



Together, Building
a Better California

FAQ for Customers

Retrocommissioning

What is Retrocommissioning?

Retrocommissioning (RCx) is fine-tuning existing buildings and systems in order to make them operate optimally and more efficiently through scheduling, sequencing, controls programming and set-point optimization. While retrofitting can involve replacing outdated equipment, it focuses on improving the efficiency of what is already in place.

What are some sample RCx measures?

- Optimizing chiller and boiler operations to better match building load conditions
- Reducing ventilation in over-ventilated areas
- Ensuring ventilation dampers open and close properly
- Decreasing supply air pressure set-point and system rebalancing
- Aligning zone temperature set-points to match the building's actual operating schedule

What are eligibility requirements and investigative audit qualifications?

Generally, successful recommissioning projects require the customer to document the facility, commit to minimum spending levels if applicable and implement measures within one year. Customers must specifically:

- Receive gas OR electric service from PG&E
- Pay a California public purpose surcharge on utility bills
- Grant PG&E access, if needed, to the facility's billing data to establish an initial benchmark rating for program assessment, monitoring, and measurement purposes

If PG&E determines an investigative audit is needed for the project, the customer must:

- Own or operate a high energy usage facility that has at least 50,000 square feet of conditioned space or that consumes 1,000,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) or 50,000 therms per year
- Be willing to spend up to \$25,000 on all reasonable and eligible RCx measures identified as having a simple payback period of one year or less

What PG&E program allows retrocommissioning?

The Commercial Custom Incentives Program includes both retrofit and retrocommissioning measures. Incentives are paid directly to the customer based on achieved annual energy savings at the rate of \$0.06/kWh, \$0.50/therm and \$75/on-peak kW (subject to measure capping). Customers may participate in the program with previously identified measures or request an investigative audit funded by PG&E. After the measures are installed, PG&E's engineering team will verify that the measures were installed per industry best practices. Customers can also take advantage of PG&E's zero percent interest financing program to help implement measures.

Key Actions:

- Get your PG&E account representative involved early to determine what path the project will take
- Apply if you are interested in fine-tuning existing buildings and systems in order to make them operate optimally and more efficiently
- Measure must be implemented within one year of application approval
- For more information, please visit [pge.com/rcx](https://www.pge.com/rcx)



How Does the Investigative Audit Process Work?

If a PG&E representative deems it necessary that an investigative audit be performed at the customer site, PG&E, third party consultants (RCx providers) and senior building operations staff at participating sites will work closely with the program participant using a three-step process.

1 Project initiation

As an interested customer, you will begin the process by completing a Calculated Incentives Application. Using your billing data and application as well as any information gathered from a phone screening (if required), PG&E scores your facility's candidacy based on several criteria, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's energy performance rating system. This rating system weighs variables such as facility size and location to generate a score between 1 and 100. If your facility looks promising, a PG&E representative schedules an initial on-site assessment by a program engineer and third party consultant. The engineer gathers more information about your facility's control system, the condition of your equipment and so forth and generates a list of potential RCx measures that should be further investigated.

2 Project investigation

If the program engineer determines that cost-effective, energy-saving measures are possible, the engineer will authorize the RCx provider to do a detailed investigative audit. The start of this detailed investigative audit confirms that you, as building owner, are committed to implementing these reasonable measures with an estimated payback period of one year or less, up to the cost of the investigative audit, and capped at \$25,000. The investigative audit is a detailed report of your facility, listing recommended measures, estimated project costs and incentives, energy savings and payback periods. It is created by the RCx provider who uses careful observation, targeted functional testing and trend data analysis to identify problems and opportunities for energy savings in your facility.

3 Implementation, verification and payment

The building owner and PG&E's engineering team together decide which measures to implement. PG&E's engineering team then provides help reviewing the bids and documentation, training and limited measure commissioning support as requested. Your RCx provider confirms that the installed measures are complete and verifies the savings calculations you will need in order to receive your project incentive based on verified savings.

Your Next Steps

To learn more about PG&E's Retrocommissioning Program, contact your PG&E account representative, call the **Business Customer Service Center** at **1-800-468-4743** or visit pge.com/rcx. We encourage you to contact PG&E before submitting your application and other required documentation.