

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	23-DECARB-01
Project Title:	Inflation Reduction Act Residential Energy Rebate Programs
TN #:	261106
Document Title:	QUALITY CONSERVATION Comments - FREE ELECTRIFICATION FOR EDISON LOW INCOME
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	QUALITY CONSERVATION
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	1/16/2025 7:15:33 AM
Docketed Date:	1/16/2025

*Comment Received From: QUALITY CONSERVATION
Submitted On: 1/16/2025
Docket Number: 23-DECARB-01*

FREE ELECTRIFICATION FOR EDISON LOW INCOME

Free whole house electrification is now available to Edison low income families meeting the stricter ESA/CARE/FERA income qualifications. The pilot electrification program is targeted primarily to low-income families who cannot afford full electrification even after generous rebates (such as the planned HEERHA rebates). Comprehensive treatment is mandated as is the requirement that projections show there will be no increase in energy bills due to the electrification. More details on the program and its features and limitations are attached.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Quality Conservation Services

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January 16, 2025

California Energy Commission
Docket No. 23-DECARB-01
Sacramento, CA 95814
Re: Docket Number: 23-DECARB-01

Free Electrification Now Available for Edison’s Low-Income Families

Dear Energy Commissioners, Staff and Subscribers:

While we await HEERHA Phase II electrification rebates to be available, low-income families living in Edison-served single-family homes can now receive free whole house electrification. This includes heat pump heating and air conditioning systems, heat pump water heaters, heat pump dryers, induction ranges and cooktops (including new cookware), smoke alarms, smart thermostats and other energy improvements. Some contractors, such as Quality Conservation Services, also offer a free battery storage system to assure that the electricity required comes from cheaper off-peak power.

The Edison low-income electrification pilot, part of its ESA program, does have stricter income limits than HEERHA: total household income must not exceed the following guidelines by family size:

Size	Limit	Size	Limit
1	\$37,650	4	\$78,000
2	\$51,100	5	\$91,450
3	\$64,550	Each Add'l	\$13,450

Families may also qualify with paperwork indicating a household member is enrolled in one or more of the following programs: Medi-Cal/Medicaid/SSI, CalFresh/SNAP/Food Stamps, WIC/School Lunch Program, or CalWorks/TANF. To enroll or secure more information, Edison low-income families are welcome to contact me at:

- **Fatima – (909) 366-9980, or fatima@qcsca.com**

If income qualified, applicants must be an SCE residential customer with an active, individually metered account, live in a single-family home or a building with 4 or fewer units, and currently have a gas or propane furnace and water heater that will *both* be replaced with high-efficiency heat pumps. This SCE pilot electrification program is administered by MAROMA Energy Services (goelectric.maromaesa.com) and implemented by seven utility-approved, pre-screened contractors, including Quality Conservation Services. Some key aspects of the Edison pilot:

1. **No increases in energy bills allowed.** Edison’s free electrification is available *only* if it will not increase overall energy costs, even if otherwise requested by participant. Inclusion of weatherization measures and contractor-optional offer of free storage battery are designed to assure increases are unlikely to occur. SCE’s December 2024 Monthly Low Income Report to the CPUC (ESA Table 2C) shows the pilot’s net energy bill *savings* average \$823.

2. **Comprehensive treatment mandated.** Participants must, at minimum, switch *both* furnace and water heating from gas or propane to heat pump systems. Other improvements are optional. All standard ESA weatherization, insulation and appliance upgrades are also offered as part of the package. Not counting the ESA program costs, SCE's average electrification costs for treating a low-income home is \$20,284.
3. **Consumer protection emphasized.** Since the Edison electrification is offered at no cost to qualifying low-income families, there are no loans, fees, or liens involved. Contractors, paid directly by the utility administrator, are forbidden from charging participants for any of the services. They are screened for proper insurance, licensing, experience, and training, with regular meetings and updates. Prior to installation, each home is pre-inspected to determine which improvements are desirable and will not result in higher energy costs. These results must then be approved by the utility's administrator. Afterward, the installation is quality checked by a utility-appointed inspector.
4. **Optional free battery energy storage system.** While technically not part of the electrification program, some electrification program contractors, including Quality Conservation Services, recommend and install free battery systems under the Edison-administered SGIP program. These batteries allow the storage of off-peak power to replace electricity normally used during the more expensive peak period hours, greatly increasing the potential utility bill savings while shifting usage to the solar-intensive off-peak periods.
5. **Participation is limited.** The free Edison program is a pilot targeting low-income families normally unable to afford even a highly subsidized electrification effort, such as HEERHA. With a multiyear Commission-approved budget limited to about \$36.7 million (after administrative costs), the pilot can provide needed electrification services to less than 0.2% of SCE's 1.11 million ESA-eligible low-income single-family households - about 1,800 families at the current rate of \$20,284 per home. Understandably, the program has a strict first approved, first reserved funding.

If a qualified low-income Edison-served family cannot afford a whole house electrification even with the generous HEERHA rebates planned or are unable to wait for the HEERHA rebates to go into effect, they may want to enroll now into the SCE's pilot no-cost electrification program while funding lasts. To do so, contact MAROMA Energy Services for a contractor referral or, to reduce the time involved, directly contact a participating contractor, such as Quality Conservation Services (909-366-9980, or fatima@qcsca.com). If Quality Conservation does not serve your area, we will refer you to another approved contractor that does. Funding is allocated on a first approved, first reserved basis.

Sincerely,

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