

# YOUR GUIDE TO TIME-OF-USE (TOU)

A go-to resource for TOU details.



# MAKING THE MOST OF TOU

This guide provides a summary of how TOU can benefit your business – and your community. TOU prices align with the cost of generating and delivering electricity based on the time of day, day of week, and season. In addition to the opportunity to manage and potentially lower your energy bills, TOU periods help make power more reliable and benefit our environment.

## **An opportunity to cut your costs.**

TOU can help boost your bottom line. That's why it's important to understand TOU so you can plan ahead to adjust your business' energy use. The key to reducing costs on TOU is to manage or reduce usage during the highest-priced "On-Peak" hours and, whenever possible, shift usage to the lower-priced "Off-Peak" and "Supper Off-Peak" hours. You may already be conserving your energy use, but by changing **when you use** electricity, you can maximize your energy savings.

## GETTING FAMILIAR WITH TOU PERIODS

To meet the needs of your business and our region when energy is in high demand, TOU offers four different time periods including a Super Off-Peak period.

- **On-Peak:** Highest Energy Cost
- **Mid-Peak:** Medium Energy Cost
- **Off-Peak:** Low Energy Cost
- **Super Off-Peak:** Lowest Energy Cost

For more information on TOU periods, tools, and solutions to help manage your energy costs, visit [sce.com/TOU](https://sce.com/TOU).



### **TOU Success Story: Electric Brewing Co.**

After working with SCE to find energy efficient options and ways to save money, Justen Foust of Electric Brewing Co. took advantage of the savings made possible by TOU, specifically, the Off-Peak hours. Electric Brewing Co. shifted brewing hours to nights from June 1 to September 30, between 11 p.m. – 8 a.m. twice a week.

***"I heat up the water during Off-Peak hours. I choose the route that saves me money."***

— Justen Foust, Founder, Electric Brewing Co.

# MANAGING YOUR COSTS WITH TOU

## Tips to help your business reduce and shift energy use to maximize savings.

We can help you identify ways to shift energy use away from On-Peak hours with modifications to your operations and equipment maintenance procedures.

### No-cost, temporary energy management tips:

- Run your ice machine at night and into the early afternoon to build up a large supply to use during On-Peak hours.
- Turn off all office equipment and lights every night and weekend; if you can't turn off your computer, turn off the monitor and the printer.
- Always use night covers on refrigerated display cases.
- Do laundry and waste-processing tasks before or after On-Peak hours.
- Charge battery-powered equipment before or after On-Peak hours.
- Pre-cool your workspace by lowering the thermostat in the morning, then turn it up during On-Peak hours.
- Power down unused checkout stations. Turn off excess cash registers and computers.
- Operate air compressors at the lowest pressure allowed by your system and repair all leaks.
- Maintain appropriate refrigerated temperature settings. Energy is wasted if temperature settings in refrigerated systems drift too low. The most used settings for freezers are between -8° Fahrenheit (F) and -14°F. For refrigerators, they are between 35°F and 38°F.



You can help lower your costs by shifting energy use from the higher-priced On-Peak hours to the Mid-Peak, Off-Peak, and Super Off-Peak hours of the day when TOU prices are Lower. If you can't shift electricity use away from the On-Peak periods, consider installing more energy-efficient equipment to help reduce electricity use at all times.



For more customized tips  
for your business type, visit  
**[sce.com/EnergyTips](https://sce.com/EnergyTips)**.

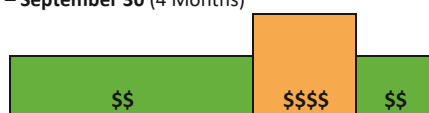


# TOU SEASONS AND HOURLY PERIODS

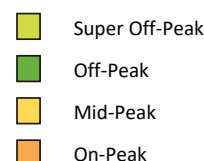
	Season	TOU Hours
<b>On-Peak</b>	Summer	Weekdays: 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.
<b>Mid-Peak</b>	Summer	Weekends: 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.
	Winter	Weekdays and Weekends: 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.
<b>Off-Peak</b>	Summer	Weekdays and Weekends: All hours except 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.
	Winter	Weekdays and Weekends: 9 p.m. – 8 a.m.
<b>Super Off-Peak</b>	Winter	Weekdays and Weekends: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Summer June 1 – September 30 (4 Months)

Weekdays

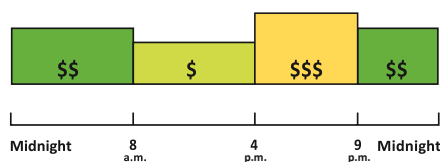


Weekends and Holidays



## Winter October 1 – May 31 (8 Months)

Weekdays,  
Weekends,  
and Holidays



The summer season begins on June 1 and continues until September 30. Agricultural & Pumping customers may have alternative TOU options, please see [sce.com/TOU](https://sce.com/TOU) for more information.



