



Resident Energy Savings Competition

Are you interested in making your property more energy efficient? The Resident Energy Savings Competition is designed to help implement energy efficiency at your property and encourage residents to use energy wisely and maximize utility bill savings.

The Resident Energy Savings Competition can help you learn how to make your property energy efficient, reduce energy costs, and increase comfort and resident satisfaction. The series includes straightforward energy saving strategies to help your residents understand their energy use. Implement this customizable competition to challenge your residents to win the title of Ultimate Energy Champion!



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Follow these steps to get started:

1: Announce Resident Education Savings Series: Electrical Outlets



Series to cover ways residents can save on utility bills through implementing tips and tricks to reduce their electrical outlet use, otherwise known as a plug load. A plug load is energy used by devices or equipment that is typically plugged into an electrical outlet. Electrical outlet reduction is important to energy savings as it can account for a significant amount of the total energy consumption in an apartment building.

Announcement Resources:

Announcement Language

[Customize this template to announce the savings series.](#)

Communication Method

Email, flyer/handout, newsletter, poster

Note: For non-email correspondence there will be nominal costs associated with printing that might need to be factored.

Logistics:

Time Allocation Two to six hours

2: Host First Utility Cost Saving Workshop



Schedule a 30- to 60-minute Utility Cost Saving Workshop to introduce the competition, cover electrical outlet savings, explain how residents can track their electric consumption, and announce the competition reward.

Before the Workshop:

Schedule the Workshop

Keep residents' needs and potential availability in mind when selecting event day and time. For families, schedule the workshop during weekdays, avoiding school pick-up and drop-off times. Consider offering incentives such as childcare or refreshments to encourage attendance. Depending on your comfort level with presenting the electrical outlet information, consider bringing in an industry expert to present the workshop. The [OHCS Multifamily Energy Program](#) is a great place to start when researching industry experts.

Determine the Reward

Rewarding participants at the end of the competition is a great way to engage, build trust, and encourage energy savings. To increase overall participation, consider offering a small reward to all participants and a larger reward to the top energy saver. If your property is master metered, consider a team reward chosen based on the total dollar amount of energy saved. Reward structures can vary to fit your needs. See below for reward suggestions.



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Reward Suggestions

Participation Reward	\$5 coffee gift card
Top Energy Saver Reward	\$25 off rent for a month, gift card
Team Reward	Pizza party, new TV for common room, grill station

Promote the Workshop

Start promoting the event four to six weeks in advance using the property's usual communication channels (e.g. posters, flyers, email, resident portal). Send a reminder one week before. Consider asking residents to RSVP to secure a spot; this will enable organizers to estimate attendance. Be sure to include a description of the reward(s) to encourage participation!

Energy Savings Goal

Set an achievable savings goal for the competition. A good starting point is \$5 savings per month on a resident's electric bill, or a five percent decrease in kilowatt hours (kWh) consumption from one month to the next.

Tracking Energy Consumption

Determine how residents will track their energy usage or cost savings. For Portland General Electric (PGE) customers, Energy Tracker is a great resource. The *How to Use Energy Tracker Guide* (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) will guide you and your residents through Energy Tracker. Pacific Power customers can retrieve past utility bills for reference or reference the *How to Use Pacific Power's Energy Usage Function* (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)).

Determine the Timeline

Launch the competition in the spring or fall and host it for a duration of three to six months. Hosting in the spring or fall will prevent fluctuations in electricity bills during heating and cooling season. The timeline is customizable and can fluctuate based on each property's needs and interests.

Workshop Agenda:

Competition Overview

Introduce the Resident Education Savings Competition, highlighting the value of increased comfort in units and utility bill savings. This workshop will cover how to reduce energy from electrical outlets.

Energy Savings Goal

Introduce the energy savings goal for the competition. Show residents where to find relevant information on their utility bill for Pacific Power users. For PGE users, introduce Energy Tracker and walk through the *How to Use Energy Tracker Guide* (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)).

Competition Reward

Explain the details of the reward structure you choose. This will keep participants informed and engaged throughout the competition.

Electrical Outlet Savings Workshop Slides

[This PowerPoint template](#) can be projected onto a screen or large monitor during the workshop to serve as a visual aid supporting your presentation.

