

Energy Services

Rebate and Loan Program: It's That Simple!

The best-kept secret in Klickitat County may be the rebate and loan program offered by Klickitat PUD (KPUD).

We are surprised by the number of customers who tell us they are not aware of our rebate program, or that KPUD is willing to lend money at 4.9-percent interest to install energy-efficient improvements.

We have inserted flyers in our customers' bills, run numerous newspaper ads and several radio ads, and many of our customers still are not aware of our programs.

Because we want all of our customers to be aware of the beneficial programs we have available, we just keep trying. So if you are interested in staying comfortable through these long, hot summers and the

chilly winters to come, read on.

When we explain to our customers how easy it is to borrow money, the most common question we hear is: "It's that simple?"

Yes, it is that simple. Any weatherization measure that qualifies for a rebate qualifies for the loan program. This includes installing a heat pump, insulation or new windows. Sealing ductwork and installing solar equipment also qualifies.

The loan is 4.9-percent fixed with up to seven years to repay, and a loan maximum of \$10,000. The only loan qualifications are that you have 12 months of good paying history with KPUD, you own or are buying the land your house sits on, and you have some type of income.

There is no down payment re-

quired and no prepayment penalties.

The only fee is \$45 for recording and releasing the lien to secure the loan.

To make this an even sweeter deal, you also get a rebate for the installation, which is taken off the amount of the loan.

Here is the small print: The rebate/loan program is for existing residences only with an electrical source as the primary heat. The reason is the conservation program is set up to reduce an existing electrical load.

If you are interested, call Miquette Ihrig in the Energy Services Department, (800) 548-8357 or (509) 773-7622, for a packet of information with rebate and/or loan information. ■

Demystifying Weatherization Terminology

Ever get lost when a contractor starts speaking about your home and its dynamics? Well, it is not rocket science if you know some of the common vocabulary used in the construction world.

Listed below is a handy glossary of heating and insulation terms.

Air-to-Air Heat Exchangers: A mechanical ventilation system that preheats cold incoming air by transferring it to heat from the warm outgoing air. This is used to maintain a structure's energy efficiency, while exhausting indoor air.

Conditioned Space: The space within a building that is heated or cooled by an active space heating

system.

Infiltration: Outside air that enters a structure through openings or cracks in the construction materials, especially windows and doors. "Design" infiltration in residences can range from about one-half air change to three air changes per hour, depending on how well the houses are built, caulked or weather stripped. Average air changes during the heating season are lower. Infiltration is a major cause of home heat loss.

R-Value: "R" stands for resistance to winter heat loss and summer heat gain. It is more accurate than inches in designating insulation performance. Even though one

type or brand of insulation is thicker or thinner than another, it will provide identical resistance to heat loss if the R-value is the same. R-values also can be added. If you now have R-11 attic insulation and you want R-30, you can add an insulation material rated at R-19.

Vapor Barrier: A material that retards the transmission of water vapor. It is rated in perms (permeance). The smaller the perm rating, the better the water vapor resistance. A good vapor barrier should have a perm rating no greater than 1.0. Polyethylene sheeting is most often used as a vapor barrier. Blanket and batt insulation often have an attached vapor barrier. ■