

## How does the program work?

The Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) is designed to set reasonable utility usage targets for normal utility consumption in like-type housing units. The Partnership establishes a monthly utility usage target for each home based upon the calculated average monthly. The Partnership conducts a three month mock billing period at each installation. During this period, information is provided to residents that shows your consumption compared to the usage target for your like-type group homes. You will not be responsible for any overages on your mock bill or qualify for any rebates. After the mock billing period ends, you will receive actual bills and begin accruing credit for refunds if you use less than the utility usage target under the 10% buffer. A rebate check will be issued when your accrued credit exceeds \$25. You may choose to defer the rebate and apply any credited amount towards future payments. You will be responsible to pay for usage above the normal utility usage target set if your usage is above the 10% buffer. Your payment would only be for the amount above the 10% buffer.



## Why did the Department of Navy decide to start RECP after all these years?

PPV residents use significantly more electricity and gas per day than residents in the community residing in comparable homes. In September 1998, OSD issued a policy for the payment of utilities in PPV housing to encourage a reduction in energy consumption. In support of the Secretary of the Navy's energy initiatives, RECP represents the Department of Navy's next step toward full implementation of the OSD policy for PPV housing.

## How do Sailors and Marines and their families benefit from RECP?

Careful conservation of resources through less energy consumption contributes to our nation's security and readiness and takes better care of our fragile ecosystem. Dollars saved through conservation will be put right back into the PPV project in the form of capital reinvestments such as new housing, renovations, community amenities, quality of life programs, etc. Sailors and Marines will earn rebates if they conserve more electricity than amounts identified in the normal usage buffer zone.

## If this is a Department of Navy program, do I have to participate if I am in another branch of Service?

All military members, regardless of branch of Service, must sign a lease that requires the resident pay for electricity and gas (if applicable) usage.

## Aren't utilities already part of my BAH?

Yes. An allowance for normal utilities is part of the BAH. This program is intended to encourage residents to achieve normal usage and to reward them for conservation beyond normal expectations. If you conserve and use utilities wisely within a normal range, you should have little or no out-of-pocket utility expense and could be eligible for a utilities rebate.

**How will this program affect my Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)?**

There will be no impact to the BAH allowance.

**Does this program mean I have to pay an electric and gas bill every month?**

During the mock billing period, you will receive a mock bill that shows how much electricity and gas you used during the past month and how much you would owe or be owed. During the live billing period you will receive an actual bill. You will only pay for electricity and gas if you have excess usage. If you use more electricity than the normal usage buffer zone, you will be charged only for that usage in excess of the normal usage buffer zone.

**Am I responsible for water?**

At this time, the energy conservation efforts focus on electricity and gas. Water is not currently part of the program but we still encourage you to manage your water usage as part of your overall conservation efforts.

**How is my usage target determined?**

Your house will be grouped with other housing units into like-type energy baselines so that utility usage targets are set based on comparable home energy performance. The Monthly Utility Usage Target is calculated every month based on the current month's average for like-type housing units. A 10% plus or minus buffer is set around the utility usage target in order to establish the normal usage zone.

**How do I get information about the like-type group I am in?**

Your Resident Services Manager/Housing Office can provide you with that information.

**How does billing work?**

Residents who use less than the lower utility usage buffer will accrue a credit or rebate and residents who use more than the upper usage buffer will have a balance due. During the mock billing period you will not be responsible for any overages on your mock bill or qualify for any rebates. After the mock billing period ends, you will receive an invoice. Depending on your consumption for the month, this invoice will show that you have a credit, need to pay the balance due or have no charge and indicate when your rebate check will be issued.

**How do I know that my bill is correct?**

Your bill will show the actual usage for the period based on information received from your individual home utility meter. If you feel there are inaccuracies on your bill, please contact your property manager for review. Your property manager can check your water heater and AC unit to ensure they are working properly. They can also assist you in performing an energy use self-assessment to identify electric conservation opportunities that could lead to a credit.

## **What if there is an extremely hot summer/cold winter?**

Your utility usage target is established on a monthly basis to account for actual weather changes.

## **My neighbor's bill is lower than mine because they have Energy Saver appliances and I don't. Can I have new appliances to lower my bill and receive a rebate?**

No. We try to account for these differences by setting the 10% plus or minus buffer around the utility usage target.

## **We have two children in our family and live in a 3-BR home. Many of our neighbors do not have children. Will the monthly usage average for our like-type group be skewed?**

The 10% buffer is intended to address variances in family size.

## **How and when may I expect a rebate?**

Residents whose monthly utilities cost is 10% or more below the monthly usage target will earn a credit or rebate that will be payable by check when the rebate exceeds \$25. Residents may elect to roll over savings credits to apply against charges they may accrue in future months.

## **What happens if I don't pay on time? Will late payments affect my credit?**

Residents with a past due account will receive up to 3 late notice letters from Minol on 15-day intervals. The PPV partnership may contact you to work out a payment plan. Since utility bills are a component of rent, the failure to pay utility bills will be treated as delinquent rent as per your lease. Please refer to your lease on how delinquent rent is treated and for specific actions that will be taken by your property manager for payment delinquencies. One consequence may be that your lease may not be extended if you don't pay your utility bill. Late payments may affect your credit.