Bringing Energy Solutions to You

Insights

A monthly newsletter for all GPA Customers • Issue No. 78 • September 2023

ATTENTION CUSTOMERS:

Energy Credit Program to end in September;

Residential and commercial customers are encouraged to start energy conservation efforts now to save on their power bills

SCAN FOR TIPS to reduce your energy consumption now.

As the fourth increment of the Prugråman Ayuda Para I Taotao-ta Energy Credit program posted to all active Guam Power Authority (GPA) accounts on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023, GPA is reminding customers that the fifth and final $100 energy credit will end in September. GPA is also urging customers to implement energy conservation plans for their homes, schools, and businesses in anticipation of the program's end.

The second extension of the credit was made possible by Public Law 37-16, which was signed into law on May 22, 2023, to benefit customers from May through September 2023. Beginning in October, customers will no longer receive the monthly $100 credit on their power bills. Even with the reduced LEAC (Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause) rate in effect, GPA is providing customers with proactive ideas for how to reduce their power bills. GPA provides ongoing energy-saving tips on its customer service website (guampowerauthority.com) and Facebook and Instagram pages (@guampowerauthority).

According to GM John M. Benavente, the last four months of the year from September through December tend to be high-demand periods for power on Guam due to schools reopening and the start of the holidays. Customers can start planning their conservation efforts now to help them save during the holiday months. GM Benavente added, "We recognize that every effort to conserve energy by turning off lights, water heaters, and extra air conditioning units, especially during peak hours, will benefit our customers through savings on their power bills and help GPA reduce the strain on the Island Wide Power System (IWPS) during peak hours."

GPA encourages customers who need financial assistance to apply for programs available from the Department of Administration's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program and the federally funded Guam's Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program. Customers can call GPA's Customer Service team at (671) 647-5787 for guidance on how to apply for these programs and/or make a payment arrangement plan for their account(s) in arrears.

A Letter from the General Manager



Dear Loyal Customers,

Labor Day gives us the opportunity to thank and acknowledge the hard work and dedication that our Guam Power Authority (GPA) employees exhibit during even the most tumultuous of times faced by our island. During Typhoon Mawar, although the Transmission & Distribution (T&D) system sustained serious damage from the powerful winds and torrential rain, the island wide power system did not experience a total black out.

In spite of the damages faced on their own home front, employees spent up to 16 hours a day away from their families so that they may assist in reenergizing the rest of the island and provide power to the homes and businesses of others. The entire GPA team was committed to ensuring that every customer was energized as quickly as possible, and after 50 days since COR4 was declared, GPA restored power service to nearly 99% of pre-Typhoon Mawar customers.

In addition to celebrating the labor of our public power employees, let us also reflect on all the progress that would not have been possible without the hard work of our GPA employees , the support from the five diligent commission members and most especially the support from the community

Since Typhoon Mawar, our public utility has faced many challenges to meet the generation capacity needed to sustain the island wide power system during peak demand hours. As a result, we have resorted to the rotating and emergency outages that have caused disruption to our day-to-day operations and to the community. These are short-term challenges we are facing, with a solution of implementing a plan of action for capacity recovery over the next 6 to 9 months. The long-term solution and the path forward is with the commissioning of the new Ukudu Power Plant; a beacon of stability scheduled to be online in 2026, the implementation of other renewable resources and energy mitigation and resiliency projects that include undergrounding transmission lines. While GPA's advancements towards the Clean Energy Master Plan (CEMP) had some setbacks since Typhoon Mawar, the KEPCO Mangilao and Dandan Solar Farms are still fully operational, which helps to reduce Guam's reliance on imported oil and provide savings for ratepayers before the new power plant is completed.

With the assistance of our lawmakers and Governor Leon Guerrero, we have successfully implemented three cycles of the $500 Prugråman Ayuda Para I Taotao-ta Energy Credit Program for our ratepayers to help off-set the increase of the LEAC rate. The program helped bring $100 in relief to ratepayers as a monthly credit for five (5) months and was extended twice for additional rate relief through Public Laws 36-123 and 37-16. The program has since helped bring approximately $73M in financial relief to ratepayers since July 2022 to August 2023. GPA has been working steadily with customers to help them reduce their power bills.

On behalf of the working professionals at your Guam Power Authority, we thank you for your resilience and patience and understanding during these times. We are proud to serve you.

John M. Benavente, P.E.
General Manager, Guam Power Authority

National Preparedness Month with the NWS



Information provided by US National Weather Service Guam

Navigating Storms with Preparedness: NWS Sheds Light on Guam's Tropical Cyclone Outlook

September is National Preparedness Month, and in an effort to bolster our island's resiliency against potential tropical cyclones and inclement weather, GPA is collaborating with the National Weather Service (NWS).

A report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office on Guam gives insight into what Guam may face in the year to come. Its Western North Pacific Tropical Cyclone Outlook indicates an elevated level of tropical cyclone activity due to the shift from a La Niña climate pattern to an El Niño pattern earlier this year. This means our region may face a higher frequency of intense storms than what was experienced in previous La Niña years. Furthermore, NOAA's June report warns that Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan should prepare themselves for the potential of 5 to 8 named storms and 3 to 5 typhoons (with 2 to 3 of the 5 typhoons possibly becoming major). Although data from the Tropical Cyclone Outlook does not directly predict landfall, it does provide a crucial estimate of potential impacts that can enable residents and authorities to effectively plan.



Although tropical cyclone activity generally peaks between September and November, our island can be impacted at any time of the year, emphasizing the importance of round-the-clock preparedness.

GPA's collaboration with NWS is pivotal in ensuring accurate and timely information reaches our community. By leveraging observations, satellite data, and advanced weather models, we can gain a better understanding of evolving weather patterns and their potential consequences. Armed with this knowledge, we can make well-informed decisions and demonstrate the power of proactive measures.

