



# Community Wildfire Safety Program

## Creating a Stronger and More Flexible Electric Grid

August 2020

### Working Together to Protect Communities From Wildfires

We are working every day to improve the safety of our electric system and reduce wildfire risks. As part of these efforts, we may need to turn off power during severe weather for public safety to prevent fires; this is a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).



### Minimizing Public Safety Power Shutoff Impacts

While PSPS is an important wildfire safety tool, we know that losing power disrupts lives, especially for those with medical needs and customers sheltering-at-home in response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We are working to improve our PSPS Program by making events smaller in size, shorter in length and smarter for our customers.

#### Investing in Our Electric Grid

One of the ways we are working to do this is through deploying new technology and investing in a stronger, more flexible grid. These improvements include:



##### **New Devices to Reduce PSPS Customer Impacts**

Installing more than 600 devices that limit the size of outages so fewer communities are without power.



##### **Temporary Microgrids**

Preparing new microgrids in areas most likely to experience PSPS events, to safely provide electricity to areas that are safe to keep energized during a PSPS event. Some of these microgrids will be able to keep whole communities energized while others are designed to serve community resources such as hospitals, police and fire stations, gas stations and markets.



##### **Community Engagement**

In July of 2020, PG&E representatives hosted five webinars for agencies and stakeholders regarding our new Community Microgrid Enablement Program (CMEP). These webinars outlined the types of support the program may offer and gathered feedback on overall program design. As the program is finalized it will likely include microgrid planning support for communities, financial support for grid improvements and other tools to allow agencies and stakeholders to help create a stronger and more flexible grid in their area.

## Resources for Customers

We are also working to offer resources to customers that will allow them to help to create a stronger and more flexible electric grid in their communities. These include:

### ■ **Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)**

Enables customers to extend electrical power during a PSPS event by adding battery storage to their wildfire safety plan. SGIP offers incentives to cover up to 100% of battery and installation costs for vulnerable customers **based on income, location, medical needs and past PSPS events.**



**The targeted qualifications for SGIP participation are:**

- ✓ **Being a Medical Baseline customer OR having notified PG&E of a medical condition that could be life-threatening if power is lost OR being low income qualified**
- ✓ **AND living in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 High Fire-Threat District OR having lost power due to a past PSPS event two or more times.**

For **more information** and to **apply for SGIP incentives**, customers and approved SGIP developers are encouraged to visit [pge.com/pspsbattery](https://pge.com/pspsbattery). See SGIP Handbook at [selfgenca.com/home/resources](https://selfgenca.com/home/resources) for more info.

### ■ **Disability Disaster Access and Resources Program (DDARP)**

PG&E is collaborating with the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC), to enable qualifying customers who use electrical medical devices to access backup portable batteries through a grant, lease-to-own or financial loan application. Additional resources piloted through this program include:

-  Accessible transportation resources during a PSPS event
-  Hotel vouchers during a PSPS event
-  Food stipends following a PSPS event
-  Emergency preparedness outreach and education
-  Medical Baseline Program enrollment outreach

Customers interested in learning more about this program are encouraged to visit [disabilitydisasteraccess.org](https://disabilitydisasteraccess.org) or to contact their local Independent Living Center.

Customers can find the location of local Independent Living Centers by visiting [cfilc.org/find-ilc](https://cfilc.org/find-ilc).

## Learn More

If you have additional questions about any of PG&E's efforts to create a stronger, more flexible electric grid please email [wildfiresafety@pge.com](mailto:wildfiresafety@pge.com).



For translated support in over 200 additional languages, contact PG&E at: **1-866-743-6589**.