



Savings By Design

FAQ for Customers



Key Takeaways:

✓ Apply if you are interested in designing an energy efficient building with integrated design.

✓ Get PG&E involved early. If the design is already complete, it's too late!

✓ For more information, please visit:

• savingsbydesign.com
(official statewide SBD page)

• pge.com/savingsbydesign
(PG&E's new construction page)

• energydesignresources.com
(SBD-backed page for design community)

• [SBD Fact Sheet](#)

✓ Contact Julie Cassel (SBD Program Manager, 222-5439 or jjcd@pge.com) for additional questions

What is Savings By Design?

- Savings By Design is an incentive program that pays owners to design and build a new space that exceeds Title 24 by 10% or more
- New construction includes: new buildings (Whole Building Approach), and gut rehabs and tenant improvement projects (Systems Approach)

What is the difference between the Whole Building and Systems Approaches?

- Whole Building: projects that touch lighting, mechanical, and envelope. Design team incentives available in addition to the owner incentive.
 - (+) Comprehensive project yields more savings, higher incentives
 - (-) More documentation required, more parties to communicate with, longer timeline
- Systems: projects that touch lighting or mechanical or envelope. Design team incentives not available.
 - (+) Faster processing, less documentation than Whole Building
 - (-) Lower incentives

What are the incentive rates?

- Whole Building:
 - Owner Incentive: \$150/peak kW, plus \$1.00/thm, plus \$0.10-0.40 cents/kWh depending on the % better than Title 24 (e.g. \$0.10/kWh at 10%, \$0.20/kWh at 20%, up to \$0.40/kWh at 40+% above code)
 - Design Team (e.g. architect, contractor, etc) Incentive: equal to 1/3 of the Owner Incentive and is available in addition to the Owner Incentive
 - Incentive Cap: \$150,000 for Owner Incentive; \$50,000 for Design Team Incentive
- Systems:
 - Owner Incentive: \$150/peak kW, plus \$1.00/thm, plus \$0.08/kWh for lighting and \$0.15/kWh for HVAC
 - Design Team Incentive: not available
 - Incentive Cap: \$150,000 for Owner Incentive



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What are the eligibility requirements?

- New construction, including gut rehabs and tenant improvements - no retrofits or replacements
- Must be at least 10% better than Title 24
- Must be in PG&E service territory
- Must show sufficient influence before onset of project

What is the ideal project size and phase?

- Over 30,000 square feet of new construction
- Designs not yet submitted for permit

Why should my customer go through the trouble?

- The costs of pursuing EE in new construction are generally far less than pursuing EE for retrofit
- The measures in an efficient building design generally increase the asset value of the building and pay for themselves over their lifespan
- Considering lighting, mechanical, and envelope together in a building design can lead to better performing buildings

What are some of the commonly installed measures?

- Envelope: high performance windows, roof/wall insulation, architectural shading
- HVAC: direct/indirect evaporative cooling
- Lighting: LED fixtures

What documentation is required?

- All mechanical and lighting plans and schedules
- Title 24 Report
- Incremental costs: Additional cost incurred to exceed T24 code
- (Whole Building only) All energy model input and output files from a CEC-approved tool
- (Whole Building only) Scope of Work briefly explaining the energy efficiency details

Want to apply for Savings By Design. Now what?

- Complete an application and send it to your PG&E Account Representative. If you do not have an assigned PG&E contact, send an email to savingsbydesign@pge.com.
- A kick off meeting will be scheduled to discuss the project