of helpful information. Each Tuesday in October, we'll give you six more ways you can conserve energy at home or at work.

Appliances

1. Increase the drying efficiency of your clothes dryer by cleaning the lint trap before each load. If your dryer can't provide enough heat or move air sufficiently to dry clothes, drying time increases. This step can save you up to \$35 a year. Or, line dry your clothes – weather permitting, of course!
2. If your washer is ten years or older, purchase a new ENERGY STAR® qualified energy-efficient model, which will use one third of the energy of your older clothes washer.
3. Choose the air-dry setting on your dishwasher instead of the heat-dry setting. Use the energy saver air-dry cycle, or open the door and let dishes dry naturally.
4. Use the self-cleaning oven feature only when necessary. Start the self-cleaning cycle immediately after the oven is used to take advantage of pre-existing heat.
5. Buy ENERGY STAR® labeled home appliances, which incorporate advanced technologies that use 10-50 percent less energy and water than standard models.
6. Keep your refrigerator and freezer at the right temperature. If they're only 10° colder than necessary, your energy consumption will go up 25 percent. The refrigerator should be kept between 38°F and 42°F, and the freezer between 0°F and 5°F. In California, about 17 percent of your electricity use goes to your refrigerator and freezer, so look for the ENERGY STAR® label when purchasing new ones.

