# GUAM POWER AUTHORITY



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**MEDIA ADVISORY** 

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## Third increment of utility credit scheduled for September billing

The Guam Power Authority (GPA) reminds residential customers to expect the third increment of the monthly \$100 Prugråman Ayuda Para I Taotao-ta Energy Credit to be applied to their September billing, which continues to offset the increases in the LEAC (the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause). Public Law 36-106 established the Prugråman Ayuda Para I Taotao-ta Energy Credit Program, providing up to \$500 in credit to GPA customers for each active account. The credit will be disbursed in \$100 increments each month from July through November 2022.

GPA General Manager John M. Benavente, P.E. noted that the \$100 monthly credits help to offset the LEAC increases, a second step LEAC increase to \$0.296043 per kilowatt-hour, approved by the PUC on June 16, 2022, effective for meters read on or after September 1, 2022 which equates to an additional 12.72% increase in the total bill or about \$44.41 to the average residential power bill, which averaged \$42.12 per household in July and August.

"Customers have expressed their appreciation for seeing the first two credits applied quickly to their July and August bills," GM Benavente said. "We've received a lot of questions about how the credit is applied. It will show up automatically from the July through November bills. It cannot be transferred or redeemed for cash. Unused credits will remain in the accounts until they are used up."

GPA's General Manager also noted that if customers see increases in their bills, GPA recommends that they take a look at their <u>energy consumption</u> compared to previous months and see how they can reduce it.

### **Energy solutions for the future**

GPA continues to make strides in realizing its Clean Energy Master Plan, which places the utility on target to achieve 50% renewable energy generation by 2030 and 100% by 2045. Savings from the new Mangilao solar farm are already being realized but aren't apparent to ratepayers due to the steep rise of global fuel costs.

GM Benavente said, "Until the new Ukudu Power Plant is commissioned, we will continue to work efficiently to reduce costs where we can lessen the burdens on our customers. We are pleased to have the Mangilao solar power plant online, which has been generating the cost-effective energy to meet a portion of the island's demand during the day. This also helps to offset the previous and current fuel oil purchases.

We may not be feeling it now, but our move toward greater reliance on renewable energy, the use of more environmentally friendly low-sulfur fuels, and the more efficient Ukudu Power Plant are helping us to build a more reliable and cost-effective energy future for Guam."

#### **Energy-saving tips and rebates**

James Borja, Customer Service Manager for GPA, and his team have been working steadily with customers to help them reduce their bills through effective energy-saving measures.

He said, "We are seeing similar issues worldwide, and our GPA customer service team has been providing more tips and insight about how our customers can decrease their consumption. By adopting specific and positive habits, customers can play an active role in reducing their power bills."

GPA's customer service team continues to make helpful information available through GPA's website and social channel channels.

Borja added, "Simple tasks like managing how and when appliances are used can affect monthly costs. Consider replacing appliances that pull the greatest energy in a home – water heaters, air conditioners, washers, and dryers – with more energy-efficient models when the time is right. It can also save them money over the life of the appliance."

GPA has also launched its online <u>Energy Sense rebate application</u> portal on GPA's website to make applying for qualified appliance rebates easier and quicker.

Borja said, "Customers can process, manage, and receive their rebates even quicker. For residential customers, rebates range from \$100 to \$800 depending on the approved appliance purchased," Borja added, "We welcome customers to reach out to our customer service team if they are interested in learning how they can significantly reduce their consumption and save money on their power bills. We are here to help."

#### Assistance available for residents

GPA reminds customers needing additional assistance to consider applying now for <a href="Emergency Rental Assistance"><u>Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)</u></a>, a Department of Administration program that assists Guam households with rent and utility relief. The program is available until October 31. A DOA-ERA representative is available at the GPWA Customer Service Lobby at Fadian on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No appointment is needed.

For information on how to manage or reduce household or commercial energy consumption or any available customer assistance programs, please visit guampowerauthority.com, or call GPA's Customer Service team at (671) 647-5787/8/9, or send an email to customersfirst@gpagwa.com. For regular tips on how to reduce household or commercial energy consumption resulting in lower power bills, engage with GPA on Facebook and Instagram (@guampowerauthority).