

# Improving Efficiency Can Lead To Savings

*Upgrades to your home will result in less energy use*

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Making our homes more efficient saves money on electricity bills, increases comfort and reduces our carbon footprint.

A great place to start is with your home's insulation. Do you have enough?

Even though your attic has insulation, you may be able to improve it by bringing the level up to an R-38 or higher. Increasing the attic insulation from an R-19 to an R-38 in a 1,500-square-foot home could save \$90 a year.

Walls and floors should be insulated to the R-value that fills the joists.



An R-value of 38 is recommended for attic insulation.

## Window Panes

Are the windows in place still the old, inefficient aluminum or wood pane?

Chances are, with these kinds of windows, the U-factor on your windows is between 1.10 and 0.75. By installing new windows with U-factor ratings of 0.30 or lower you could save upwards of \$200 a year on your Klickitat PUD bill.

## Leaky Ducts

In the past, duct work was installed using duct tape or metal tape. Over time, this tape dries out and falls away from the joints and gaps that were once sealed.

This leaky duct work often accounts for 10 percent to 30 percent of total heating and cooling costs.

Have an approved BPA sealing tech seal your duct work with mastic, a high-strength adhesive compound that will last the life of your ductwork. It will greatly reduce your energy loss.

## Heating System

If you still heat with a forced air furnace, old baseboard, Cadet or space heaters, then you might want to consider installing a heat pump.

Today's heat pumps are much more energy efficient than they were just 10 years ago. If you replace a unit at least 12 to 15 years old, you should notice energy savings of about 30 percent. If the heat pump is replacing forced air, baseboard or Cadets, the savings could be near 50 percent.



Low-wattage CFLs use less energy than incandescent light bulbs.

## CFLs

Replacing the lighting in your home from incandescent to compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) is an easy way to save energy.

Replacing one 75-watt incandescent that is in use five hours a day with a 22-watt CFL saves \$7.95 annually.

Multiply that by the number of fixtures you could replace with CFLs, and add up your savings.

## KPUD Can Help

Are there any energy efficient measures you can improve on?

If you are considering a weatherization project, call KPUD before you start your project to see if you qualify for a rebate.

You don't have to put off a project because of low funds. Apply for a 4.95 percent fixed interest rate loan from KPUD, and start saving on your electric bill.

Call Sharon Ohnstad at (509) 773-7622 or (800) 548-8357 ext. 622 for details. ■

## Tax Credit

An incentive for installing energy-efficient measures is the 2009-2010 federal tax credit of up to 30 percent of the cost of qualified projects, including weatherization and installation of efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or contact a tax professional for details.