

STANWOOD energy CHALLENGE

The Stanwood Energy Challenge pulls together 16 Stanwood businesses, in 2 teams of 8, in a competition to see which team can save the most energy. The Challenge began February 3 and runs five months, through June 2014. Each team is equipped with a real-time energy monitor, an energy assessment, and energy-saving ideas they can use right away. Snohomish PUD sponsors the Challenge; PECE coordinates it. This is the eighth of 16 participant profiles.

Profile: Windemere

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Spokesman: Linda Gleadle



Why did your business decide to participate in the Stanwood Energy Challenge?

“The owners, Randy and Marla Heagle, are very philanthropic within the community. Randy was interested in the Stanwood Energy Challenge because of his connection with the community. If it’s good for the community, he wants to be involved. I think that was his main reason for joining. He’s also on the city council as a community representative, and he wants good things to come out of this community.”

What are your biggest energy users in the store?

“What we found during this process is the amount of energy our outdoor lighting uses. It’s on at night. We’re working with electricians and Snohomish PUD on switching out the current lighting to more efficient lighting. We’d replace our current T-12s with new LEDs, but they aren’t yet available.”



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Have you learned anything surprising or unexpected?

“The owners went through the process of changing the interior lights to LEDs, and we saw the benefit of that. Overall, the conversion to LED lighting was interesting.”

Are there other things you hope to get out of participating in the Stanwood Energy Challenge?

“The other thing that came out of the Energy Challenge is to understand how our thermostat is set. The thermostat in our office is locked up so nobody can touch it. But somebody needed to understand how that impacts energy use and be able to program it so it's most efficient and be able to change it with the seasons. I now understand our thermostat better and learned that it takes time to figure out what is comfortable for people in the office. There's a balance between making it comfortable and making it efficient.”

Any comments from customers or community about your participation in the Challenge?

“We have the iPad right on the counter as you come into our office. We don't get a lot of customers who come in and stand at the counter except those who come in to pay their rent. They've asked questions about it. I do think they're appreciative that we're conscious of the energy we're using because we manage the properties they live in. They see that we're paying attention to the details. We do get customers in the office who are selling or listing their property. It shows good participation in the community and that we pay attention to the environment.”

Any energy saving advice for other businesses in the community that may not be part of the Energy Challenge?

“Mainly to understand where you're using energy. That's a good benefit of what this program gave us. Learn about your thermostat. Learn about your energy users. You can save money. We've shown we can decrease our energy use by making these changes. Another thing we did was we had our HVAC serviced to make sure it was running efficiently.”

Any parting thoughts?

“We appreciate all the support we've received from James and from Snohomish PUD. James actually helped us learn how to use our own thermostat. It was really helpful. Thanks to them for their support.”



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