



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST-MARINE CORPS BASE  
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JUN 27 2013

From: Commanding General  
To: Family Housing Residents

Subj: HOUSING RESIDENT ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM PHASE II  
UPDATE

Encl: (1) RECP Brochure  
(2) RECP Frequently Asked Questions

1. Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton (MCB CamPen), in conjunction with our family housing partner, Lincoln Military Housing (LMH), is moving forward with the Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) to increase awareness and conservation of energy in our homes and neighborhoods. The program is the result of a policy from the Secretary of Defense. The intent of RECP is to promote good stewardship of our resources and environment through awareness, personal responsibility, and education. Enclosures (1) and (2) provide additional information about the program.

2. Our family housing partner, Lincoln Properties and Naval Facilities Command South West, have been working on a design build contract to install new smart meters on all Phase II homes prior to starting RECP. The contract agreement has been completed and timeline set.

3. After installation of smart meters, LMH will collect utility consumption data for the MCB CamPen Public-Private Venture (PPV) Phase II homes. From this data, power consumption baselines will be computed according to housing type and size.

a. The approved start date for MCB CamPen Phase II mock billing is 1 December 2013 with live billing beginning on 1 March 2014. Town Hall meeting dates and times will be provided to Lincoln Properties for distribution to residents.

b. The Phase II housing areas aboard MCB CamPen are the Del Mar (Koepler Street), Forster Hills, O'Neill Heights, Pacific View, Santa Margarita, Serra Mesa, South Mesa II, Stuart Mesa, Wire Mountain III, and 14th Street housing areas.

c. You will begin receiving a monthly utility consumption statement, also referred to as a "mock bill", starting three months before actual program implementation showing how much electricity you are consuming each month. Subsequent statements will follow each month. The statement will include a utility usage target, which is the amount of electricity considered "normal" for the type and size of your house. This amount will vary month-to-month based on seasonal differences in climate.

Subj: HOUSING RESIDENT ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM PHASE II  
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4. The personal responsibility component of the RECP potentially involves changes in behavior to help lower utility usage and save energy. The monthly utility usage statement is the main tool utilized and will eventually serve as an actual bill for electricity consumed. You may be rewarded with a rebate if you consume less than a certain percentage below the usage target amount or pay a bill for the amount used over the usage target amount.

a. The target date for actual billing to start is 1 March 2014 for Phase II. As soon as you receive your first bill, you should begin comparing your actual usage with the usage target amount. Awareness and energy conservation are essential to not exceeding your energy usage target.

b. Your Property Manager can provide assistance such as examining the electric meter or assisting you with conducting a self-energy audit. My Family Housing team will also provide you with more information about actual billing, rebates, and charges before implementation.

5. The third and perhaps most important element of RECP is education. Along with your monthly utility consumption statement, you will receive tips and ideas from your PPV Partner on ways to reduce energy consumption. Individually, these energy saving tips result in small savings but collectively they can make a big difference in how much energy is used in a given month.

6. Additional details about RECP will soon be provided by your LMH PPV Partner. If you have any questions, please contact the Family Housing Office at (760) 725-5995 or LMH at (760) 400-8187.

  
VINCENT A. COGLIANESE

## RECP Concept

Encourage and incentivize energy conservation by families living in USMC privatized family housing.

Make more funds available to improve family housing, playgrounds and community centers.

Improve the quality of life for those who live in Marine Corps family housing.

Create a culture of conservation and help the Marine Corps reduce overall energy consumption from bases to battlefields.



## RECP Tentative Roll-out Schedule

### MCB Camp Pendleton Time Line (Tentative) Executed in Two Phases

- Final Planning / Coordination Apr '12 - Dec '12
- 3-month advance notice to Residents Aug '12 & Aug '13
- Mock billing (3 month min.) Jan & Dec '13
- Commence Live Billing 1 May '13 & 1 Mar '14

Note: your basic allowance for housing is only expected to cover normal utilities use, not excess.

**Marine Corps RECP Guarantee:**  
3 month advance notice to existing residents  
3 month mock billing to all residents



## A "Culture of Conservation"

The USMC Energy Strategy "Bases to Battlefields" begins at home. Saving energy saves you money and is good for everyone.

“Pay attention to the little things, like how much you heat or cool the place you're living in.”

Raymond E. Mabus  
Secretary of the Navy

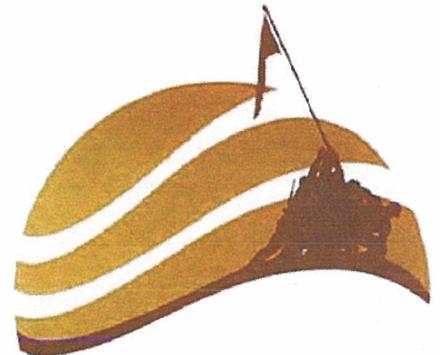
“Changing the way we use energy is essential to preparing our Corps for the future.”

James F. Amos  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

For more information on the RECP please contact your local Military Housing Office or Privatized Military Housing provider.



## Marine Corps Family Housing



**RESIDENT  
ENERGY  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM**



## Why RECP?

- RECP is good for Marines and their families.
- Saving energy saves you money.
- The funds saved by RECP will be used to improve your homes, playgrounds, community centers, and therefore, your quality of life.
- Energy Conservation is important to the nation and the Marine Corps.
- Demonstrated success in the RECP Pilot program conducted in 2011.

