



Owner's Manual

Home Energy Audit: First Step to Lower Heating Costs

If you heat with an electric furnace or wall heaters and want to cut heating costs this winter, call the energy experts at Northern Wasco County PUD to schedule a free energy audit.

If you have an older home that is heated with electric baseboard, wall furnace or heat pump, then you may qualify for rebates through the PUD's weatherization program.

To qualify, customers must complete a weatherization program application and return it to our office before beginning any work.

Applications are also available online. Go to our website: www.nwasco.com and click on "Can I request an energy efficiency audit?"

Once we receive your application, one of our specialists will schedule an appointment to come to your home. We will check your insulation

areas (attic, walls, floor, duct work), windows, water heater and heating equipment to see how you can save money and energy when heating and cooling your home.

At the end of your audit, we will recommend what work you need to do to bring your home up to today's insulation code.

Only existing spaces that are electrically heated are covered under the weatherization program and qualify for the free audit or rebates. Room additions, remodeling and new



construction do not qualify.

Weatherization rebates are based on the recommended upgrades at the time of the energy audit.

Our energy specialists will provide recommendations based on what will provide your house with the highest energy savings. For example, an attic with R11 insulation would lose more heat than a floor that is not insulated or single-pane windows.

For this reason, the program will not pay to simply replace the windows if the home also has major areas that are not up to the insulation code.

NWCPUD offers a rebate of \$0.75 per square foot for insulation of attics, walls and floors for both site-built and manufactured homes. We will pay up to \$400 for sealing and insulating duct work in an attic or crawlspace.

The PUD offers rebates of \$5.00 per square foot for window replacements that are rated at .30 U values or lower. Rebates apply to primary windows only.

To see how you can qualify for a

"Miracle" Heaters: Worth the Hype?

*By Steve Holmes,
NWCPUD Energy Specialist*

The weather has turned cold. We are heating our homes. Utility bills are going up. It is no coincidence that ads for "super" and "miracle" heaters that promise to save you 50 percent or more on your heating bills are appearing in your mailbox and newspapers.

These heaters use electricity to either heat the air in a room or they produce infrared heat waves like sunshine that heat you and the objects around you.

These "miracle" electric heaters with fancy wood cabinets or fake fire pictures cost from \$200 to \$350. Comparable portable heaters that deliver the same amount of heat safely can be found at hardware and appliance stores for less than \$100.

Can these "super" heaters really save you money? That depends on how they are used.

If you use one space heater to warm the room you are in and then either turn it off when you leave or take it with you to the next room, turn off all heat when you go to

bed, **and** do not use the furnace or wall heaters that normally heat your house, you will save money.

If you add one or more of these heaters to your regular heating equipment, then your electricity costs will increase.

Advertisements that claim to reduce power bills 50 percent or more are difficult to achieve, but not impossible. Investigate these claims carefully.

When choosing a portable electric heater, always check for safety features such as a UL listing and built-in fuses.

rebate on the home weatherization projects on your to-do list for 2009, contact PUD energy specialists Steve Holmes or Patrick Urain at 296-2226.

Ward Reelected to PPC Committee

NWCPUD board member Bill Ward has been elected to a second two-year term on the executive committee of the Public Power Council. PPC represents 114 consumer-owned utilities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

"It's a great honor and privilege to serve on a board that represents local public power constituents and northwest regional public power constituents," says Ward.

"With Bill's background, he has provided valuable guidance to PPC regarding a host of issues impacting federal power in the Northwest, especially transmission-related issues," says PPC executive director, Scott Corwin. "Bill has served on the new Climate Change Policy Task Force to review PPC policies on federal and regional climate-related proposals and he has contributed greatly on our Long-Range Planning Committee that reviews PPC's strategic plan and other matters such as conservation policy."

Public utilities formed PPC in 1966 to ensure that the interests of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) preference customers would be adequately represented in the changing energy environment.

Pacific Northwest energy consumers face many challenges in 2009. PPC will be one of the leaders addressing public power issues as they relate to the region and its preference customers of the BPA.

In the new year, PPC will address

several issues as utilities work to implement their new contracts with BPA and the tiered rates that take effect in 2012. Climate change policy will continue to be an issue. Also this year, BPA will be running both a power and a transmission rate case to decide what utilities will be charged for their basic power needs for fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

Broken Branches Threaten Power Lines

Heavy snow and harsh winter winds can play havoc with trees, shrubs and power lines. NWCPUD asks our customers to periodically check trees near services lines for broken branches that might lead to future problems. This is especially important after severe storms.

If you notice a tree on your property that could endanger a power line should it fall, please contact our office at 296-2226 so we can send someone to check out the situation.

If you see a primary or service line running through some trees and limbs are rubbing on the lines, let us know. Sometimes we can put guards on the wires to prevent a problem or trim the limbs away from the lines.

Our tree trimmers usually have a backlog of requests and try to attend to them when they are in a certain area. Priority is given first to the primary lines that carry power to the most people, then to feeders that distribute to neighborhoods and finally to each individual service.

If you see a downed power line, trees in the line or other obvious signs of trouble, your description of them will help our crews pinpoint and repair the problem. Please call us immediately.

Community Calendar

JANUARY

2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Line and partner dance lessons at 7:00 p.m. every Friday followed by open dancing until 10:00 at the Cherry Park Grange, 1002 Lambert St. Family-friendly entertainment for singles and couples of all ages.

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Family Day at the Discovery Center, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Storytelling, games and crafts. All museum exhibits and the Basalt Rock Cafe will be open, and the kids may order off a special "kid-friendly" lunch menu. One child admission free with each adult admission.

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Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting, 6 p.m., 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

30

St. Mary's Academy Family Auction
Family-friendly silent auction, food, games and music, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Academy, The Dalles.
For more information, call 296-6004.

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Dessert and Auction, Fundraiser for "The Last Days of Jesus" production, 7:00 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church.