



## RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PLUS PROGRAM November 2011

Since 1982, Cowlitz PUD has been helping its customers reduce their monthly electric bills and make their homes more comfortable through our weatherization programs. Under the current program – *Residential Weatherization Plus* – we may be able to pay a substantial portion of the cost to insulate your site-built, electrically-heated residence, rental home or multi-family building with several incentive options.

If your home has permanently installed electric heat prior to weatherization work being authorized, and has had an energy audit completed by the PUD, the following weatherization measures may be partially funded by Cowlitz PUD’s Residential Weatherization Plus Program:

- ❖ **Insulating of ceiling, floor and/or walls**
- ❖ **Air sealing in conjunction with installing ceiling and/or floor insulation**
- ❖ **Replacement windows**

To be eligible for financial incentives, all weatherization measures must be pre-authorized by the PUD and installed by the contractor selected by the homeowner from the PUD’s Qualified Conservation Contractor List.

The following information will explain how Cowlitz PUD’s Weatherization Plus Program works. Please read the material carefully and call us if you are interested in weatherizing your home. We’ll arrange for a free energy audit of your home by a PUD Conservation Advisor, if one has not already been done for you or a previous owner, explain how to get bids from our PUD-qualified contractors, and answer any questions you may have about the program and its potential benefits for you.

**VERY IMPORANT:** Funding for this program can change or end at any time. Right now, funds are available for financial incentives under our Residential Weatherization Plus Program. Please be aware that funding for this program is provided through the Bonneville Power Administration and, if you decide to wait, it may change or be discontinued in the future without notice.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**      **Conservation Department**  
   **Cowlitz PUD**  
   **P.O. Box 3007**  
   **961 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
   **Longview, WA 98632**  
   **(360) 577-7514 or (800) 631-1131**

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**FINANCIAL INCENTIVES**

**Non-Low Income Residents:** The financial incentives available for an eligible residence are listed below. One or more PUD-Qualified Contractor bids are required.

<b><u>Measure</u></b>	<b><u>PUD Incentives</u></b>
Attic Insulation, existing below R-19	\$0.70/sq. ft.
Attic Insulation, existing R-19 or above	\$0.40/sq. ft.
Floor Insulation	\$0.40/sq. ft.
Wall Insulation (blown in)	\$0.70/sq. ft.
Knee Wall Insulation (batts)	\$0.25/sq. ft.
Replacement Windows*	\$6.00/sq. ft.

\*Attic must have a minimum of R-19 insulation existing to be eligible for window incentives.

**Low-Income Residents:** The financial incentives available for an eligible residence with a low-income occupant are listed below. Low-income residents are required to get two or more bids from PUD-qualified contractors.

<b><u>Measure</u></b>	<b><u>PUD Incentives</u></b>
Attic Insulation	\$1.00/sq. ft.
Floor Insulation	\$1.00/sq. ft.
Wall Insulation (blown in)	\$1.00/sq. ft.
Knee Wall Insulation (batts)	\$1.00/sq. ft.
Replacement Windows (owner-occupied)*	\$20.00/sq. ft.
Replacement Windows (tenant-occupied)*	\$15.00/sq. ft.

\*Attic must have a minimum of R-19 insulation existing to be eligible for window incentives.

Qualified low-income residents (with a household income less than 125% of federal poverty guidelines) will receive the above-listed incentives for each weatherization measure and for replacement windows.

Low-income status is determined by the Lower Columbia Community Action Council (CAP). **If you think you or your tenant may qualify for low-income funding, please contact CAP's Weatherization Department at 425-3430 Extension 228 for an appointment to review your financial situation.** Be sure to advise CAP that you or your tenant want to be **certified as low-income-qualified for the PUD's Weatherization Program.** To qualify for the low-income incentives, we must receive verification of low-income status from CAP prior to approval of any weatherization measures.

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**Steps for Participation in Our Program**

1. The homeowner calls the PUD Conservation Department at 577-7514 or 800-631-1131 to determine eligibility for our program. At this time, weatherization funds are available. However, if funds are not immediately available to assist with weatherizing the residence, the owner's name will be placed on a waiting list to be contacted when funds are again available. Only homeowners can place a residence on the waiting list.
2. Homeowners that may qualify for low-income funding, or have tenants that may qualify, must contact the Lower Columbia Community Action Council (CAP) Weatherization Department at 425-3430 extension 228 and request to be certified as low-income qualified for the PUD's Weatherization Program.
3. Once eligibility for weatherization measures has been determined, the PUD will provide the homeowner with a Qualified Contractors list, from which the owner may call and schedule bid appointments. Except for the Low-Income Program, the PUD does not require a specific number of bids; however, we suggest that two bids be obtained to ensure competitive pricing for the eligible weatherization measures to be installed. Low-Income Program participants must obtain a minimum of two bids.
4. When the homeowner has the bids in-hand, **call** the PUD Conservation Department to schedule a bid review appointment.
5. The homeowner then brings all the bids to the scheduled appointment at the PUD office to review the bids and select the contractor of the owner's choice to do the eligible weatherization work.
6. The PUD will contact the contractor chosen regarding the work to be done at the home.

