



Save energy. Save money. Live comfortably. Go green.

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## Also this month

### **PG&E Zero Net Energy Retrofits Part 1**

Friday September 27th 9:00 am - 4:30 pm in Rohnert Park Follow this [link](#) for additional information.

### **Fall Home Show**

September 20th through September 22nd at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.

Whether you need a new roof, kitchen / bath remodel, expert landscape design, help with DIY projects, or even a new RV, this show has it all.

**Solar Sonoma County**  
CEA Green Lawn Care

THURSDAY 30, OCTOBER 2014

## September 2013 SCEIP Newsletter

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### Fall Home Show 2013

#### **TWO FREE TICKETS TO THIS YEAR'S FALL HOME SHOW!**

Be sure to like our Facebook page along with this week's Fall Home Show post to be entered into the raffle. Tickets will be drawn this Thursday, September 19th, 2013. If Facebook is not the best way to reach you, make sure to message us with your preferred contact information. Our office will post the winner after 10:00 am.



The Fall Home Show will be held September 20th through September 22nd, 2013. The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program will be staffing the event and invites everyone to stop by and say hello, especially if you have any questions regarding incentives, rebates, financing, energy efficiency, renewable generation or water conservation in Sonoma County. One of our knowledgeable staff members, along with a participating contractor, will be there at all times to answer your questions.

A special note to participating contractors: if you have not yet signed up, make sure to contact Dori at [Dori.Estrella@sonoma-county.edu](mailto:Dori.Estrella@sonoma-county.edu) or 707-565-6478.

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### The Energy Independence Program Community Advisory Group Update

The purpose of the Energy Independence Program Community Advisory Group will be to address issues or changes related to services and service delivery by

September 25th 5:45-7:00 pm  
Sonoma Mountain Village

Learn how to take care of your lawn without polluting the environment. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

### PG&E Webinar

Wednesday September 18th  
1:30-2:30pm

Join PG&E for a free webinar regarding incentives for electric energy savings associated with Home Upgrade and Advanced Home Upgrade projects. Click [here](#) to register.

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## Contact Us

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the Energy Independence Program. More specifically, the Group will provide input to the Program Administrator on areas where improved services or processes are needed, work to develop possible solutions to these issues, and provide feedback on proposals developed by Energy Independence staff. Members possessing complementary expertise and diverse backgrounds will represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders served by the Energy Independence Program.



The Program Administrator would like the Community Advisory Group to meet on a quarterly basis. The initial meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th. The Energy Independence Program is currently accepting Notice of Interest forms from community members to participate in the Energy Independence Program Community Advisory Group. **If you are interested in becoming a member, please fill out and submit your [Notice of Interest form](#) no later than September 27th, 2013.** Since this is an advisory body to the Program Administrator, selection of members will be at his discretion.

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## New Multifamily Energy Rebates

Help your clients pay for energy improvements with the Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements rebate. Property owners are eligible for \$750 per unit if they install multiple improvement types (e.g. insulation and water heater) that will save 10% or more of the whole building's energy usage. Free energy consulting is available to assess whether improvements meet the 10% savings requirement, and to advise on what improvements to consider.



Attend the SCEIP Contractor Forum on Oct. 16th to learn more. This rebate can help you close the deal or expand project scopes. Funds are available on a first come, first served basis to multifamily buildings with five or more units in the nine-county Bay Area. Any licensed and insured contractor may install the work. A representative from Bay Area Multifamily Building Enhancements will present the rebate requirements, describe the participation process and how contractors can facilitate the process, and answer questions.

More information about the rebate is available at [Multifamily.EnergyUpgradeCA.org](http://Multifamily.EnergyUpgradeCA.org), by emailing [multifamily@BayREN.org](mailto:multifamily@BayREN.org), or calling 855-213-2838.

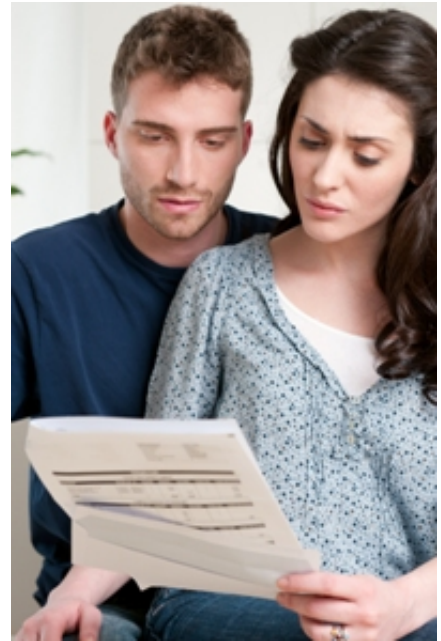
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## The SAVE Act of 2013

According to the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT), the average U.S. homeowner pays an average of \$2,500.00 on energy bills each year. A small,

upfront investment in energy efficiency improvements has the potential to reduce a home's energy bill by 30% or more while increasing the comfort and value of the home. Senators Michael Bennet and Johnny Isakson have realized the importance of energy efficiency improvements as a viable option to homeowners throughout the nation. On June 6, 2013 they re-introduced the SAVE Act [S. 1106], a proposed law that would instruct federal loan agencies to assess a borrower's expected energy costs when financing a house.



The measure would allow lenders to include projected energy savings from efficiency upgrades when measuring the borrower's income against expenses and the value of the home against the debt. In addition to giving borrowers larger loans in new purchases and refinancing, it could also lower their interest rates. IMT and American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEE) have projected that the bill would revitalize the hardest hit sectors of the economy, improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting by federal mortgage agencies, remove an impediment to home energy efficiency from federal mortgage policy and expand the accessibility and affordability of energy efficient homes.

Click [here](#) to read the facts and learn more about the proposed SAVE Act.

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## Incentive Update for Customers with Propane

As of September 1st, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) electric customers with propane gas-fueled appliances are eligible to receive incentives for electric energy savings associated with Home Upgrade and Advanced Home Upgrade projects. Energy Upgrade California Home Upgrade Program Guidelines for



Customers with Propane Gas Appliances can be found [here](#) and on the [Build it Green Document Library](#).

A free webinar regarding this update is being offered on Wednesday September 18th from 1:30 pm-2:30 pm. Click on the link [here](#) or the picture to register.

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## PACENow's New Lender Support Handbook

PACENow's New Lender Support Handbook provides general guidelines for PACE borrowers and program administrators who seek consent from an existing mortgage lender for a PACE project, particularly when consent is being sought from a new and uninitiated lender. The Handbook provides broad information regarding the PACE marketplace, data on previously provided lender consent forms, consent template forms, and suggestions to gain the support of a building's existing mortgage lender for a PACE project. Although the handbook is designed to assist commercial real estate owners seeking consent from existing mortgage lenders, the information provided can also be useful to residential property owners looking to sell or refinance a property with an existing PACE assessment.



The Energy Independence Program provided PACENow with its commercial data and it is reflected within the Handbook. To date, Sonoma has funded 61 commercial PACE projects totaling over \$10.9 million dollars. Nationwide, over 35 lenders have approved more than 80 commercial PACE projects totaling nearly \$15 million dollars to date. Most lenders who have approved a PACE transaction have approved more than one.

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## Contractors' Corner

Energy Independence  
Program Monthly  
Contractors' Forum

Date: Wednesday,  
September 18, 2013  
Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm  
Location: 2300 County  
Center Drive, Suite A212 (La  
Plaza Building A, upstairs  
conference room), Santa  
Rosa, California



If you arrive after 5 pm, please call (707) 565-6470 for entry to the building.

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