

**From:** Announcements@DGS <Announcements@dgs.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 17:32  
**Subject:** Flex Alert Issued for Wednesday, 7/28

*This message is being sent to all DGS employees.*

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With higher than normal temperatures in the forecast for parts of interior Northern California, the California Independent System Operator (Cal ISO) has issued a statewide Flex Alert that requests voluntary electricity conservation tomorrow, Wednesday, July 28, 2021 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Californians are urged to conserve electricity, especially during the late afternoon and early evening, when the grid is most stressed due to higher demand and solar energy production falling.

**Tips before a Flex Alert:**

- Pre-cool home by setting the thermostat to as low as 72 degrees.
- Use major appliances before the identified Flex Alert time:
  - Washers and dryers - do laundry;
  - Ovens and stoves - pre-cook and prep meals; and
  - Run the dishwasher.
- Adjust blinds and drapes to cover windows.
- Make sure all electronics and portable power banks are charged.

**Conserving energy at home during the Flex Alert:**

- Close window coverings and lower the thermostat to pre-cool your home.
  - Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.
  - Use smart or programmable features to help maintain energy savings when you're not home.
  - Use fans for cooling.
- Turn off unnecessary lights.
- Unplug unnecessary devices and equipment when not in use.
- Avoid using large appliances.

- Clean or replace dirty air filters.
- Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees or to the “normal” setting.
- Keep pets indoors during the hottest part of the day and provide cool fresh water.

### **Save energy at work (or at your home worksite):**

- Lighting
  - Turn off unnecessary office lights, and use natural lighting where possible.
- Thermostat
  - In the summer, whether you're in the office or working from home, set your home thermostat to 78° or higher, when possible.
- Prevent leaks
  - Check window vents to make sure they are clear of paper and other debris.
  - Adjust the blinds on windows that receive direct sunlight.
  - Keep exterior windows and doors closed to prevent the loss of cooled or heated air.
- Equipment
  - Turn off any office equipment that is not currently in use. Alternately, look for sleep or power-saving modes in between uses during the day.
  - Enable power management settings on all computers, so that they go to sleep and turn off screens when not in use.
- Break room
  - Unplug electronics such as coffeemakers and microwaves when not in use, and when the day is done.
- End of the day
  - As you leave the office, get in the habit of checking to make sure computers, printers/copiers, and other office equipment is fully shut down. If possible, switch them off at the power strip to ensure they are no longer draining energy.
  - If you have a window at your workstation, remember to close the blinds if they have not been closed already.

- Conservation programs
  - At home, consider enrolling in your utility's voluntary conservation program. These types of measures – also known as demand response programs – are short, temporary ways for your utility to reduce energy consumption when power supplies are critically low.
  - Contact your electric utility to learn more about their program and incentives they may offer to participate.

In addition to taking steps to help conserve energy, it is important to take steps to prevent heat-related illnesses. Ensure you drink plenty of fluids even if you do not feel thirsty; schedule outdoor activities carefully; and check the local news for health and safety updates.

- For more information on the Flex Alert, please see the [Cal ISO press release](#).

**Resources:**

- National Weather Service: [Heat Tips & Resources](#)
- [Flex Alerts](#)
- California Department of Public Health: [Extreme Heat](#)
- Cal Fire: [Red Flag Warning & Fire Weather Watches](#)
- Cal OES: [Extreme Heat Safety](#)