Mobilehome Park Utility Upgrade Program

A neighborhood guide to energy service improvements
Congratulations on the selection of your mobilehome park (MHP) or manufactured housing community as being eligible for the Mobilehome Park Utility Upgrade Program. Once the application process and field review are successfully completed, project planning and construction are the next steps.

The purpose of this guide is to give MHP owners, residents and contractors an overview of what to expect when old master-metered/submetered energy distribution systems are replaced by new utility-owned systems and direct service to individual residences.

Although this guide highlights the changes you may see in your neighborhood, you should refer to SDG&E® design and construction manuals for exact project specifications and standards.

For more information, call our toll-free Mobilehome Park Utility Upgrade Program Line at 1-855-846-7171 or visit sdge.com/mobilehome-upgrade.

NOTE: Photos and diagrams in this guide are for illustrative purposes only. Actual project design will depend upon individual mobilehome park (MHP) characteristics and utility engineering standards, which could change the degree of manufactured housing or MHP infrastructure ownership. Refer to SDG&E service standards, manuals and guides at sdge.com/builder-services/standards-manuals.

A look at project planning and construction for program participants

New, professionally installed energy distribution systems will enhance safety and service reliability for residents and the community.
Electric service equipment
Examples of single-phase pad-mounted transformer installations
SDG&E Electric Distribution Underground Construction Standards 3421, 3483.1, 3711, 3712

The new electric system will require the installation of transformers. Each transformer is able to serve multiple homes. You’ll find exact specifications for the equipment shown on this page by visiting sdge.com/builder-services/standards-manuals and clicking “Construction Standards: Underground.”

A-B: A single-phase transformer is typically housed in a green box and mounted on a concrete pad, like the equipment shown here. Clearances must be maintained for access: at least 8 feet in front of the door and 18 inches on the other three sides. Although such equipment is above ground, it’s technically considered underground equipment because it’s connected to underground electric lines, not overhead power lines.

C: A retaining wall may be needed when a transformer is placed on a slope. Required clearances for access are at least 8 feet in front and 18 inches on the other three sides.

Clearances for single-phase pad-mounted transformer

(Drawing is not to scale)
Access to high-voltage electric lines
Examples of primary level (12-kilovolt) handholes
SDG&E Electric Distribution Underground
Construction Standards 3314, 3483.2

A-B-C: When utility crews need to work on underground electric equipment, they reach down into handholes, which are basically boxes below the surface for electric lines. They can gain access to high-voltage (12-kilovolt or 12 kV) distribution lines by opening handholes such as these examples, located in or near roads, sidewalks and driveways. For exact specifications, visit sdge.com/builder-services/standards-manuals and click “Construction Standards: Underground.”
Access to low-voltage electric lines
Examples of secondary level (120-volt/240-volt) handholes
SDG&E Electric Distribution Underground Construction Standards 3309, 3312, 3313

A-B-C-D: Smaller handholes below the handhole covers shown here give utility crews access to secondary level (120-volt/240-volt) distribution lines that serve homes. Secondary handholes are typically located in yards or near entrances, like the examples shown here. For exact specifications, visit sdge.com/builder-services/standards-manuals and click “Construction Standards: Underground.”
Diagramming the switch
Converting energy distribution systems to direct utility service

We’ll work with you to plan the new gas/electric distribution system and convert MHP spaces to direct utility services, as shown in the following diagrams. After you sign the MHP conversion agreement, we’ll construct the gas and/or electric distribution and services up to the new meter near each home. As the MHP owner, you’ll choose a qualified, licensed contractor to install utility-approved service equipment and do work as needed to connect each home to the new metered service. We’ll reimburse you for reasonable costs.

BEFORE
Existing master-metered/submetered system

AFTER
Post-conversion direct utility service
Typical new installation

“To the meter” versus “beyond the meter”

“Beyond the meter”
- MHP owner is responsible for hiring a qualified contractor to perform any additional work needed beyond the meter to connect individual locations to new meters.
- MHP owner must review the contractor and contractor’s proposal with SDG&E prior to contracting for this work.
- Reasonable costs for such work will be reimbursed by utilities for resident spaces in accordance with program requirements.
Freestanding meter pedestal
Standard installation


A: The standard installation is a freestanding meter pedestal for electricity and a freestanding gas meter attached to the customer’s line on a post. If the meters are within 5 feet of vehicular traffic, then 36-inch-tall traffic barriers are required. For details, visit sdge.com/builder-services/standards-manuals and click “Service Standards and Guide Manual.”

Freestanding block wall
Two ways to mount and protect metering equipment

B: The MHP owner has the option of mounting utility metering equipment on the back of a freestanding block wall. A minimum of 3 feet clear and level working space must be maintained in front of the meters. The MHP owner will be responsible for installing and maintaining the electric panel and block wall, with reasonable costs reimbursed by SDG&E in accordance with program requirements. For more information, visit sdge.com/builder-services/standards-manuals, click “Construction Standards: Underground” and go to 3486.1, “Retaining Wall Requirements and Clearances.”

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Freestanding meter pedestal
Standard installation


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