

## **PG&E's SmartAC™ Program Offers Free Energy Management Tools For Small Businesses** **(357 words)**

**San Francisco, Calif.** – During these hot summer months, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides valuable resources to help our small business customers control their energy use and lower their utility bills.

One such resource is PG&E's SmartAC™ program, which offers free programmable thermostats that can help businesses reduce their energy costs by better managing their air conditioner usage.

Here's how the program works: During the summer season between May 1 and October 31, increased air conditioner use puts a tremendous strain on California's power grid. To help manage this demand, PG&E sends a signal to activate your SmartAC™ thermostats. Your AC will not be shut off; it will automatically adjust to use slightly less energy - so slight that when surveyed, most customers didn't even notice their SmartAC™ device had been activated.

This slight reduction in air conditioning use has two benefits. It lowers the demand put on the energy grid, helping to reduce the likelihood of power interruptions to your business, your neighborhood and all of California. It also allows you to lower your energy bill, which saves your business money. Over 100,000 residents and businesses currently participate in the program and over 98% of those surveyed say they would recommend SmartAC™ to their friends.

With SmartAC™, your customers' comfort and your control come first. With the exception of an extreme grid emergency, if activation happens at an inconvenient time, you can call or go online at any time to opt out of activation for the day, without penalty.

Small or medium-sized businesses with central air conditioning units or heat pumps in suitable operating condition can volunteer to participate in the SmartAC™ program through their PG&E representative. Customers can also go to [www.pge.com/smartacforbusiness](http://www.pge.com/smartacforbusiness) or call (866) 908-4916 for more information or to sign-up. Customers must either own the property or have written permission from the owner or manager to participate in the SmartAC™ program.

PG&E will install your SmartAC™ programmable thermostat(s) for free. And as long as you remain in the SmartAC™ program, PG&E offers free unlimited technical support and customer service.