



Making Everyday Easier

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SmartConnect, SmartMeters and You

Today my new Smart Meter was installed. The installation man was nice and professional. He said the electrical would be out for 15 seconds and I should turn off any tv's or computers. He even offered to give me extra time to do it.

About 5 days ago I received the notice in the mail about the smart meter, saying that installations in our area would begin in the next week and continue for a couple of months. Then move into the surrounding areas and finally finish up in South Orange County within the next 2 years.

Personally, I'm pretty excited. I can't wait to be able to see my energy consumption

online. In the July '09 newsletter we featured TED- The Electronic Detective. It is a device you hook up to your electrical system to view your consumption. Now that SDGE has installed the smart meter here, I can view it for free!

My electric bill is a bit outrageous, between \$120-\$205 a month. Now I can hear the tisk-tisk noise coming from all of you who live in 4 bedrooms with AC, but I live in a 2 bedroom townhouse with no AC. Granted, we are all electric and have a spa, but I follow all the rules- don't run major appliances between 10am-6pm, put electrical devices on power strips/surge protectors, don't use the heaters, I even wash most of my laundry in cold water. So you can see why I'm excited about the ability to monitor my electric usage.

When can you expect your smart meter? It depends on where you live.



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Tech Tip Of The Month - Never Forget Another Appointment

The internet is full of time-stealing distractions. Even those with the highest work ethic can find themselves distracted by daring YouTube videos or Facebook friend requests. Time seems to fly when we are lost in the vortex that is the internet. TimeLeft is a program designed to keep us on task with our work and reminded of our personal obligations.

The time management options with TimeLeft are virtually endless. To start, it can completely replace and personalize the Windows tray clock.

Ever wanted your clock to appear in military time? No Problem! How about having the numbers appear in a Comic Sans font? It is just a simple click of a button. You can change the

color of the clock, define the color of the numbers, or make a custom skin unique to your computer.

Of course, TimeLeft also has a countdown timer, which is useful for knowing how much time is left on an Ebay auction, or how much time you have to surf the web before the kids must be picked up from school.

The time can also be used to remember important tasks, like how much time you have left to buy a wedding anniversary present. Of course, it can also countdown to joyous occasions, like the end of a school year or the beginning of a new decade.



A great added feature is the "stickers" option. Stickers are

like virtual Post-it notes. They stick to your desktop, reminding you of whatever needs remembering.

Like everything else in TimeLeft, there are countless customization options for stickers. You can change the font, the background, and even the border surrounding your sticker.

Browser add-ons for remembering auction end times are available in a separate download. These add-ons only work in Internet Explorer or Firefox, leaving Chrome and Safari users neglected.

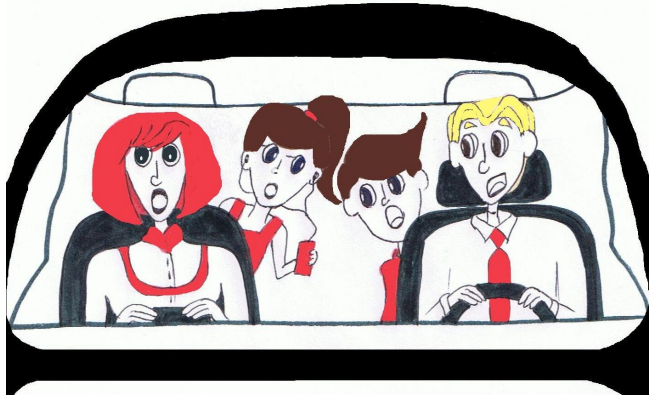
Overall, TimeLeft is a nifty way piece of freeware. The program is less than 2.3 MB to download, and requires just 4.5 MB of hard disk space. It can be found at TimeLeft.info.

Inside the Technology Advisor

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## The Technology Advisor

### The Innovatives in *Honey, I Think I left the Oven On...*



Raise your hand if you have an iPhone! There's an app for everything now days. With the Control4® Mobile Navigator you can turn your iPhone or iPod Touch into the ultimate remote control.

Turn off the oven. Take control of your lights. Browse your favorite music. Change the temperature in your home and more.

