

SCE's Online Courses Help Businesses Go Green

Our Energy Education Centers offer free, virtual courses for businesses looking to reduce bills and learn more about energy-efficiency technology and innovation.

Schools in the Visalia Unified School District are going green. Metal halide lights that used to light up gymnasiums have been replaced with energy-efficient LEDs with automated controls. Some sites have installed solar panels and electric vehicle owners will soon be able to use on-site vehicle chargers.

Energy-efficiency efforts at the school district are led by Kevin Mayes, the district's safety and environmental coordinator, as well as other support staff. To help inform his energy decisions, the U.S. Navy veteran has been taking free courses at SCE's Energy Education Center in nearby Tulare for the past 10 years.

Mayes is a regular at the center, having taken part in nearly 15 energy-efficiency courses offered by SCE, including online classes during the pandemic.

Valuable Knowledge and Educational Resources

"As an energy manager, the courses at Edison have helped impact day-to-day operations and have provided insight to decision-makers on how to use our equipment efficiently and effectively throughout the school district," said Mayes, a former lead II electrician with the Visalia Unified School District. "My colleagues and I have all gained valuable knowledge and educational resources through SCE's educational opportunities."

Mayes, along with other Visalia Unified School District staff members, is responsible for the building operation systems throughout the district. From courses about HVAC units, water pumps for irrigation, to solar and VFDs (variable frequency drives), the staff has learned about energy-efficient technology and how to reduce their energy bills.

"These courses have helped us lower our energy bills and meet our energy-efficiency needs, reducing where we can," he said. "Ideally these courses are a way to understand how to run our equipment efficiently."

Mayes noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, courses offered at the center around ventilation have helped them meet ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) requirements as most teachers and some kids up to sixth grade have returned to on-site learning.

"The Visalia Unified School District is a big consumer of electricity out here in the Central Valley," said Dustin Johnson, SCE manager of the Energy Education Center in Tulare, who used to work with Mayes at the school district. "We are helping them run more efficiently, allowing them to keep costs down."

He added: "They are certainly ahead of some schools in terms of energy-efficiency upgrades. They remain very mindful of their overall energy consumption and pay close attention to the electrical demands of their facilities."

Local businesses, especially those in the nearby agricultural industry, often stop by to take courses at the center. Electricians, HVAC technicians, and lighting engineers also often attend the courses.

"Our free, educational courses help customers better understand energy consumption and maintain a competitive advantage in their industry," said Johnson. As Lesch noted, "We're looking to do everything we can to be as green as we can."



Business customers can learn more about energy-efficient technology and how to reduce energy bills at SCE's Energy Education Centers.

Log onto our [class and workshop calendar page](#) to sign up for an online course.

SCE's Energy Education Centers are temporarily closed to ensure the health and safety of customers. For more information, visit [sce.com/energycenters](https://www.sce.com/energycenters).

Earn Financial Incentives Through Demand Response Programs

A key to business success is keeping electricity costs down – and at SCE, we're committed to helping you do just that.

We offer Demand Response (DR) programs to help you reduce your costs. Your business may **benefit** from temporarily lowering energy usage during high-use or peak times, or from shifting usage to off-peak hours. This, in turn, helps reduce overall electricity demand and alleviate strain on our electric system. You'll not only potentially save money, you'll also help the environment.

The following select DR programs are currently open to new enrollment and offer smart ways to lower your bills through rate discounts, bill credits, and incentives.

- **Automated Demand Response (Auto-DR):** Auto-DR provides equipment control incentives to enable you to participate in DR programs by reducing electricity usage without manual intervention. The controls incentivized by Auto-DR let you preselect your load reduction strategies and automatically respond to DR events for maximum flexibility and ease-of-use. You also can override Auto-DR signals or revise your load reduction strategies when necessary.
- **Critical Peak Pricing (CPP):** CPP is a rate that offers a discount on summer electricity rates in exchange for higher prices during 12 CPP event days per year, usually occurring on the hottest summer days. By reducing your electricity use during CPP events, you can lower your electric costs during the summer season – when your bills are typically the highest.
- **Real-Time Pricing (RTP):** If your business has flexibility around its operating schedule, you may want to consider the RTP rate. This rate schedule is beneficial if you can reduce energy usage during hours with higher temperature-driven prices, and/or shift usage to lower-priced hours. You may want to sign up for RTP courtesy email notifications that alert you of temperature-based price changes.
- **Summer Discount Plan (SDP):** Through SDP, you can receive monthly credits on your summer season bills. SCE installs a small remote-controlled device on or near your central A/C unit(s). The device allows us to turn off or cycle your A/C compressor(s) for up to six hours a day during an SDP event.
- **Capacity Bidding Program (CBP):** This flexible bidding program pays you for reducing energy during events in which energy prices are high, demand reaches critical levels, or supply is limited. You can change your monthly level of participation depending on your business needs. If you take part through a third-party DR aggregator, participation and incentives are managed by the aggregator.
- **Third-Party Demand Response Providers:** Third-party DR providers develop and manage their own DR programs that may be available to you. By partnering directly with businesses, DR providers can pool or aggregate customers under their DR program(s) to achieve energy reductions. Your participation and incentives are managed by the third parties.

For a complete list of SCE's DR programs, a list of third-party DR providers, and to learn how we can work together to help you manage your company's energy use and improve your bottom line, contact your Account Manager or visit [sce.com/drp](https://www.sce.com/drp).