



## Southern California Edison Backgrounder

Corporate Communications: 626-302-2255, [www.edison.com/pressroom](http://www.edison.com/pressroom)



### Edison SmartConnect – a Smarter, Cleaner Energy Future for Southern California Edison Customers



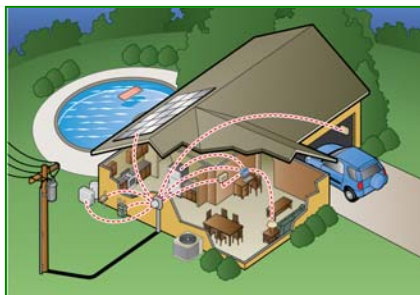
Southern California Edison's (SCE's) advanced metering program, Edison SmartConnect, will revolutionize how people use energy. Current home electric meters are remnants of the pre-computer era,

mechanical devices that can record only the total amount of electricity used during a billing period. Having more detailed usage information such as how much energy is used at various times of the day would create much smarter energy consumers and allow utilities to offer new energy-saving programs. Additionally, advanced meters could interact with the next generation of "talking" thermostats, appliances and other communicating devices that soon will allow consumers to save the maximum energy and money 24/7 simply by pressing a usage preference button.

#### SCE's Different Approach

When the California Public Utilities Commission asked the state's utilities to study upgrading to such meters, Southern California Edison concluded that existing, off-the-shelf new technologies would not be cost-effective, that they offered too few new functions and customer benefits. So SCE

collaborated with meter manufacturers to develop a completely new solid-state metering and communication system that would offer customers a lower cost, greater benefits and improved grid operations. The outcome is now among the industry's leading advanced metering systems - Edison SmartConnect.



Between 2009 and 2012, SCE plans to replace more than 5 million existing traditional electric meters with the new next-generation smart devices, making possible money-saving, time-differentiated rates and demand response options as well as home area connectivity with appliances of the future.

### Imagine an Electric Meter that Could Help You Protect the Environment

Edison SmartConnect will place in customers' hands a new technology capable of far more than saving energy and money. It will introduce unprecedented ways of protecting the environment with the touch of a button.

The new meter system will allow SCE customers with smart, communicating thermostats and appliances to set them to respond automatically to periods of peak pricing and grid emergencies, potentially reducing overall peak demand on SCE's grid by as much as 1,000 megawatts – the output of a major power plant.



Additionally, when customers have near-real-time information about their energy use, through home area wireless communications options the new system will support, SCE believes the result will be sustained new energy conservation. The utility estimates customers will reduce greenhouse gases and smog-forming pollutants by at least 365,000 metric tons per year – the equivalent of 79,000 cars being removed from the road.

Other potential customer benefits:

- Smart meters will bring smarter pricing plans that give customers more choices based on lifestyle and convenience.
- Remote capability means customers won't need to wait for a field representative when they want to turn on or transfer service.
- Smart meters will provide more extensive outage information, enabling a faster response for quicker service restoration.

#### The Industry Leader

- Edison SmartConnect won the Utility Peer Network's 2008 Annual Metering Awards Program "Best Metering Data Integration Initiative."
- In May 2008, Edison SmartConnect received the 2007 Project of the Year Award from the Orange County chapter of Project Management Institute for the second consecutive year.
- SCE was the sole utility recognized for its technology leadership during the first GridWeek conference in April 2007 sponsored primarily by the Department of Energy Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.
- Utility Planning Network recognized SCE's entry as the winner of the "2005-2006 Automatic Meter Reading Initiative by a North American Investor-Owned Utility" category.
- The Electric Power Research Institute has recognized SCE as an industry leader for its approach to advanced metering. SCE is the first U.S. utility to adopt the institute's IntelliGrid Architecture for a system-wide advanced metering deployment.

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