



Owner's Manual

Low-Cost Solutions to Keep You Cool

Summer officially begins June 21st and that means Wasco County's triple digit temperatures are on their way.

Here are some low-cost tips to help you keep your cool:

- Open windows and doors in the early morning to take advantage of cooler breezes. After sunset when temperatures drop, open them again and keep them open throughout the evening to allow air to move through the house and cool it for the next day.

- Turn on your air conditioner only when you need it. Buildings cannot store cool air, so running your unit in the cooler morning hours is a waste of energy and money. Wait until inside temperatures exceed your comfort zone before turning on room or central air conditioners.

- Shade windows on the south, southwest and west sides of your home that get sun exposure during the midday and afternoon. Indoor blinds help, but the best way to reduce the sun's impact is to create outdoor shade with awnings or plants.

- Deciduous trees can shade your windows, walls and roof, which is especially important in houses with brick or other masonry walls. Mature trees grown on the south and west sides of a house can lower the internal air temperature around windows and walls by 20 degrees. Fast-growing vines can lower temperatures by 10 degrees and begin to provide shade in only a few weeks.

- Shade your air conditioner unit and make sure air can flow freely around it.

- Insulate and ventilate attic space.
- Floor and ceiling fans are an

effective way to cool your body by positioning yourself in the moving air stream. Make sure your ceiling fan is set to pull warm room air up toward the ceiling. Adjust the direction of the blades using the switch on the main part of the unit. Remember to reset the blades in the winter to push warm air from the ceiling down into the room.

- Insulate attic and wall space to slow or stop heat transfer.

If you have central air conditioning or a heat pump:

- Shutting off vents in unused rooms will not decrease your energy bill. These units do not have sensors to detect which vents are open and which are closed. Air is forced into all the vents equally and those that are closed push cooled air into gaps beneath the floorboards, crawl spaces, and attics.

- Have your central air or heat pump unit professionally serviced and cleaned to maintain proper running condition and efficiency.

- Insulating and sealing supply and return ducts can improve the efficiency of a central air conditioning system up to 12 percent to 18 percent.

Looking for more ways to reduce cooling costs? Call NWCPUD's energy management specialists at 296-2226 about a free home energy audit or rebates on weatherization projects like insulation and energy-efficient windows.

Air Conditioners: Bigger Is Not Always Better

The house is hot. Your kids are hot. Even the dog is hot. Before you head out to buy the most powerful air conditioner you can find to cool things down, take these steps to deter-

mine the unit that best fits your needs.

First, consider the size of the room to be cooled. An air conditioner that is too large for a room will cause uneven cooling and will not effectively pull the humidity from the air. It also wastes money. A unit that is too small for a space will not adequately cool the room even if it runs all day.

Begin by measuring the room. An air conditioner needs about 20 Btu to cool each square foot of space.

To cool a room that is 10 feet wide and 15 feet long, you would calculate: $10 \times 15 \times 20 \text{ (Btu)} = 3,000$. The room would require a unit with a 3,000 Btu capacity.

Once you have measured your room, you need to consider how you use the space.

Do you use other cooling techniques such as light blocking shades? Does a large tree or other vegetation outside the window offer shade during the time the room will be in use? If so, then your Btu usage will be lower than average.

Does the room have south-facing windows that receive direct sun? Does the room contain heat-producing appliances such as a stove, oven or clothes dryer? If so, your Btu usage will be higher than average.

Once you've determined the size of air conditioner you need, be sure to choose a model with the ENERGY STAR label.

ENERGY STAR is the designation used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy to identify the most energy-efficient products available for today's consumers. ENERGY STAR products and appliances help you reduce your energy consumption, decrease pollution and save money.

Bragging Rights: Announcing NWCPUD's New Arrival

Northern Wasco County PUD welcomes our newest employee, Beth Canavan, who began working as an information technology assistant in April.

As an IT assistant, Beth helps maintain the essential functions that keep the PUD's computer systems working properly.

She brings 23 years of computer experience to her new job, including work in the manufacturing and financial services industries.

Beth has several certifications, including the Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE).



Beth Canavan

She has been married to her husband, Bob, for two years.

Have You Picked Up Yours?

When you sign up for NWCPUD's Pure Power program, you will also receive a free "green" piggy bank, an energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), a visor clip and a "Things to Do" notepad.

Through our Pure Power Program, NWCPUD purchases one megawatt of wind power called Environmentally Preferred Power (EPP) from the Bonneville Power Administration. EPP is generated from 100 percent renewable wind power that does not pollute or affect fish or wildlife.

By supporting the use of renewable energy sources, you can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions that

contribute to climate change.

Each 200 kilowatt/hour block of Pure Power costs \$5.00 in addition to your regular electric charges. After signing up, you will see an additional line item on your bill listing the monthly charge.

NWCPUD customers have already purchased more than 90 blocks of 100 percent renewable energy. To sign up and receive your free gifts, call 296-2226 or stop by our office.



Community Calendar

JUNE

12

Celebrate Father's Day early with an ice cream social and dance at the Mid-Columbia Senior Center, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call 296-4788.

14

Eric Taylor in concert, 7 p.m. at The Dalles Civic Auditorium. Tickets \$10 at Klindt's Booksellers, Columbia River Music.

16

The Central Gorge and Wasco County Master Gardeners offer their 19th annual spring tour of Hood River gardens, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at Klindt's Booksellers and the Wasco Extension office. Call 296-5494 for details.

19

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

23-24

Relay for Life, a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society, at the Wahtonka H.S. track. Call 296-5382 for details.

Non profit community organizations are encouraged to promote their events and activities.

To list an item in the community calendar, please call 298-3302.