An indoor air quality brochure prepared by BPA is also available at the PUD office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the PUD Conservation Department at (360) 577-7514 or (800) 631-1131.

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**Program Guidelines and Requirements**

Program funding is available to residential, owner-occupied, as well as rental dwellings. The funding is available in the form of an outright grant and not as a loan. There is no direct payback at any time under this program.

**Residential Building Eligibility:** There are two fundamental criteria that must be met for a residential building to be eligible for financial incentives under this program.

1. The residence must be site-built and have permanently installed electric heat prior to weatherization work being authorized. Some portable electric heating systems may meet this requirement. Also, if the home is partially heated by oil, gas or wood, only that portion of the home with permanently installed electric heat will qualify. However, a home with an operable central ducted gas, oil or wood heat system and permanently installed electric heat may qualify under certain conditions.
2. An energy audit must be performed on the residence by a Cowlitz PUD-certified energy analyst prior to the installation of weatherization measures in order for the measure to be eligible for an incentive.

Residential dwellings (except mobile/manufactured homes) meeting the above criteria may be eligible for financial incentives for the following weatherization measures:

1. Ceiling insulation and ventilation, as required.
2. Floor insulation including ground cover vapor barrier, hot and cold water pipe insulation, and ventilation, as required.
3. Blown wall insulation for exterior wall cavities, open exterior, attic knee walls, and heated basement walls, as required.
4. Air sealing as required in conjunction with installed ceiling and floor insulation.
5. Replacement windows

**Rotten or Pest-infested Building Members:** Insulation must not be installed over or under rotten or pest-infested spaces. Any needed repair work must be done at the homeowner's expense prior to weatherization. A routine crawl space inspection by a qualified pest inspection contractor is highly recommended by the PUD prior to weatherization.

The PUD is not obligated to authorize work for which bids or costs are determined to be excessive or unreasonable.

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**PUD-Qualified Contractor List**

Only the independent contractors on the following list are currently approved by the PUD to perform weatherization measures under the Residential Weatherization Plus Program. These contractors have agreed to comply with our installation and material standards and specifications.

**Financial incentives are only available for PUD-preauthorized weatherization measures installed by these approved contractors.**

To assure that program standards and specifications are met, all weatherization work done by these contractors under this program must be inspected by the PUD.

We cannot be held responsible for contractor-caused damages or work done beyond the scope of the weatherization specifications, nor for any lien(s) placed on your property by your contractor's supplier(s).

The participating contractors are listed on the following page. Cowlitz PUD does not specifically endorse or recommend any one contractor over another on the list or any one product over another. It should be understood that the contractor selected is the *homeowner's* contractor, and the work performed is for the homeowner. The PUD merely acts as an agent for the incentive funds provided to the contractor, as long as your contractor performs the work in accordance with program specifications. However, if you have problems with your contractor, we are available to help resolve the situation.

Please do not request bids from these contractors unless you intend to proceed in a timely manner. Out-of-date bid proposals cannot be accepted.

You may wish to consider contacting a Lead-Safe Certified contractor in the event your home was built prior to 1978.

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**PUD-Qualified Contractor List  
November 2011**

**Insulation and Air Sealing Only:**

<p><b><u>Gale Contractor Services</u></b> 1900 W. 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B-207 Vancouver, WA 98660 (360) 694-3030 (Vancouver)</p>	
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**Insulation, Air Sealing and Replacement Windows:**

<p><b><u>Ashby Builders, Inc.</u></b> P.O. Box 1870 Castle Rock, WA 98611 (360) 274-4061</p>	<p><b><u>Rister Insulation</u></b> P.O. Box 371 Castle Rock, WA 98611 (360) 274-5361</p>
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**Replacement Windows Only:**

<p><b><u>American Windows &amp; Doors, Inc.</u></b> 1819 Schurman Way, Suite 102 Woodland, WA 98674 (360) 225-9997</p>	<p><b><u>America's First Choice, Inc.</u></b> 14413 N.E. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue #C102 Vancouver, WA 98685 (360) 546-1175</p>
<p><b><u>Aspen Ridge Construction, Inc./Aspen Exteriors</u></b> 7910 SW Hunziker Street Tigard, OR 97223 (503) 624-9060</p>	<p><b><u>Daystar Windows &amp; Doors, Inc.</u></b> 1206 N.E. 146<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite D Vancouver, WA 98685 (888) 344-8008 (toll-free)</p>
<p><b><u>Erickson Glass Co.</u></b> 1053 Third Avenue Longview, WA 98632 (360) 423-7360</p>	<p><b><u>JR Johnson, Inc.</u></b> P.O. Box 17196 Portland, OR 97217 (503) 240-3388</p>
<p><b><u>Precision Northwest, Inc.</u></b> 12403 N.E. 60<sup>th</sup> Way #D1 Vancouver, WA 98682 (360) 566-8455</p>	<p><b><u>Twin City Glass Co., Inc.</u></b> 916 Vandercook Way Longview, WA 98632 (360) 425-4540</p>



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## PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

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Thank you for your interest in our conservation program. We hope you will decide to participate in these energy savings activities. If you do, it is necessary for you to provide some information to Cowlitz PUD and BPA which will enable us to run this program successfully.

