

1. How does this 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 Public-Private Venture (PPV) Partnership will establish a monthly utility usage target for each home based upon the calculated average monthly electricity usage. You will receive a monthly utility statement from YES Energy Management that shows your consumption compared to the usage target for your like-type group (LTG) homes. If you conserve electricity, you may earn a credit (rebate), and if you use a high amount of electricity, you may incur a charge. You will be issued a rebate check 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 if your usage is above the 10% buffer. Your payment would be for only the amount above the 10% buffer.

2. 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 range (explained below).

3. How is my usage target determined?

Your house will be grouped with other housing units into like-type groups (LTG's) so that utility usage targets are set based on comparable home characteristics and energy performance. The Monthly Utility Usage Target, known as the baseline, is calculated every month based on the current month's usage average for fully occupied like-type housing units. Thresholds 10% above and 10% below the baseline are established to define the normal usage range.

4. 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.

5. Can I get information about the like-type group I'm in?

Yes, information about your home's like-type group may be found on your monthly utility statement from YES Energy Management, by accessing your utility account information via the YES resident portal or by contacting YES Energy Management directly at the number listed on your monthly utility statement.

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

There will be no impact to the BAH allowance.

7. Isn't a utility allowance already part of my BAH?

A calculation for "normal" utilities is used to establish each BAH rate. The RECP is intended to encourage residents to achieve normal usage and to reward them for conservation beyond normal expectations. If you conserve and use utilities efficiently within the normal range, you will have no out-of-pocket utility expense and with a little extra effort could be eligible for a utilities rebate.

8. How does billing work?

Residents who use less electricity than the lower usage threshold will accrue a credit and residents who use more electricity than the upper usage threshold will have a balance due. You will receive a monthly utility statement showing your usage. Depending on your consumption for the month, this statement will show that you have a credit, have to pay the balance due or have no charge, and will indicate when you need to submit payment of any balances due.

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

You will only pay for electricity if you have excess usage. In other words, if you used more electricity than the normal usage range, you would only be charged for usage in excess of the upper threshold.

10. How and when will I expect a rebate?

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

11. 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 electric utility meter. If you feel there are inaccuracies on your bill, please contact your property manager for review. Your property manager can help you perform an energy use self-assessment to see how you can reduce electrical consumption and hopefully earn a credit. They can also check your home, appliances, equipment, and lighting to ensure they are working properly.

12. 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?

The normal usage range accounts for these differences by setting the 10% plus or minus thresholds around the utility usage target.

13. 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?

BAH rates are calculated without consideration of family size. Likewise, family size isn't used when calculating monthly usage targets in the program.

14. 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 three late notice letters from the billing company on monthly intervals. Additionally, late notices will be sent by the property manager. Accounts are charged a \$2.50 late fee each month on any balance which was due and payable but which remained unpaid past the original payment due date. The property manager may contact you to work out a payment plan. Since utility bills will be a component of rent, the failure to pay utility bills will be treated as delinquent rent per your residential lease agreement. 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 renewed or extended if you don't pay your bill. Late payments could affect also your credit.

15. Am I responsible for gas and water?

At this time, conservation efforts focus on electricity. Gas and water are not currently part of the program – but we still encourage you to conserve all utilities.

16. If this is a Department of Navy program, do I have to participate if I'm in another branch of Service?

All military members choosing to live in PPV housing, regardless of branch of Service, must sign a lease that requires the resident to participate.

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

Military family housing residents have historically used much more electricity, gas and water per day than residents in off-Base communities living in comparable homes. In September 1998, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (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.