



# Owner's Manual

## One Call Before You Shop Can Put Money in Your Pocket

Is it time to purchase a new refrigerator, clothes washer, dishwasher, water heater or heat pump?

If so, call Northern Wasco County PUD before making your purchase to see if the model you are interested in qualifies for an energy-efficiency rebate. One call could add up to hundreds of dollars in savings.

When buying a household appliance, remember there are actually two price tags—the purchase price and the cost of running the appliance over time. Consumers continue to pay that second price every month for 10 to 20 years, depending on the appliance.

Energy-efficient appliances may be more expensive to purchase, but the energy savings over the life of the appliance are substantial.

To help determine whether an appliance is energy efficient, the federal government requires most appliances to display the bright yellow and black EnergyGuide label.

Although these labels will not state which appliance is the most efficient, they will list the annual energy consumption and operating costs for each appliance. Consumers can then compare the ratings of similar models themselves.

When shopping for new appliances, look for the Energy Star label. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy

have recognized Energy Star appliances as being the most efficient products in their class. Most exceed the minimum federal standard by a substantial amount.

### Dishwashers

PUD customers can receive rebates on dishwashers with an Energy Star energy rating of 0.58 or higher. Those with an electric water heater can qualify for \$100 rebate. Customers with a gas water heater can earn \$50.

### Where is Your Money Going?

Knowing what activities use the most electricity in your home is the first step in learning to conserve. Here is the breakdown for an average American household according to the U.S. Department of Energy:

Space heating	35.2%
Water heating	13.1%
Space cooling	10.8%
Lighting	9.7%
Refrigeration	6.6%
Electronics	6.5%
Cooking	4.5%
Clothes Dryers/ Dishwashers	4.3%
Computers	1.0%
Other	8.4%

### Refrigerators

Refrigerators are one of the highest energy users in the home. NWCPUD offers a rebate of \$100 on the purchase of any Energy Star refrigerator.

### Clothes Washers

More than 70 percent of the cost of

washing a load of clothes comes from heating the water. Energy-efficient models use less hot water per load and are available in both front-loading and top-loading styles.

Qualifying clothes washers must be Energy Star rated with a Modified Energy Factor (MEF) of 1.8 or higher. Customers with an electric hot water heater can earn a \$175 rebate. Those with a gas water heater qualify for \$100.

### Water Heaters

For customers who are building a home or replacing an old water heater can save \$100 on qualifying models. Tanks holding 59 gallons or less must have an energy factor of 0.93 or greater.

### Appliance Rebates

To qualify for the appliance rebate program, a separate application must be completed for each appliance prior to purchase. Forms are available at the PUD office and at participating local retailers. Customers can also download a rebate application at: [www.nwasco.com/programrebates.cfm](http://www.nwasco.com/programrebates.cfm).

This program is open to NWCPUD residential and commercial customers as well as the owners of rental properties. To be eligible for a rebate, the appliance must be installed within the PUD's service area.

Many appliance purchases also qualify for an Oregon Energy Tax Credit. Customers can save hundreds of dollars on an appliance that qualifies for both programs.

For more information, call Steve or Patrick in the Energy Management Department at 296-2226.

**Visit our website at: [www.nwasco.com](http://www.nwasco.com)**

## Heat Pumps

NWCPUD also offers rebates on heat pumps that serve as the primary heating and cooling source for residences in the PUD's service area.

To qualify, the home must be up to code in the major insulation areas—attic, walls, floor—and the duct-work must be air tight and insulated with R11.

The heat pump must be installed by an approved heating contractor and a PUD representative must come to your home to inspect the equipment and installation.

Customers will need to provide the PUD with copies of electrical permits, mechanical permits and a copy of the itemized bill with the model number and brand of equipment installed.

NWCPUD offers a \$1,200 rebate to customers who install new heat pumps to electric furnaces or as a

replacement for electric baseboard heaters or electric wall heaters.

The utility will give customers a rebate of \$3,000 when they install a new all-electric geo-thermal heat pump system in their homes.

Replacing a broken or worn out heat pump and an electric furnace can earn \$1,200, while customers who replace oil, gas or wood heat with an electric furnace and a heat pump may qualify for \$600 in rebates.

This program is available to all NWCPUD residential customers as long as funding is available. Only one rebate per house will be awarded in a ten-year period.

For more information about how heat pumps can help provide energy-efficient heating and cooling or to obtain an application for a rebate, contact the PUD at 296-2226 or go to our website to [www.nwasco.com/programs-heatpump-rebates.cfm](http://www.nwasco.com/programs-heatpump-rebates.cfm).

## Conservation Efforts Add Up

At NWCPUD, we believe that good deeds should be rewarded. That is why we provided \$221,206 in rebates to our customers for purchasing energy-efficient products last year.

From dishwashers to heat pumps to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, those purchases will continue to grow in value by reducing monthly power bills and energy use for years to come.

The low-cost, carbon-emission-free power that the PUD purchases from the Bonnaville Power Administration is in limited supply. No new dams or hydroprojects are planned to meet increased demand in the future.

By conserving energy, PUD customers help reduce the need to purchase either more expensive or less

environmentally-friendly power.

In 2008, PUD customers who participated in the utility's rebate program purchased:

- 151 new water heaters for a savings of 13,312 kilowatt hours per year
- 457 new appliances that will save 77,059 kwh/ year
- 28 new heat pumps for a savings of 65,544 kwh/year

Our commercial customers also conserved electricity.

- Seven businesses replaced existing lighting sources with high-efficiency fluorescent fixtures. Along with our customers' purchases of compact fluorescent bulbs, these choices add up to a power savings of 428,401 kwh/year.

## Community Calendar

### MARCH

**5**

The Tradition of Compassion awards honor individuals and organizations for philanthropy and service in the region. The awards ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased from the Mid-Columbia Health Foundation. For more information, call 296-7275.

**7**

Fashionation, a fashion show featuring the talents of local clothing and hair designers, to benefit for the Next Door, Inc., 7:00 p.m. at the Granada Theater. Tickets for this "21 and older" event at High Hills Salon, Bliss and Next Door, Inc.

**14**

St. Patty's Day  
3K, 5K, 10K, Run/Walk,  
Registration 9:30 a.m. with  
race start at 10:00 a.m. from  
The Dalles Marina. \$5.00 entry  
fee. For details, call 340-9307.

**24**

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

**28**

Wheatfield Half Marathon/8K  
starting from the former  
Petersburg School. Call Bob  
Thouvenel for details  
at 298-1119.