With the experience of Typhoon Mawar still fresh in our minds, guidance provided by the NWS is key to keeping our community safe. During National Preparedness Month, it is important that we remain vigilant to what this El Niño climate pattern could bring to our shores. By staying connected to reliable sources of information and actively participating in preparedness initiatives, we can construct a stronger, more resilient preparedness plan, capable of navigating our unique challenges posed by changing weather patterns on Guam.

See back for Preparedness Tips

Preparedness Tips for Guam Residents:

Stay Up to Date: Regularly monitor weather forecasts from reliable sources like NWS Guam, local news, and official government channels.

Emergency Kit: Create an emergency kit that includes essentials such as non-perishable food, water, medications, batteries, flashlights, a first aid kit, and important documents.

Family Communication Plan: Develop a plan to stay in touch with family members during emergencies, including a designated meeting place.

Secure Your Property: Trim trees and secure loose objects around your property to minimize potential hazards during strong winds.

Evacuation Plan: Know your evacuation routes and plan where you will go if evacuation is necessary. Keep your vehicle's gas tank full.

Protect Important Documents: Store important documents, such as IDs, insurance policies, and medical records, in waterproof containers.

Stay Connected: Follow NWS Guam on social media for updates and information. Stay connected with neighbors and community resources.

Insurance Check: Review your insurance policies to ensure you have adequate coverage for potential storm-related damages.

Community Resources: Familiarize yourself with local emergency shelters, community centers, and resources available in case of evacuation.

Emergency Contacts: Keep a list of emergency contacts handy, including local authorities, family members, and friends.

By taking these proactive steps, we can better prepare ourselves and our community to face potential challenges and emerge stronger on the other side.

Guam Power Authority Clinches 2nd Place for National Safety Award!





The Guam Power Authority (GPA) has been honored with the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Safety Award of Excellence for its safe operational practices in 2022. In the 'Group F' category, GPA secured a second-place award, designated for utilities with annual exposure of 250,000 to 999,999 worker-hours.

Kenneth J. Gutierrez, Safety and Physical Security Manager, emphasized GPA's unwavering commitment to employee safety through informed work procedures. This recognition signifies GPA's collective dedication to providing secure, reliable, and high-quality electrical services.

Out of 283 national utility participants, entrants were categorized based on worker-hours and ranked for incident-free records and safety culture in 2022. The evaluation considered the incidence rate, derived from work-related reportable injuries or illnesses in relation to worker-hours during 2022, as defined by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

John M. Benavente, P.E., GPA's General Manager, expressed pride in the award, highlighting the organization's priority for employee and customer safety. He concluded with a focus on GPA's commendable safety record and commitment to ensuring employees return home safely each night.



We understand that typhoon recovery has been challenging for everyone.

CALL OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER TO MAKE A PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT

Customer Service Center & Main Office, GPA Fadian
Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm

Hagåtña Satellite Office
Julale Shopping Center
Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm

GPWA Upper Tumon Office
Mon-Fri 7:30am to 6pm
Sat 8am to 12pm

Ways to Pay Your Bill

NOTICE: For those who make utility payments at the bank, be sure to check with your bank for their updated policies.

Online
Visit PayGPA.com or Download the Pay GPWA App

PayGPWA mobile app

You can also pay your GWA water bill on the app.

Pay By Phone
(671) 647-5787
Mon-Fri 7:30am to 5pm

Afterhours
1 (855) 977-2002 Toll Free

Mail-In
Mail CHECK payments to:
Guam Power Authority
P.O. Box 21868,
Barrigada, GU 96921

Drop Box
Drop CHECK payments to:
Gloria B. Nelson Public Svc. Bldg.
688 Route 15, Fadian
along back road to Andersen

Drive-Thru
Cash, Check & Credit Card payments are accepted at:

GPA Fadian TEMPORARILY CLOSED
Mon-Fri 7:30am to 3:30pm

GPWA Upper Tumon Office
Mon-Fri 7:30am to 3:30pm
Sat 8am to 12pm

In Person
Customer Service Center & Main Office, GPA Fadian
Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm

Hagåtña Satellite Office
Julale Shopping Center
Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm

GPWA Upper Tumon Office
Mon-Fri 7:30am to 6pm
Sat 8am to 12pm

Other
Your Bank
Subject to individual bank policies

All Treasurer of Guam Locations

At GPA, you can also pay your GWA water and GSWA trash bills.

GPA GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

Your elected Consolidated Commission on Utilities (CCU) holds two (2) working sessions and one (1) regular meeting monthly. Meeting location is the CCU Conference Room, Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building in Fadian, Mangilao. For more information and agencies, call the CCU Board Secretary at (671) 648-3002 or visit www.guamccu.org.

Joseph "Joey" T. Duenas (Chairman)
T (671) 686-1512 • E joey49duenas@gmail.com

Francis E. Santos (Vice Chairman)
T (671) 482-9355 • E francis.santos@gpagwa.com

Pedro Roy Martinez (Secretary)
T (671) 488-1957 • E prmguam@gmail.com

Simon A. Sanchez II (Commissioner)
T (671) 488-1010 • E gdcmgr@guamdrycleaners.com

Michael Limtiaco (Commissioner)
T (671) 888-6280 • E mlimtiaco671@gmail.com

John M. Benavente, P.E. (General Manager)
T (671) 648-3225 • E jbenavente@gpagwa.com

View your energy usage at myenergyguam.com

The Guam Power Authority has been serving Guam for 55 years. Contact us to let us know what updates and information we can provide to help you better understand the work we do; or ways we can better serve you. ***Email us at:*** customersfirst@gpagwa.com or send us a ***Direct Message*** on our Facebook.