Tracking Energy Consumption

Explain how participants will track their energy usage or cost savings. For Pacific Power users, we recommend retrieving past utility bills for reference. For PGE users we recommend tracking energy on Energy Tracker.

Logistics:

Time Allocation Two to six hours

3: Residents Implement Electrical Outlet Savings Strategy



Residents will spend three to six months implementing electrical outlet savings strategies from the workshop.

Competition Resources:

Tracking Energy

Residents with PGE will monitor their energy use through Energy Tracker. Residents with Pacific Power will monitor through their electric utility bills. Consider having residents submit their monthly energy usage (kWh or electricity bill) to the property manager on the first of each month when rent is due.

Energy Scoreboard

To encourage participation throughout the competition, we recommend creating a scoreboard in a public area where residents can report out their kWh or dollars saved each month. Consider aligning this action with the first of each month when rent is due.

Monthly Reminders

Sending out a monthly reminder to track and report energy use onto the energy scoreboard will help keep residents engaged.

Logistics:

Time Allocation Three to six months

4: Host Check-In Educational Workshop (Optional)



Schedule a 30- to 45-minute Check-In Educational Workshop including an energy report-out from residents, goals check-in, and celebration announcement (if applicable).

Before the Workshop:

Schedule the Workshop

Keep residents needs and potential availability in mind when selecting event day and time. For families, schedule the workshop during weekdays, avoiding school pick-up and drop-off times. Consider offering incentives such as childcare or refreshments to encourage attendance.



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Promote the Workshop

Start promoting the event four to six weeks in advance using the property's usual communication channels (e.g. posters, flyers, email, resident portal). Send a reminder one week before. Consider asking residents to RSVP to secure a spot; this will enable organizers to estimate attendance. Be sure to include a description of the reward(s) to encourage participation!

Energy Usage

Compile monthly energy progress data from residents to determine which resident has saved the most energy or money.

Workshop Agenda:

Energy Report-Out

Residents will report out on energy usage or bill savings based on information collected from the property manager and displayed on the energy scoreboard.

Goals Check-In

Residents will revisit prior savings goals created during the first workshop and discuss how the implementation of their savings strategy went.

Celebration Announcement

Property manager will announce the celebration of savings, including the reward and any logistics associated with the reward (i.e. pizza party will need a date, time and location).

Logistics:

Time Allocation

Two to six hours

5: Celebration of Savings (Optional)



After implementing the Resident Education Savings Series it's time to reward your residents for their hard work in lowering energy costs and implementing energy savings into their daily lives.

Before the Celebration:

Savings Report Out

Compile all the savings from the participants and create a chart highlighting individual savings and total savings. Use this as the center piece during the celebration.

Celebration Agenda:

Celebrate

It's time to announce the Top Energy Saver and acknowledge everyone that participated. Invite top energy savers to talk about their experience and behaviors they changed in order to save. Reward participants for their smart decisions and strategize on if they would like to create another competition focusing on a different energy savings feature. Distribute any rewards determined in Step 2.

Logistics:

Time Allocation

Two to three hours



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Resources:

Electric Outlet Savings Workshop Slides

This [PowerPoint](#) offers slides that illustrate how to reduce one's electrical outlet usage through behavior changes

How to Use Portland General Electric's Energy Tracker

This document (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) offers step-by-step instructions for residents to help them navigate their way through Energy Tracker, an online energy tracking program provided by PGE.

How to Use Pacific Power's Energy Usage Function

This how-to guide (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) is designed for Pacific Power customers to utilize the Energy Usage function on their online Pacific Power account.

Savings That Count Fact Sheet

This document (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) provides residents with simple changes and useful actions they can implement into their units to save on electric bills.

Announcement Template:

Are you ready to become the Ultimate Energy Champion?

[Property name] is implementing an Energy Savings Competition to empower you to save money on your electric bills! As part of the competition, you will learn tips and tricks to reduce your electricity usage. Don't be zapped by expensive bills, learn how you can save!

Join us for our first workshop on reducing electric outlet usage:

Who: All residents are invited

What: Utility Cost Saving Workshop

Where: *[Location]*

When: *[Date and start time to finish time]*

What Will be Covered: Competition guidelines, setting energy savings goals, electric outlet savings tips and tricks

Refreshments will be provided, and kids are welcome. Recharge your savings skills and be rewarded with ***[reward(s)]!***

See you on *[date of workshop]*,

[property manager name]



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