## TOU HIGHLIGHTS

- The lowest-cost Super Off-Peak period is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day during the eight-month winter season.
- The highest-cost On-Peak period is on summer weekdays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Weekend TOU periods vary by time of day and season.

# ANSWERS TO COMMON TOU QUESTIONS

## Why do TOU periods and pricing vary?

TOU periods and pricing better align the cost of electricity to the time it is produced and the cost to deliver it when your business needs it. Pricing will generally be higher during summer weekdays in the late afternoons and evenings.

## How can I save money with TOU?

You can help lower your costs by shifting energy use away from the more expensive On-Peak hours to the Mid-Peak, Off-Peak, and Super Off-Peak hours of the day when TOU prices are lower.

## Do I have rate options given changes to TOU?

Yes, we offer several rate options designed to meet the energy demand needs of various businesses. You can compare other rates and costs online using our Rate Plan Comparison Tool. Simply log in (or register) to your My Account and click Rate Plan Comparison. You can also switch to another rate, if you choose, directly online using the Rate Plan Comparison Tool.

## What is a discontinued TOU period and how does my business qualify?

Customers with behind-the-meter (BTM) solar generating facilities may be eligible to be served on TOU that retain discontinued TOU periods for 10 years from the date their systems were authorized to operate. To qualify for discontinued TOU Periods, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Your initial solar interconnection application must have been submitted by January 21, 2017. This deadline was extended for public agency customers to December 31, 2017.
- Your solar generating facility must be sized to offset at least 15% of your annual load.

## What is the difference between demand charges and energy charges?

Demand charges are based on the highest amount of electricity used in kilowatts (kW) within any 15-minute period during your monthly period (referred to as "Facilities-Related Demand") and/or on your highest amount of electricity used within a specific TOU period during your monthly billing cycle (referred to as "Time-Related Demand"). Energy charges are based on the total amount of electricity used in each TOU period within a billing cycle. For energy charges, the unit of measurement is the kilowatt hour (kWh).

## What are Facilities-Related Demand Charges?

A Facilities-Related Demand Charge is applied to the maximum kW demand in each monthly billing cycle. The FRD charge reflects the cost of maintaining infrastructure—transformers, substations, and distribution systems—to meet your peak demand.

## What are Time-Related Demand Charges?

Time-Related Demand (TRD) Charges apply year-round and are calculated per kilowatt (kW) according to the highest recorded demand during On-Peak and Mid-Peak hours, non-holiday weekdays. On-Peak TRD charges apply during the summer and Mid-Peak TRD charges apply during the winter. TRD charges reflect the cost of supplying electricity during times of peak grid stress, encouraging customers to shift usage to off-peak hours.

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# USEFUL TOOLS AND RESOURCES

## My Account

View your usage to pinpoint the times of day and activities that have the most impact on your bill. My Account is a centralized energy hub that gives you easy access to our energy management tools: Rate Plan Comparison Tool and Business Energy Advisor. You can register for My Account at [sce.com/myaccount](https://sce.com/myaccount). You'll need your Service Account number to register.

## Rate Plan Comparison Tool

Use our Rate Plan Comparison Tool to compare your rate options. Accessed through My Account, you can:

- Compare your current rate and costs based on your past usage with other available rates.
- See how your monthly bills and average seasonal costs could change with different rate options.
- Select and switch rates — all online with this tool.

Note: You must have at least 12 months of energy usage to use this tool.

## Business Energy Advisor

Take a 5-minute survey about your facility and receive customized suggestions to help you identify cost-effective, energy efficiency upgrades and recommendations for cooling, equipment, lighting, and more. You can also learn easy behaviors to help you conserve; for example, installing window film can reduce your annual energy consumption by 15%.

## Energy Efficiency Upgrades and Financing

Put energy efficiency within reach. Finance your qualified energy efficiency upgrades interest-free over time, with no fees or loan costs. To learn more, visit [sce.com/business/rates-financing/energy-efficiency-financing](https://sce.com/business/rates-financing/energy-efficiency-financing).

This fact sheet is meant to be an aid to understanding SCE's Standard TOU rate plans. It does not replace pricing information contained in the CPUC-approved tariffs. Please refer to the tariffs for a complete list of terms and conditions of service, which can be viewed online at [sce.com/tariffbooks](https://sce.com/tariffbooks).  
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