## How does RECP Work?

To run the Marine Corps Resident Energy Conservation Program, we:

1. Establish a group of "housing types" based on size, style, age, number of bedrooms and other factors that influence energy conservation.
2. Meter usage in all housing types each month.
3. Calculate the average usage for all housing types each month.
4. Create a 10 percent buffer above and below the average usage type to establish the average range of usage.
5. Families consuming less utilities than average range will be rewarded for their energy conservation by being paid for the difference under the average usage.
6. Families with excessive usage that is above the average range will be billed for the difference that is over the average usage range.

## What can you do?

Check your home for inefficiencies, such as windows that do not close properly.

Ask your privatized military housing provider for an energy audit of your home.

Talk to your family members about how they can save energy by doing little things, such as:

- Unplugging unused electronics and chargers.
- Turning off unused lights.
- Washing and drying only full loads of laundry using the coldest settings possible.
- Using the dishwasher for full loads only and using the air dry feature instead of heat.

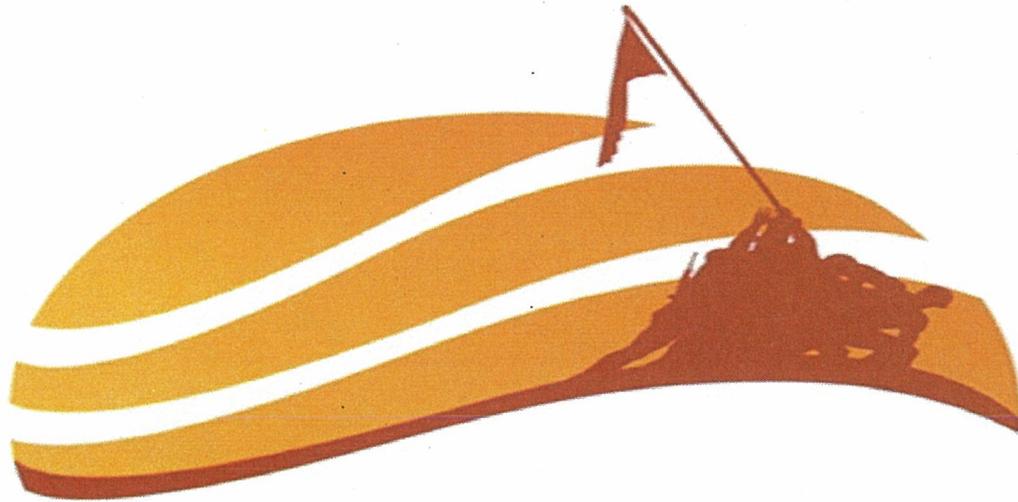


*Additional strategies and tips are available on-line or by calling your PPV housing office*



The funds saved by RECP will be used to improve your homes, playgrounds, community centers, and therefore, your quality of life.





# **RESIDENT ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

### **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 Partnership will establish a monthly utility usage target for each home based upon the calculated average monthly. The Partnership will conduct a three month "mock billing" period at each installation during which information will be provided to residents like you on a mock bill that shows your consumption compared to the usage target for your like-type group homes. During this "mock billing" period you will not be responsible for any overages on your mock bill nor qualify for any rebates. After the "mock billing" period ends, you will receive actual bills and will begin accruing credit for refunds if you use less than the utility usage target under the 10% buffer. 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 set 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 buffer zone (explained below).

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) (cont)**

### **3. 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 and minus buffer is set around the utility usage target in order to establish the normal usage zone.

### **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, your Public Private Venture Partner Housing Office can provide you with that information.

### **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?**

Yes. An allowance for "normal" utilities is a 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 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 than the lower utility usage buffer will accrue a credit or rebate and residents who use more than the upper utility usage buffer will have a balance due. First there will be a "mock billing" period to educate you about your consumption compared to the utility usage target for your home. After that period ends, you will receive an actual invoice.

Depending on your consumption for the month, this invoice 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 the balance.

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

During the mock billing period, you will receive a mock bill that shows how much electricity 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 if you have excess usage. In other words, if you used more electricity than the normal usage buffer zone, you would be charged only for that usage in excess of the normal usage buffer zone.

### **10. How and when will 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 when the accumulated rebate exceeds \$25. Residents can elect to roll-over savings credits to apply against charges they may accrue in future months.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) (cont)

**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 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 help you perform an energy use self assessment to see how you can reduce electrical consumption and hopefully earn a credit.

**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?**

No. We account for these differences by setting the 10% plus or minus buffer 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?**

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

**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 15-day intervals. The PPV partnership 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 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 renewed or extended if you don't pay your bill. Finally, late payments could affect your credit.

**15. Am I responsible for water and gas?**

At this time, the energy conservation efforts focus on electricity. Water is not currently part of the program – but we still encourage you to conserve water.

**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, regardless of branch of Service, must sign a lease that requires the resident pay for electricity usage.

**17. 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.



## Town Hall Phase II (RECP) Brief

The Commanding General, MCIW-MCB Camp Pendleton cordially invites you to attend a Town Hall, Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) Brief for the Lincoln family housing areas on Wednesday, 31 July 2013 and Thursday, 1 August 2013. MCB Camp Pendleton Leadership will provide a (RECP) brief and answer questions pertaining to the program. RECP Phase I residents are welcome to attend. Children are welcome.

For the following Southern Housing areas:

Del Mar (Koepler St.) Forster Hills Pacific View  
Santa Margarita South Mesa II Stuart Mesa Wire Mtn III

Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2013

Time: 1800-1930

Location: Pacific Views Event Center

For the following Central Housing areas:

14th St O'Neill Heights O'Neill East Serra Mesa

Date: Thursday, 1 August 2013

Time: 1800-1930

Location: Bldg. 1795 - MCCS Family Team G# 1795

Located in San Luis Rey Housing Area