Call us today at 909-287-7900 receive a FREE 30-day trial code and bring total home control to every iPhone and iPod Touch in your home!

### The Bogus Internet– *Not Everything You See on the Internet is Real*

Take a look at these websites:

- **New bio-hazard alert device ready**  
[www.mcwhortle.com](http://www.mcwhortle.com)
- **The Museum of Jurassic Technology**  
[www.mjt.org](http://www.mjt.org)
- **Buy Dehydrated Water Online**  
[www.buydehydratedwater.com](http://www.buydehydratedwater.com)
- **Important site for Dihydrogen Monoxide Research:**  
[www.dhmo.org](http://www.dhmo.org)
- **Velcro crop failures in California:** [www.umbachconsulting.com/miscellany/velcro.html](http://www.umbachconsulting.com/miscellany/velcro.html)

- **Research into a nagging historical question:**  
[www.ovaprima.org/index.htm](http://www.ovaprima.org/index.htm)
- **The Endangered Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus**  
[zapatopi.net/treeoctopus](http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus)
- **Free Phone Calls Through the Internet**  
[www.funphone.com/old](http://www.funphone.com/old)

Hopefully you noticed that every one of these websites is completely bogus, especially that last one. They may look real, and they may seem to have some compelling information, but they are all

bogus. Here's a list of even more bogus sites from the Department of Education and Training in Western Australia: <http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/cmisis/eval/curriculum/ict/webeval/eval12.htm>

As you might imagine, students might not be as critical of information found on the internet as adults might be. Some advice: check your sources, confirm everything and look for more than one source before believing anything on the internet.

SmartMeter Continued from pg.1...

Downey already has theirs. Lakewood down to Garden Grove will get them next, then East LA down to Whittier, Finally Altadena to West Covina and part of the Angeles National Forrest.

**Security:** SCE will communicate personalized energy use information to customers through a secure wireless home area network and on the Web. The Smart meters will be able to inform SCE smart grid operators when an outage occurs and how extensive it is, enabling a faster response for quicker service restoration.

**Convenience:** Smart Meters can communicate with smart appliances. Customers can program smart appliances and devices to respond to their energy use. You can even remotely turn on service when moving.

**Access:** Sign up online to view your usage. Have your last bill handy, go to [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com), Register in the left corner- where the login is.

**Bottom Line:** Saving energy. If you can see how much you use and when you use it, you will cut back. Greenhouse gases and pollutants are expected to *reduce*

by 365,000 metric tons per year-the equivalent of removing 79,000 cars from the road.

These days, every penny counts. We all try to save money where and when we can. And if you like me, you'd rather spend your hard earned cash on something you want instead of that dreaded electric bill you get in the mail.

For more information on SmartConnect and SmartMeters visit SCE at <http://www.sce.com/PowerandEnvironment/smartconnect/>.

## DIY Solar Panels

Do-It-Yourselfers can now plunk a solar panel into a Lowe's shopping cart and bring it home to install. This shows how far high-tech alternative energy technologies have come. Solar power is now accessible to anyone with a ladder, a power drill, and the gumption to climb up on a roof and install the panels themselves.

The DIY part of solar goes beyond installation. Professional installers typically handle all the necessary paperwork, like clearance from the local utility and applications for a bevy of government subsidies that can make the system a whole lot cheaper. "You put solar panels on your roof without a permit, bad things happen to you," said Jeff Wolfe, CEO of solar installer groSolar. "The utility could shut off the power." Lowe's will staff a kiosk near the panels that provides information on how to apply for rebates.

