

COWLITZ COUNTY PUD

RESIDENTIAL WEATHERIZATION PLUS PROGRAM

January 1, 2007

Since 1982, Cowlitz PUD has been helping its customers reduce their monthly electric bills and make their homes more comfortable through our weatherization programs. The following material will explain how Cowlitz PUD's Residential Weatherization Program works and its potential benefit to you. Please read these materials carefully, as the PUD may pay a substantial portion of the cost of insulating your site-built, electrically-heated residence, rental home or multi-family building with the following financial incentives:

<u>Weatherization Measure</u>	<u>PUD Incentives</u>	
	<u>Non-Low-Income</u>	<u>Low-Income</u>
Attic Insulation	\$.40/sq. ft.	\$1.00/sq. ft.
Floor Insulation	\$.40/sq. ft.	\$1.00/sq. ft.
Wall Insulation (blown in)	\$.70/sq. ft.	\$1.00/sq. ft.
Knee Wall Insulation (batts)	\$.25/sq. ft.	\$1.00/sq. ft.
Replacement Windows*	No Incentive	\$4.50 - \$8.00/sq. ft.

***Incentives for replacement windows are no longer a part of the Weatherization Program - unless the occupant qualifies for low-income funding, as referenced below.**

Qualified low-income residents (with a household income less than 125% of Federal poverty level guidelines) may receive a higher incentive for each weatherization measure and may qualify for an incentive 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 229 for an appointment to review your financial situation. Be sure to advise CAP that you 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. Low-income residents are required to get two bids from PUD-Qualified Contractors for each weatherization measure.

Financial incentives for the installation of any measures under our Residential Weatherization Plus Program are subject to the availability of funding through the Bonneville Power Administration and, therefore, may not be available in the future should you decide to wait.

If you own a home or rental unit and are interested in weatherization, please call the PUD Conservation Department at 577-7514. We will do an energy analysis of the property, if the PUD has not already done so for you or a previous owner, at no cost to you, and explain the Program benefits. If you choose to participate in the Program, and funds are immediately available, we will explain how to get bids from our PUD-Qualified Contractors.

An indoor air quality brochure prepared by BPA is available upon request at the PUD office. Please feel free to contact the PUD Conservation Department at 577-7514 if you have any questions.

Program Basics

If a 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. 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 Contractor List.

Eligible measures include:

- ✓ Insulating of ceiling, floor and/or walls
- ✓ Air sealing in conjunction with installing ceiling and/or floor insulation
- ✓ Replacement Windows (for Low-Income Program participants only)

Steps for participation in our Program:

1. The homeowner calls the PUD Conservation Department at 577-7514 to determine eligibility of their residence in our Program. 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 (not tenants) can place a residence on the waiting list.
2. Once eligibility of the residence has been determined and funds are available, 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.
3. When the homeowner has their bids in-hand, call the PUD Conservation Department at 577-7514 to schedule a bid review appointment.
4. The homeowner brings all bids to the bid review appointment (two bids are required for all low-income-funded measures). At that appointment, a PUD Conservation Department Customer Service Advisor will review the owner's chosen bid to determine the PUD's financial contribution and the owner's exact cost.
5. Upon the owner's signed approval, the PUD will issue a Purchase Authorization Order to the PUD-approved contractor chosen by the owner for the work to be done.

Following is a more detailed description of Cowlitz PUD's Residential Weatherization Plus Program.

Program Guidelines and Requirements

Cowlitz County Public Utility District provides the Residential Weatherization Plus Program whereby financial incentives for installed insulation measures are offered to qualified residential customers in site-built, electrically-heated homes. Replacement window incentives are available for qualifying low-income residents only.

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, including under attics, exterior or interior rigid roofs, 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 and batts in attic knee walls, as required.
4. Air sealing as required in conjunction with installed ceiling and floor insulation.
5. Replacement windows (applicable for Low-Income Program participants only).

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.

Financial Incentives

The financial incentives available for eligible residences are determined by the square footage of the area being weatherized. Homeowners are not required to accept the lowest bid.

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

<u>Measure</u>	<u>PUD Incentives</u>
Attic Insulation	\$.40/sq. ft.
Floor Insulation	\$.40/sq. ft.
Wall Insulation (blown in)	\$.70/sq. ft.
Knee Wall Insulation (batts)	\$.25/sq. ft.
Replacement Windows	No Incentive

Low-Income Residents: The financial incentives available for an eligible residence with a low-income occupant are listed below. For low-income residences, two or more PUD-Qualified Contractor bids are required.

<u>Measure</u>	<u>PUD Incentives</u>
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	\$4.50 - \$8.00/sq. ft.

It is to the homeowner's benefit to identify a low-income occupant (household income less than 125 percent of Federal poverty guidelines), because of the additional incentives available. Please contact the PUD Conservation Department at 360-577-7514 or Lower Columbia Community Action Council (CAP) at 360-425-3430 ext. 229 with any questions regarding the low-income referral required for this provision of the Weatherization Program.

It should be understood that funding for the Residential Weatherization Plus Program can change at any time. The financial incentives for the installation of any weatherization measures are subject to the availability of funding through the Bonneville Power Administration and, therefore, may not be available in the future. If funds are not available immediately, we can put the homeowner's name on a waiting list to be contacted if funding again becomes available.

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

PUD-Qualified Contractor List

This is a list of independent contractors who are presently approved by the District to perform weatherization measures under the Residential Weatherization Plus Program. These contractors have agreed to comply with the District's installation and material standards and specifications. Financial incentives are only available for PUD-authorized 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 District. The District 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 District does not specifically endorse or recommend any one contractor over another on the list. It should be understood that the contractor selected is the *homeowner's* contractor, and the work performed is for the homeowner. The District 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.

CONTRACTORS

Ashby Builders
P.O. Box 1870
Castle Rock, WA 98611
(360) 274-4061

Rister Insulation, Inc.
P.O. Box 371
Castle Rock, WA 98611
(360) 274-5361

Phil's Window Service
3303 Ocean Beach Highway
Longview, WA 98632
(360) 577-0248

PROGRAM MEASURES

Ceiling, floor & wall insulation
Air sealing
Replacement windows

Ceiling, floor & wall insulation
Air sealing
Replacement windows

Replacement windows

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

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.

