

Connections

Customer-owners are what SMUD's about

Chances are you don't think about who owns your electric utility. As long as the power is reliable, the customer service responsive and the energy-efficiency and rebate programs abundant, what difference does it make?

At SMUD, we think it makes a lot of difference. That's because unlike other utilities, we report solely to our customers, because they – you – are not just customers, but also owners. Created by a public vote and overseen by an elected Board of Directors, SMUD's status as a public utility makes a difference every day, in every way.

The leadership of SMUD is responsive to the public. Our business is conducted in public, at meetings open to the public, and at which the public is free to speak to SMUD's elected leadership.

Dates and times of the SMUD Board of Directors meetings are posted in advance along with agendas and all other related documents, and are available on **smud.org**. Also included is information on the members of the Board. Click on the "Board of Directors" tab to find the information.

And that's not all. SMUD posts many reports online, from information on upcoming projects and system improvements to the sources of its energy, both from conventional and green sources. This information can be found by clicking on the "About" tab at **smud.org**. Much of



Serving customer-owners drives SMUD toward a greener future.

this information is also available in print at the public library – and all of it can be accessed through the free Internet service at library branches.

Public access to information and public input into the decisions and direction of SMUD has been what has set us apart for more than 60 years. Many things have changed in those decades, but the idea of a utility owned by and responsive to its customers has not changed, nor will it in the decades to come.

Free shade trees save money and energy

Arbor day is April 24. What better time to plant free shade trees from SMUD? Shade trees not only add beauty to your landscape, but they also save you money on energy bills.

Fully grown, properly placed shade trees can cut your summer cooling costs by as much as 40 percent. Your home is a candidate if it has eastern, western or southern exposures that are

heated by direct sunlight.

All it takes to get your free shade trees from SMUD is a direct phone call to the Sacramento Tree Foundation at **(916) 924-TREE (8733)**. A community forester will come to your home to help you select the locations and best types of trees for your property, and to answer questions about planting and caring for your trees. Appointments can also be

made online at the SMUD Web site, **smud.org**.

Since 1990, SMUD, in collaboration with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, has planted more than 450,000 trees in the Sacramento area. For more information about SMUD's Sacramento Shade program, call **1-888-742-SMUD (7683)**.

Contact us:

Customer Services: 1-888-742-SMUD (7683)

Hours: M-F 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Pay online: www.smud.org



May's the month for pedal power

Take advantage of pleasant springtime weather by swapping out your four-wheel ride for two wheels during Bike Month in May.

Bicycling is a great way to relieve stress, save gas and spare the air. SMUD supports this clean commuting option by providing bike and clothing lockers for employees who bike to work at least three times a week.

Last year Sacramento area residents logged 1,242,215 miles during the Million Mile May bike challenge. You can take part in this year's challenge by visiting mayisbikemonth.com and registering as an individual, team or employer. Visit the Web site for more information or to sign up.



Always wear a helmet and follow the law for safer cycling.

Clear yard transformers for safety

With a rainy end to our winter it's a sure bet we'll be doing lots of yard work this spring to get our outdoor spaces ready for barbecues and other summer activities.

But if you have a transformer – the green metal boxes marked “high-voltage” – in or near your yard, you need to do a little more spring clean-up. Help keep everyone safer and the power supply more secure by making sure to keep plants and structures at least eight feet away from these boxes. These clear spaces are required by the California Code of Regulations.

Keeping transformers clear will help SMUD restore power more quickly during an outage. The clearance space also helps SMUD perform scheduled maintenance more efficiently. A little elbow room also ensures a safer environment for SMUD field crews working with the high-voltage equipment inside the green boxes.

So don't put those yard tools away until you've cleared these important boxes. For more information about



Transformers help to power the neighborhood.

neighborhood transformers and electrical safety, visit smud.org or call **1-888-742-SMUD (7683)**.

SMUD Board of Directors

Ward 1 *Renee Taylor*
Ward 2 *Nancy Bui*
Ward 3 *Howard Posner • President*
Ward 4 *Genevieve Shiroma*
Ward 5 *Rob Kerth*
Ward 6 *Larry Carr*
Ward 7 *Bill Slaton • Vice President*

The SMUD Board of Directors holds regular meetings twice a month: first Thursdays at 6 p.m. and third Thursdays at 9 a.m. Meetings are streamed live and archived on the SMUD Web site (smud.org). Location: SMUD Headquarters Auditorium, 6201 S St., Sacramento. Times and locations subject to change. For information and meeting agendas, visit www.smud.org, or call the SMUD Board Office at (916) 732-6155.