For anyone willing to tackle the paperwork, Akeena Solar promises a hassle-free installation that will immediately reduce the power you need to buy from the local utility. Akeena Solar, Inc., based in Los Gatos,

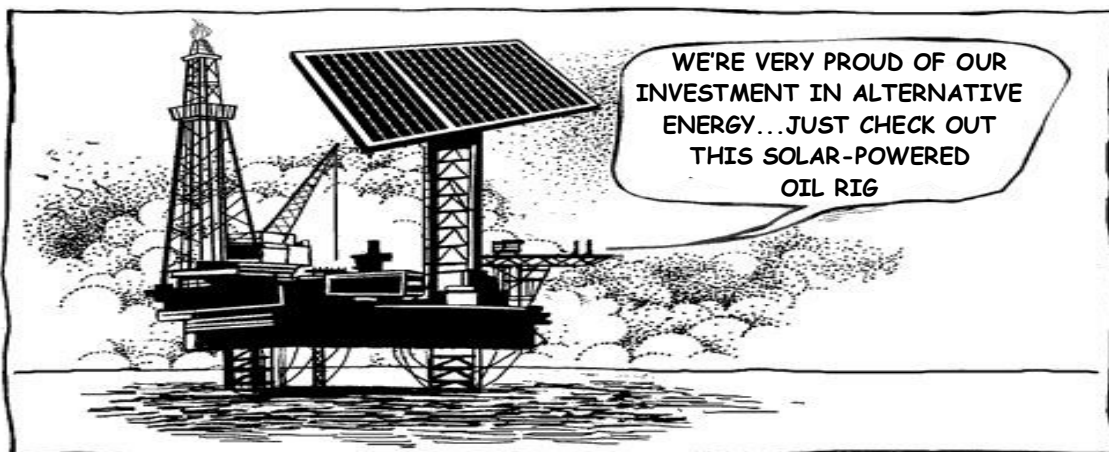
CA, said it designed a system with the novice in mind.

One panel retails at \$893. They produce the same AC power that runs in homes and plug directly into a circuit breaker. The home would need a dedicated circuit breaker, just like a washer and dryer.

The first do-it-yourself home solar panel system by Andalay is now available at Lowe's in the West Hills suburb of Los Angeles.

One panel packs nowhere near the punch of a full solar system. A typical solar system installed by a professional usually has 20 panels. Each Akeena panel will generate about 175 watts of electricity, about enough to power a flat screen television. If you want more solar power, you can snap another panel to the first, kind of like Legos. People can put one up and see if it works. Then with their next paycheck, buy more.

Lowe's is offering software that allows the homeowner to monitor the performance of each panel through the Internet. The panels are designed to withstand rough weather including hail storms, and they're backed with a 25-year warranty covering defects.





### **Chino Branch -**

14271 Fern Avenue  
Chino, CA 91710

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Long Beach, CA 90807

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Send us an email at:

**info@purelyinnovative.com**

### **Services We Offer:**

- Managed IT Services - Let us help maintain your network and desktops
- Home Theater and Board Rooms - Displays, Projectors, Video and Audio Distribution, Speakers and Surround Sound
- Home and Office Automation
- Security Systems - Access Control, Wired and Wireless, Security Cameras, Monitoring and Remote Connectivity
- Customer Tracking and Accounting Software Solutions
- AltiGen Phone Systems - VOIP, SIP, Fax Servers, Computer Integration and Line Analysis
- DirectTV - Delivering the best HD channels - and more of them than anyone.
- QuickBooks Certified
- Verizon Authorized Dealer - Save on Business Plans

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### **February Events**

2/5-7/10: Telemark Festival-Mountain Adventure Seminars (MAS) is a year-round outdoor adventure school and guide service specializing in rock climbing, mountaineering, telemark skiing, avalanche education, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. Held at Bear Valley Mountain Resort and Village. <http://www.mtadventure.com/>

2/12-21/10: [Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival](#). Features Entertainers, Monster Truck Show(s), Big Air Motorcycles, Cooking Shows and a Live-stock Auction.

2/13/10: Monster Energy Supercross at Angel Stadium

2/19-27/10: Mardi Gras and Brazilian Carnival in Huntington Beach.

### **Receive an American Express Gift Card**

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All you have to do is refer a business owner or IT Manager in the Corona and Chino areas to INNOVATIVE who is looking for any of the services we offer. As a token of our appreciation, we'll send you a gift card.

Just consider this our way of saying "Thanks!"

To send us a referral, simply call President John H. Johns at 800-875-5675 Ext 101 or send him an e-mail to [info@purelyinnovative.com](mailto:info@purelyinnovative.com). Tell your friend or colleague to mention your name when they call.