



## **Flex Alert Tips**

A Flex Alert is an urgent call to Californians to immediately conserve electricity and to shift demand to off-peak hours (after 6 p.m.). The Flex Alert campaign is an educational and emergency alert program that informs consumers about how and when to conserve electricity. By participating in the campaign, Californians have achieved high levels of conservation during heat waves and other challenging grid conditions such as wildfires or when major power plants or power lines are unavailable.

### **WHEN A FLEX ALERT IS CALLED, WHAT CAN I DO?**

At home and at work, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) recommend to these actions:

- Turn off all unnecessary lights, computers and appliances.
- Adjust your air conditioning thermostat to 78 degrees or higher. Use a fan when possible.
- Postpone using major appliances and equipment until after 6 p.m.

### **RESIDENTIAL TIPS:**

**Adjust Your Thermostat:** Setting your air conditioning five degrees higher will save up to 20% on cooling costs.

- During peak hours or when you're not home, remember to set your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher.

**Unplug Electronics:** Unplug battery chargers, power strips and other equipment when not in use. Taken together, these small items can use as much power as your refrigerator.

### **Prevent Leaks (Not Water):**

- Adjust the blinds on windows that receive direct sunlight.
- Keep windows and doors closed to prevent the loss of cooled air.

**Adjust Your Water Heater:** Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees or the “Normal” setting when home, and to the lowest setting when away. Water heating accounts for about 13% of home energy costs.

**Keep Cool with Ceiling Fans:** Reduce air conditioning costs by using fans, keeping windows and door shut and closing shades during the day.

- Most ceiling fans use less energy than a light bulb.

**Be Smart About Lighting:** Turn off unnecessary lighting and use task or desktop lamps with CFLs instead of overhead lights.

**Power-Down Your Computer:** Enable “power management” on all computers and make sure to turn them off when not in use.

**Wash Clothes in Cold Water:** When possible, wash clothes in cold water. About 90% of the energy used in a clothes washer goes to water heating.

**Load-Up Your Dishwasher:** Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when fully loaded. During summer, wait until after 6 p.m. to run your dishwasher.

**Programmable Thermostat:** Use a programmable thermostat to help keep your air conditioning costs low during the day when you’re not at home.

#### **OFFICE TIPS:**

**Lighting:** Turn off unnecessary office lights, and use natural lighting where possible.

**Thermostat:** Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.

#### **Prevent Leaks (Not Water):**

- Check window vents to make sure they are clear of paper and other debris.
- Adjust the blinds on windows that receive direct sunlight.
- Keep windows and doors closed to prevent loss of cooled air.

**Equipment:** Turn off any office equipment that is not currently in use.

**Computers:** Enable power management settings on all computers, so that they go to sleep and turn off screens when not in use.

#### **BUSINESS TIPS:**

Demand Response Programs typically provide incentives and other benefits to the business owners who can reduce/curtail their facilities energy use during times of peak demand.

Source: California Independent System Operator (CAISO)

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