Bringing Energy Solutions to You

Insights

A monthly newsletter for all GPA Customers • Issue No. 90 • September 2024

Brighter Days Ahead

GPA has successfully added a total of 76MW of energy capacity as part of its mid-term plans. The rainy season has further helped lower peak demands. Ongoing measures include upgrades to the Maneng gon Power Plant and further maintenance on the recently repaired Yigo Combustion Turbine (CT), with an increased output from 16MW to 20MW.

Learn more about how GPA is addressing the generation capacity shortfall. Visit guampowerauthority.com or scan the QR code for more information.

Energy Credits are Ending

What You Need to Know

The *Prugråman Ayuda Para I Taotao-ta* Energy Credit program is coming to an end this September 2024. After six months of support from the latest extension, customers will receive their final $100 credit in their September 2024 billing. Stay informed and prepare for the transition.

When Will I Stop Receiving Credits?

The final $100 energy credit will be applied to your September bill. But remember, your September consumption will affect your October bill—without the energy credit. Now is the time to start conserving to avoid higher costs later!

What Can I Do Next?

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
DIPATAMENTON ADMENISTRASION

GUAM ENERGY OFFICE
Ufisinan Alentos Guahan

Need additional support? Programs like Department of Administration's ERA, and the Guam Energy Office's LIHEAP and the Weatherization Program are here to help. Visit our website or contact the relevant agencies to see if you qualify.

How Can I Save On My Power Bill?

Don't wait! The energy credit may be ending, but you can still lower your future bills by conserving energy today. Scan the QR code for energy-saving tips to reduce the impact on your October bill and beyond.



A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Powering Our Island's Brighter Future

Celebrating the Dedication of Guam's Workers and Their Impact on Our Community



Buenas yan Håfa Adai Loyal Customers!

As we recently commemorated Labor Day, we are reminded of the incredible contributions of workers across our island, both in the public and private sectors. This celebration is the time for us to recognize and honor the dedication and hard work that power our community forward. Everyone plays an important role in the betterment of Guam, and we take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you.

We are especially proud of our employees at GPA who have consistently stepped up during challenging times to turn the lights back on in our homes and work to keep them on. Despite any obstacles, their efforts made the real difference in recovering from typhoon impacted infrastructure or resolving capacity issues. Their work supports our mission in serving the people of Guam.

This past year, we've made remarkable strides in addressing our generation capacity shortfall, from the repair of Piti 7 and the Yigo Combustion Turbine to the addition of temporary power into our power grid. As a result, in the month of July we've had no load shedding, and despite any setbacks, we are steadily moving towards eliminating it altogether. We've also remained committed to our motto, "Power to Serve," by actively engaging in community outreach initiatives, providing monthly newsletters and e-newsletters of our progress, access to social media platforms, providing customer rebates for purchase of energy efficient appliances and introducing an innovative online home assessment (My Energy Xpert). These are just some of the programs GPA has made available to our customers.

GPA continues to advance in reducing Guam's carbon footprint through the implementation of the Clean Energy Master Plan. With the commissioning of the Ukudu Power Plant and bringing additional renewable energy projects online, we eagerly anticipate Guam's energy future and are confident together we will achieve safe, clean, reliable and affordable energy on a sustainable basis for all of our customers.

This month, let's recognize the incredible contributions of all workers who make our community stronger. Whether you work in government, healthcare, education, construction, or any other field, you are continuing to light the way to brighter days ahead for Guam.

On behalf of the entire GPA family, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all workers across our island and wish you and your families happiness and prosperity.

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

Back-to-School Energy-Saving Tips

Get ready for back-to-school with these energy-saving tips that make a difference! Learn to unplug, conserve, and make this school year greener and more efficient!

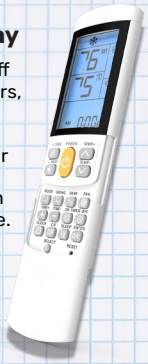


Unplug Energy Vampires

Set a routine where everyone unplugs devices not in use before going to school, starting homework, or study sessions. This simple habit prevents wasted energy from "phantom" power.

Off, Off and Away

Remember to turn off lights, air conditioners, and fans before you leave. Also, consider using a timer for your water heater to automatically switch it off when not in use.



Study in Natural Light or Switch to LED Lighting

Set up study spaces near windows to take advantage of natural light during daylight hours. Ensure study areas are well-lit with LED bulbs. They use less energy and provide bright, consistent light for late-night study sessions.



Streamline Morning Routines

Encourage shorter, more efficient morning showers to save on hot water usage. Remember to not let the water run when brushing your teeth, helping to conserve energy before the school day begins.

Promote Energy-Efficient Transportation

Organize carpools or encourage walking, biking or taking the bus to school to reduce the family's carbon footprint and save on fuel.



