

10 Ways to Conserve Energy at Home

Here are 10 no-cost or low-cost strategies to help you conserve electricity and save money.

- **Clothes washing watch.** About 90 percent of the energy used to wash clothes is for heating water. Reduce that cost by using less water and washing with cooler temperatures.
- **Reduce hot water waste.** Hot water accounts for 13 percent to 17 percent of a family's annual energy use. Setting the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and installing low-flow faucets and showerheads can cut water heating costs.
- **Air dry dishes.** Instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle, let your dishes dry naturally.
- **Unplug unused or underused appliances and electronics.** That includes the old pop and beer refrigerator in the garage, as well as battery chargers, shredders and other electronics that constantly consume energy in standby mode.
- **Make conservation a habit.** Turn off televisions and lights every time you leave the room for more than a few minutes. Make sure your computer is set to energy-saver mode.
- **Take control of your thermostat.** Heating and cooling account for the majority of energy use in the average American home. Even a temperature change of 1 degree can add up to significant annual savings. Reduce the setting to as low as

comfortable in the winter and as high as comfortable in the summer. Programmable thermostats can help save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs by simply adjusting temperature settings while you sleep.

- **Clean or replace filters.** A dirty filter reduces airflow and can increase a system's power consumption by 10 percent or more. Change filters once a month during peak heating and cooling seasons.
- **Switch to CFLs.** Compact fluorescent lights are 70 percent more efficient and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent lights.
- **Seal heating ducts.** A heating system can lose up to 60 percent of its heated air—either through heat loss or leaks—before it reaches the registers if ducts are not sealed and insulated.
- **Plug cracks and holes.** Perhaps the quickest dollar-saving tasks you can tackle yourself are caulking, sealing and weather stripping all seams, cracks and openings to the outside. ■



It Pays to be Energy Efficient

Beginning in October, Klickitat PUD announced its new conservation plan: the

Energy Efficiency Incentive Program. The two-year program will end September 30, 2013.



KPUD has made some changes and introduced new measures. Some of the program offers include:

- Commercial weatherization rebates.
- Commercial clothes washer rebates.
- Direct install commercial showerheads.
- Energy-saving custom proposal projects for commercial and industrial accounts.
- High-output commercial lighting.

- Refrigerator and freezer rebates.
- Irrigation hardware, VFDs and motors.

KPUD continues to offer rebates on clothes washers, electric water heaters, windows, insulation, heat pumps and duct sealing for residential homes. Some rebate amounts have changed, so be sure to contact KPUD before beginning a project.

During KPUD's previous two-year conservation program, energy savings were roughly 1.5 megawatts. With the new EEI program, we can increase these savings, but we need your help.

To see if your home or business qualifies for the EEI program, contact the KPUD Energy Service Department at (800) 548-8357 or (509) 773-7622, or visit our website at www.klickitapud.com. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December

- 2-4**—America's Largest Christmas Bazaar, Expo Center, Portland.
- 3**—Christmas in the Gorge Sing-a-long. Refreshments, free program, (800) 991-2338.
- 3**—Carson Winter Wonderland, (800) 989-9178.
- 3**—"I'm Dreaming of a White Salmon: Christmas in the Gorge and Tree Lighting," 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., downtown White Salmon.
- 4**—Festival of Lights (Columbia Gorge Lioness) www.cascadelocks.net/events.htm.
- 10-11**—Last Chance Holiday Bazaar, Hood River County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission.
- 10-11**—Open House at Discovery Center in The Dalles. Visit with Santa and enjoy cider, cookies, music and shopping for crafts. Free admission.
- 13**—KPUD commission meeting, 2 p.m.
- 26**—Holiday, KPUD offices will be closed.
- 27**—KPUD commission meeting, 2 p.m.

January

- 2**—New Year's holiday, KPUD offices will be closed.

To have an event listed, call (509) 773-7606.