The information to be collected includes the names and addresses of residential consumers participating in the program and technical data about the energy use and efficiency of their homes. We need this information to determine whether you are eligible for the program. Beyond this, the information collected will be used to evaluate and audit the conservation program.

At BPA's request, Cowlitz County PUD will provide BPA with this information. BPA may also wish to make certain site visits to evaluate the installations and the performance of the program.

This and other data will then be used to assist BPA and the region's utilities in developing new programs and to assess energy savings obtained by existing programs in the region. This information will be retained for three years. It may be released to the public but only in anonymous statistical form.

## Buyer Beware!!



### Energy Efficient Windows

You've heard the expression "Buyer Beware!!"

Cowlitz PUD would like you to be aware that your best value in purchasing more efficient windows may be from contractors from the local area, including those on the PUD's Qualified Contractor's List. Some contractors from outside the local area are selling people energy efficient windows at exorbitant prices. In many cases these people tend to target the elderly. There have been instances where unscrupulous window contractors have charged up to \$100 or more per square foot.

These high priced windows are no better or more efficient than vinyl windows purchased from reputable local window contractors. The typical cost for contractor-installed energy efficient vinyl windows with a U-factor of 0.30 or less, is between \$18 and \$23 per square foot.

Be particularly cautious of unsolicited window installers or sales people who contact you before you contact them. Any window vendor who says "you must sign today or you will not get our special reduced price" is almost always the highest priced window bidder.

We encourage you to get 2-3 bids on any window purchases before making any final decisions.

*If you have questions about a bid you may have received for energy efficient windows, please call a Cowlitz PUD energy advisor at (360) 577-7514 or 1-800-631-1131.*



## The NFRC Window Label

The National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) energy performance label can help you determine how well a product will perform the functions of helping to cool your building in the summer, warm your building in the winter, keep out wind, and resist condensation. By using the information contained on the label, builders and consumers can reliably compare one product with another and make informed decisions about the windows, doors, and skylights they buy.

NFRC adopted a new energy performance label in 2005. It lists the manufacturer, describes the product, provides a source for additional information, and includes ratings for one or more energy performance characteristics.

NOTE: All energy performance values on the label represent the rating of windows/doors as whole systems (glazing and frame).

### U-Factor

U-factor measures how well a product prevents heat from escaping. The rate of heat loss is indicated in terms of the U-factor (U-value) of a window assembly. U-Factor ratings generally fall between 0.20 and 1.20. The insulating value is indicated by the R-value, which is the inverse of the U-value. The lower the U-value, the greater a window's resistance to heat flow and the better its insulating value.

### Solar Heat Gain Coefficient

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) measures how well a product blocks heat caused by sunlight. The SHGC is the fraction of incident solar radiation admitted through a window (both directly transmitted and absorbed) and subsequently released inward. SHGC is expressed as a number between 0 and 1. The lower a window's solar heat gain coefficient, the less solar heat it transmits into the house.

### Visible Transmittance

Visible Transmittance (VT) measures how much light comes through a product. The visible transmittance is an optical property that indicates the amount of visible light transmitted. VT is expressed as a number between 0 and 1. The higher the VT, the more light is transmitted.

### Air Leakage\*

Air Leakage (AL) is indicated by an air leakage rating expressed as the equivalent cubic feet of air passing through a square foot of window area (cfm/sq ft). Heat loss and gain occur by infiltration through cracks in the window assembly. The lower the AL, the less air will pass through cracks in the window assembly.

### Condensation Resistance\*

Condensation Resistance (CR) measures the ability of a product to resist the formation of condensation on the interior surface of that product. The higher the CR rating, the better that product is at resisting condensation formation. While this rating cannot predict condensation, it can provide a credible method of comparing the potential of various products for condensation formation. CR is expressed as a number between 0 and 100. ■

\*This rating is optional and manufacturers can choose not to include it.

		<b>World's Best Window Co.</b> Millennium 2000 <sup>+</sup> Vinyl-Clad Wood Frame Double Glazing • Argon Fill • Low E Product Type: Vertical Slider (per NFRC 100-97)	
<b>ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS</b>			
U-Factor (U.S./I-P)	<b>0.35</b>	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient	<b>0.32</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS</b>			
Visible Transmittance	<b>0.51</b>	Air Leakage (U.S./I-P)	<b>0.2</b>
<small>Manufacturer stipulates that these ratings conform to applicable NFRC procedures for determining whole product performance. NFRC ratings are determined for a fixed set of environmental conditions and a specific product size. Consult manufacturer literature for other product performance information. www.nfrc.org</small>			