GPA's Preparedness Strategy: Strengthened by Collaboration with NWS

September is National Preparedness Month and GPA is taking this opportunity to reach out to the community and reinforce Guam's readiness to protect the island from the effects of natural disasters. While the 2024 outlook from the National Weather Service (NWS) indicates fewer storms on the horizon, the lessons learned from Typhoon Mawar underscore the importance of preparedness.

The latest report from NWS forecasts below-normal tropical cyclone activity for the remainder of 2024. While this outlook is encouraging, it's essential to remember that even a single storm can cause significant damage, as demonstrated by Typhoon Mawar.

Despite one of the swiftest recoveries from a typhoon by GPA, the recovery phase following Typhoon Mawar provided the agency with valuable insights that have shaped ongoing efforts to strengthen Guam's power infrastructure. Key lessons include:

- Updating Emergency Protocols: GPA has refined its emergency response plans to better address storm-related challenges. This includes more streamlined mobilization of repair crews and improved coordination with other agencies during post-storm recovery.
- Revisiting Inventory Thresholds: One of the challenges during Typhoon Mawar was ensuring that enough materials and resources were available for rapid repairs. GPA has since adjusted its inventory thresholds to ensure that critical supplies are readily available when needed.
- Customer Communication: GPA recognized the importance of clear and timely communication with customers during emergencies. The agency has enhanced its communication strategies to provide more frequent updates through digital and traditional channels, ensuring that residents are well-informed during and after storm events.

In response to the lessons learned, GPA has increased its outreach efforts with more frequent and detailed communication through newsletters, social media, and other platforms. The goal is to keep the community informed not only about storm preparedness but also about GPA's progress in addressing generation capacity challenges and restoring infrastructure impacted by prior typhoon damage.



LANDON AYDLETT

Preparedness Tips provided by the US National Weather Service Guam

Home Energy Resilience: Preparing for Outages



Preparedness starts at home. Here are practical steps to ensure your home is ready for potential power disruptions:

- Surge Protectors: Install surge protectors to safeguard your appliances and electronics from power surges during storms.
- Backup Generators: For those who rely on medical equipment or need continuous power, consider investing in a backup generator. Ensure it is properly maintained and ready for use.
- Battery Backups: Keep batteries charged and ready for smaller devices, including medical equipment, to ensure you have power when you need it most.

GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY



Addressing Communication Challenges During Emergencies

One of the key takeaways from Typhoon Mawar was the importance of reliable communication during and after storms. Power outages and intermittent connectivity can disrupt communication with family members and emergency services. To mitigate these challenges:

- Develop a Backup Communication Plan: Consider alternative communication methods, such as satellite phones or two-way radios, and establish a plan for staying in touch with loved ones.
- Stay Informed: Ensure you're signed up for GPA alerts and NWS updates to receive critical information, even during connectivity disruptions.
- Charge Devices in Advance: Fully charge your mobile devices and have portable chargers on hand to maintain communication during power outages.

FEMA

Supporting Residents with Medical Needs



For those who depend on medical equipment, power outages can be especially concerning. Here's how to prepare:

- Medications: Ensure you have a full supply of prescription medications to last during a typhoon recovery period.
- Backup Power Sources: Ensure you have battery backups or generators to keep your medical equipment running during outages.
- Coordinate with Healthcare Providers: Discuss your emergency plan with your healthcare provider and ensure they are aware of your needs.
- Notify GPA: Inform GPA and response coordinators if you have critical medical equipment so recovery resources and agencies can collaborate to provide solutions during extended outages.

FEMA NPM 2024

Scan the QR codes for more storm preparedness tips

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.

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View your energy usage at myenergyguam.com

GPA Gallery



APPA Safety Award of Excellence

The Guam Power Authority (GPA) has earned the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2023. The utility earned the Gold award in the category G for utilities with 1,000,000 to 3,999,999 worker-hours of annual worker exposure.

"GPA is proud of its safety record. This award is a testament to the hard work that goes into ensuring that our team members go home safe to their families every day." said GPA General Manager John M. Benavente, P.E.

The Safety Awards have been held annually for more than 65 years. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.



Assembly of Planners Symposium

At the 9th Assembly of Planners Symposium held on August 8, 2024, GPA highlighted the power of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in shaping a more resilient Guam. From disaster preparedness to economic planning, GIS data helps to better understand risks and develop smarter, safer strategies for the future. By integrating advanced tools like drone imagery and geoanalytics, GPA is not just powering homes—we're powering the future as brighter days are ahead for Guam.



Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop

GPA recently attended the 3rd Annual Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop (TWIC 3.0) in Honolulu, connecting with key federal partners to advance Guam's renewable energy goals. General Manager John M. Benavente, P.E. emphasized the importance of these face-to-face workshops to explain Guam's energy needs and our mission for 100% renewable energy by 2040. Valuable discussions with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Energy (DOE), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and others focused on clean energy initiatives, energy resilience, and storage solutions. Big thanks to DOI-OIA for hosting and to the Guam Energy Office for their continued partnership.

The Guam Power Authority has been serving Guam for 56 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.