

Commercial Lighting Rebates

Businesses see the light and the savings with new rebates

Northern Wasco County PUD is shining the light on savings for its commercial and industrial customers.

In an effort to reduce power consumption and help our customers reduce their electricity bills, NWCPUD and the Bonneville Power Administration introduced a commercial lighting retrofit rebate program in 2010.

Rebate Amounts Increase in 2011

Now commercial and industrial customers can receive an even larger cash rebate from the PUD to reduce the cost

to replace old, less-efficient fluorescent lighting tubes and ballasts.

In 2012, T8 tubes will become the new standard in fluorescent lighting. T12 tubes no longer will be manufactured or imported into the United States. While businesses may continue to use T12 lamps after that time, replacement tubes will not be available for purchase.

NWCPUD is encouraging its commercial and industrial customers to save money while getting a head start on upgrading their systems by applying for the utility's lighting rebate.

NWCPUD's rebate program includes replacement of T12 fluorescents with high-performance T8 lamps and ballasts, and exchanging existing lighting fixtures with those with fewer lamps.

The program pays \$25 to \$30 for an upgrade of a single lamp with a high-performance electronic ballast. Replacing two to four existing T12 lamps with T8 high-performance lamps and ballasts can earn \$50 to \$55 per unit.

State Business Energy Tax Credits

Customers also may qualify for an Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) for up to 35 percent of the cost of eligible project costs.

With the PUD rebate and the BETC, the costs of upgrading a lighting system may pay for itself in less than one year.

In addition, the overall wattage reduction can mean a considerable savings on monthly electric bills.

High-Performance Equipment

New ballasts and energy-efficient fluorescent tubes offer greater brightness, better color, less flicker than older less efficient lighting and provide energy savings year after year.

Take the First Step

The first step in qualifying for a PUD rebate is to contact the utility to schedule a free energy audit of your facility.

One of our energy specialists will

Bragging Rights:

Announcing NWCPUD's New Arrival

NWCPUD welcomes our newest employee, Leslie Hanna, who began working as a customer service representative in February.

Leslie is often the first person a customer encounters when calling or coming into the PUD offices. Her welcoming presence is felt whether she is answering questions about a PUD program or service or assisting customers who pay their bills in person.

Leslie grew up in The Dalles. She joins the PUD after 12 years working in the Wasco and Hood River circuit courts. She and her husband, Charlie, a local hay farmer, have a 7-year-old son.



Customer Service Representative
Leslie Hanna



PUD Energy Specialist Steve Holmes assesses fluorescent lighting as part of a free energy audit for NWCPUD commercial and industrial customers.

make an appointment to come to your business and assess the lighting and other equipment.

At the end of the visit, you will receive a report with recommendations for new, more energy-efficient lighting along with expected kilowatt-hour savings and annual payback.

Rebates are based on how much electricity will be saved by the improvements recommended in the audit.

An energy audit must be completed before beginning a lighting upgrade project, and the required paperwork must be submitted to NWCPUD before any equipment is ordered or contracts signed.

Rebates will not be paid on changes already under way or completed.

After the new lighting is installed, our crews will return to inspect the project before issuing a rebate.

To get started, go to nwasco.com/request-an-audit-com.cfm or call NWCPUD's energy specialists at 296-2226 and request a free commercial energy audit.

To qualify for an Oregon BETC, the Oregon Department of Energy (DOE) must receive an Application for Preliminary Certification for Light Projects before beginning the project or purchasing equipment.

BETC applicants must receive their final certification from the Oregon DOE prior to July 1, 2012. For details, contact the Oregon DOE at 1-800-221-8035 or go to www.oregon.gov/energy. ■

NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 5

Wendy and Friends High Tea and Auction.

Fundraiser for Sonrise Academy includes High Tea with oral and silent auctions, 1:30 p.m. at The Dalles Middle School. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$10 for children.

For information, call Sonrise Academy at 298-8922 or go to www.sonriseacademy.net.

March 9

Book Signing.

Nicole Rubel, illustrator of the Rotten Ralph book series, will be signing her books from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Klindt's Booksellers, 315 E. Second St.

March 11

Book Signing.

Local author Anne Osterlund will be signing her books *Aurelia* and *Academy 7* at 4 p.m. at Klindt's Booksellers.

March 12

Bowl for Kids' Sake.

Fundraiser for Next Door Inc. Join a team, sponsor a bowler, make a difference in the life of a child. The fun begins at Orchard Lanes, Hood River.

For more information, contact Next Door Inc. at 541-308-2231 or www.nextdoorinc.org.

March 22

Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting.

6 p.m., 2345 River Rd., The Dalles.

March 22

Wheatfield Half Marathon/ 8 Kilometer Run/Walk

Event starts at Petersburg School, The Dalles.

For information about registration and details, please call Bob Thouvenel at 298-1119.