The Advanced Pumping Efficiency Program (APEP) is an educational and incentive program intended to improve overall pumping efficiency and encourage energy conservation in California.

Program success for agriculture

In a two-year period, Alpaugh Irrigation District (AID) decided to repair five 200-horsepower deep well pumps, saving about $150,000 per year in electric charges. These pumps, along with well cleaning, cost over $100,000 to bring back to peak efficiency. The energy savings for these pumps was over 1.2 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year, and the district received over $50,000 in incentive rebates. Through the implementation of these repairs, AID has been able to control its operating costs and offer competitive rates for its customers. “This program has been very beneficial to AID,” says Kevin Couch, District Manager. “In addition, it has helped reduce overall energy demand in the state.”
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What is a pump efficiency test?

A pump efficiency test measures various aspects of the pump’s operation, including flow, discharge pressure, well lift (if applicable) and power use. The end result of a pump test is an estimate of the overall efficiency of your pump and the cost of running it under the conditions of the test. The test may also give an indication of a water well’s performance.

How to obtain a subsidized pump efficiency test

Subsidized pump efficiency tests are available from APEP-approved* participating pump test companies.

To obtain a pump test:

1. Contact the participating pump test company of your choice to arrange a test. Log in to the APEP website or for assistance in locating a test company, call the program office listed on the back of this fact sheet.

2. You will have to sign an access agreement before the test (granting legal access to your pump) and a record of test after the test (providing proof to the California Public Utilities Commission that the test was performed).

3. The test provider will give you and APEP the pump test report. You can discuss the results of the test with the test company or with program personnel.

4. The program will give the subsidy directly to the test company, and the test company will take care of all other paperwork.

The APEP pump efficiency test is subsidized. You are responsible for knowing how much the test company will charge and whether you will have to provide funds in addition to the program’s subsidy.

Important restrictions include:

• Only one test is available per pump every 23 months.

• The pump must be 25 horsepower or greater.

• In the case of the water well, the test provider must be able to measure the pumping water level.

• Tests are not available for real estate transactions or to satisfy a mandate of any government or quasi-government agency.

• Other restrictions may apply.

*Subject to budget availability,
AEP services for water pumpers

1. Education: Free educational seminars on various aspects of pumping and water management are provided throughout Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s (PG&E) service area. The AEP website at pumpefficiency.org has an events’ calendar that lists all presentations and seminars. You can also call one of the program offices using the numbers listed on the back page of this fact sheet.

2. Technical Assistance: Program personnel are available to help in locating pump efficiency testers, completing a pump overhaul incentive rebate application form or answering general questions about pumping plant design and use. (Site-specific engineering services are not available.) Call one of the program offices using the numbers listed on the back page of this fact sheet.

3. Subsidized Pump Efficiency Tests: Pump efficiency tests provide important data, including flow rates, well lifts (if applicable), discharge pressures, motor loading and, most importantly, the Overall Pumping Efficiency (OPE). The pump test report contains measurements and calculations that result from the test, as well as a pumping cost analysis. This cost analysis provides an estimate of how much money could be saved as a result of a pump overhaul. Subsidies, subject to funding availability, are paid directly to AEP “participating pump test companies.”

4. Pump Retrofits: Cash incentives are available for the retrofitting of working, electric or natural gas-powered water pumps. The only project eligible is a retrofit of either pump impeller or the bowl, or both. Pump overhaul projects will require pump efficiency tests both before and after the overhaul project is completed. However, these tests do not have to be conducted by AEP testers.

By providing AEP with a copy of a completed pump test for your well, we can prepare an application that is substantially complete for you. All that will be needed is your signature, information about the work performed and who will receive the incentive.
How to apply for a pump overhaul cash incentive

APEP offers cash incentives, subject to budget availability, for retrofitting eligible pumps of any size to increase efficiency. The incentive is based on your annual energy use. The more energy you use, the larger the potential incentive. However, the maximum incentive possible is 50 percent of the project cost.

To participate:

1. Obtain an application form by either calling the program office or downloading a form from the program website. Participating pump test companies and many pump service companies may also have copies.

2. Fill out the form as directed, and submit it to the main program office, along with a copy of the pump efficiency test performed before the retrofit. An application can be submitted either before or after the project has been completed.

3. The program office will review the application. APEP may ask for more information and may recalculate the estimated incentive. The program will notify you when the application is approved and tell you the estimated incentive amount.

4. If the application is being submitted before the project is completed, you must notify the program office when the project is finished and submit the required documentation. The program office will verify all information, may recalculate the incentive based on the posttest, and will inform you when the application is fully approved.

Eligibility

Eligibility extends to all owners or users of a non-residential, PG&E electric or natural gas utility account that is paying the Public Purpose Programs Surcharge. It is primarily used for pumping water for production agriculture, landscape or turf irrigation or municipal purposes, including potable and tertiary-treated (reclaimed) water, but excluding pumps used for industrial processes, raw sewage or secondary-treated sewage. Other factors may apply. Refer to the Policies and Procedures Manual, available on the APEP website at [pumpefficiency.org](http://pumpefficiency.org) or contact APEP for full eligibility criteria.

Important program rules:

- You may be eligible for the cash incentive even if the project has already been completed. Note the rules for pump test timing below.
- Only one incentive can be paid per individual pump in any one, six-year period.
- Pump efficiency tests are required both before and after the project. These tests cannot be more than three years apart. Further, the application package, including all necessary paperwork, must be completed within two years after the post-project pump efficiency test.
- Projects involving multiple pumping systems are not eligible for APEP incentives. Contact APEP or PG&E to determine whether PG&E has other programs for which your project may be eligible.
- The pumping system must be operational (or have been at the time of the retrofit).
- The incentive cannot be combined with any other grant, incentive, rebate or service offered for the project by one of the investor-owned utilities or any state or local agency.
- Other restrictions may apply.

APEP can help you to minimize your pumping costs.

Log in to the website at [pumpefficiency.org](http://pumpefficiency.org). Here you will find summaries of all program components, a calendar of upcoming events, application forms, phone numbers and email addresses of the regional offices, and information to help you conserve energy and water.

Contact APEP to see how a pump efficiency test can provide you with the critical information needed to make a decision about a retrofit. Applying for the overhaul incentive is easy, and we are here to help every step of the way.

Main Program Office (main office):
1-800-845-6038
Fax: 1-559-278-2998

Central Coast Program Office (San Mateo County to Ventura County):
1-805-619-7506 or 1-805-709-4180

To learn about more ways to save, visit [pge.com/ag](http://pge.com/ag), call the Ag Hotline at 1-877-311-FARM (3276) or contact your PG&E account representative.

The Advanced Pumping Efficiency Program can help you improve overall pump efficiency and save energy. We are here to help every step of the way.