

Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) Overview

The Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP), as designed by the Department of Defense and executed by PPV partners, is intended to foster energy conservation by PPV residents. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCB CAMPEN) started implementing the program in 2012.

The RECP implemented within Public-Private Venture (PPV) housing aboard MCB CAMPEN satisfies Department of Defense policy for PPV residents to pay for their utilities. MCB CAMPEN PPV residents receive rebates if they conserve electricity and consume less than the normal range of expected use. PPV residents pay additional utility fees if they consume more than the normal range of expected use. These measures increase energy efficiency in PPV housing by incentivizing conservation.

Across the enterprise, about 38% of the families get a refund on their monthly utility bill, about 28% are in the average usage band, and about 33% pay an overage. Average payments in all areas except Hawaii average \$35 while refunds average \$25.

Energy Management Specialists monitor MCB CAMPEN PPV housing electricity usage each month and compare it to average monthly use from like-type homes on the base. This average monthly use is the basis for each home's energy allowance. Like-type homes are homes with comparable expected energy usage. The comparable usage determination considers a number of criteria, including neighborhood location, size (number of bedrooms and square footage), and year of construction.

The average monthly use for like-type homes on MCB CAMPEN creates a monthly energy allowance, which functions as a grace zone. The grace zone has an upper buffer and a lower buffer. Energy management charges PPV residents at the utility provider's rate for monthly electricity use over the upper buffer. Energy management reimburses PPV residents at the utility provider's rate for monthly electricity use below the lower buffer. All electricity use within the grace zone (between the lower and upper buffer) is within the resident's monthly energy allowance.

Of the 7,545 PPV homes on Camp Pendleton, 3,285 are provided electricity from the Base, and the remaining 4,260 are provided electricity from San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E). The Base's electricity rate is \$0.10/kWh and the SDG&E electricity rate structure has two tiers:

Winter: \$0.19/kWh (Tier 1); \$0.39/kWh (high-consumption Tier 2).
Summer: \$0.20/kWh (Tier 1); \$0.42/kWh (high-consumption Tier 2).

PPV residents served by SDG&E pay exactly the same rate as off-base residents and those serviced by MCB CAMPEN power pay a lesser rate.

Any utility rate SDG&E would apply to a PPV home on Base exceeding the average monthly use upper buffer would typically be in its Tier 2, high-consumption rate.

The RECP seeks to reduce electricity costs, while permitting service members living on MCB CAMPEN to pay for their normal electricity use with their Basic Allowance for Housing. Thus, while MCB CAMPEN residents are responsible for paying their utilities, they only pay "extra" for utilities exceeding the grace zone upper buffer.