

Residential Smart Thermostats: A Quick Guide for Contractors

Energy efficient homes of today include a smart thermostat, which allows the homeowner to effectively control the high efficiency systems in the home. Smart thermostats take advantage of WiFi and home networks to provide more access and the ability of thermostats to “learn” homeowner’s preference. They can also be integrated into other smart home systems to incorporate such features as voice control.

WiFi ENABLED SMART THERMOSTATS

WiFi internet-connected thermostats can enable the use of multiple temperature sensors (in different rooms) and remote access via a laptop, smart phone or tablet. The user interface tends to be more intuitive and user-friendly than standard programmable thermostats, and also provides more information and options, such as weather conditions and forecasts, and maintenance alerts.

Some are called “smart” because they “learn” to adjust their settings based on outdoor temperature and occupancy schedules. The trend is for wireless thermostats to offer increasing interactivity with other wireless home applications, such as lighting and security systems.

INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

Thermostats and temperature sensors should be installed on an interior wall, away from obvious sources of heat or drafts. Be sure to caulk or otherwise seal the hole behind the thermostat through which the thermostat wiring runs, so that the thermostat senses temperature in the room, and is not affected by conditions inside the wall or other spaces.

Thermostats do not control the speed at which a furnace, air conditioner, or heat pump operates. It’s important that residents understand that adjusting the thermostat to a much higher or lower

temperature than the usual set point does not make the equipment heat or cool the home any faster.

SMUD HPP AND SMART THERMOSTATS

The following thermostats qualify (more may be added later, check in regularly):

- EcoBee 3G
- NEST 3G

The following information will be required to be entered into the JRT:

- Thermostat brand
- Thermostat serial number
- Thermostat model number
- AC make and model

The rebate is available in conjunction with an AC replacement rebate or as a standalone measure with no AC replacement. The rebate amount will be \$50 when combined with PG&E (\$100 for all electric homes).



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about energy efficiency incentives available through SMUD, visit: <http://hpp.smud.org/> or email Jim Mills at: james.mills@smud.org