



# Liberty Utilities<sup>SM</sup>

News Edition November 2013

## OUR COMMUNITY



Liberty Utilities supports and participates in many community events like the Camp Richardson Oktoberfest. At these events, customers learn ways they can reduce energy use and save money.



Sam Rohn, Liberty's Environmental, Health, Safety & Security Manager, demonstrates the electrical hamlet used to inform kids (and adults!) about the potential dangers of electricity.

## REDUCE ENERGY & SAVE ON YOUR WINTER BILLS

*Winter is the time Liberty Utilities customers consume the most energy. That can mean higher bills, but it's also an opportunity to take some simple, no-cost steps to reduce your winter usage and, as a result, save 10-25% on your energy costs.*

- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees when home, and then back to 55-68 degrees when unoccupied.
- Open window coverings on the sunny side of your home to take advantage of free heat from the sun.
- Close foundation vents.
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use; including your computer.
- Use your dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer and cook as late in the evening as possible.
- Vacuum your refrigerator coils, underneath and in the back.

*You can save another 10-25% by taking these low-cost tips:*

- Use compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent ones.
- Caulk windows and caulk and weather-strip doors.
- Install a hot water heater blanket.
- Install hot water pipe insulation.
- Install electrical outlet and switch plate insulation.
- Clean furnace system and check ducts for leaks.
- Replace furnace filters monthly.
- Replace normal thermostats with programmable thermostats.

For more tips and to sign up for a free energy audit, visit [www.libertyutilities.com/west](http://www.libertyutilities.com/west) and click on the "Save Energy and Money" option.



## KEEP YOUR METERS CLEAR FROM SNOW

During the winter months, Liberty Utilities asks for your help in keeping snow cleared around your meters so it can be read by our meter readers. If you own a non-primary resident (i.e., a second home), you may qualify for our Zero Estimated Billing where you are billed at zero energy usage only during those winter months until we can access your meter in the Spring.

Visit [www.libertyutilities.com/west](http://www.libertyutilities.com/west) and click on the "Customer Support" option.

## WHAT WE'RE DOING TO IMPROVE

A system improvement project (known as the 7203 Alternative Feed) was completed last month on time and on budget. This project improves service to the Northstar Village, Martis Camp, Lahontan and Schaffer's Mill areas.

For more projects, go to [www.libertyutilities.com/reliability](http://www.libertyutilities.com/reliability).



## RATE CHANGES ANTICIPATED TO TAKE EFFECT IN 2014

*Beginning January 1, 2014, you will likely see changes on your monthly utility bill that are the result of adjustments mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).*

### Green House Gas (GHG) Charge and Credit

This summer we told you about AB 23 passed by the California Legislature and designed to reduce the state's carbon footprint to 1990 levels. The CPUC is tasked with implementing this program among investor-owned utilities like Liberty Utilities. We are currently seeking approval for our GHG implementation plan which includes a new charge to recover mandated compliance costs incurred in 2013 and 2014 as well as an on-bill credit known as a "climate dividend." A majority of our customers will receive the climate dividend credit on their bill twice a year to offset the GHG increase, and it will be based on usage for small businesses (A1 rate code) and all residential customers who meet the eligibility requirements. The average climate dividend for an eligible small business (A1) will be approximately \$73 and \$55 for an eligible residential customer. We anticipate the new charge and dividend to be effective first quarter of 2014.

More details, including eligibility requirements, can be found at [www.libertyutilities.com/west](http://www.libertyutilities.com/west) on the Green House Gas page.

### CARE Program Charge

The CPUC mandates that regulated utilities like Liberty Utilities offer a California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program that provides utility discounts for income-eligible customers residing in a permanent, primary residence. The program cost is spread among all non-CARE utility customers. Once approved by the CPUC, all non-CARE customers could see an increase to their usage rate of .00287 cents/kwh to fund this program on or around January 1, 2014.

To find out if you may be eligible for the CARE program, please go to [www.libertyutilities.com/west](http://www.libertyutilities.com/west) and visit our Customer Support page.

### PTAM Charge

The Post-Test Year Adjustment Mechanism (PTAM) is a CPUC approved tool designed to adjust a utility's rates between formal general rate case filings. All allowable utility costs (such as energy purchases) are passed through dollar for dollar to the customer, except for capital investment expenses initially funded by the shareholders. (The CPUC determines a reasonable rate of return to shareholders on this portion.) Using the PTAM to adjust rates annually between general rate cases avoids potentially significant rate increases that may otherwise be necessary.

Liberty Utilities has requested authority to implement a PTAM increase, effective January 1, 2014, of 1% (cost of inflation) to all customers and applied to the customer, facilities, demand, generation and distribution charges of their total rate. This increase will not be applied to any surcharge or public program charges within the rate tier.

