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March 2024

Spring Safety Moment - Call 811 Before Digging

Call 811 before you start any digging project, whether it's planting trees, installing fences, or even mailbox posts!

After you've made the call, allow a few business days for utilities to respond. They'll mark the approximate location of buried lines with paint or flags. It's crucial to wait until all utilities have marked their lines before breaking ground.



This national call-before-you-dig phone number ensures that you don't unintentionally dig into underground utility lines, which can be costly or even deadly.

Remind your family, friends, and coworkers to call 811 BEFORE starting a digging project!

Coming Soon: Trade Ally Connect (TAC)

We are working toward launching our new iEnergy platform that will allow contractors and customers to participate in our conservation programs directly. In the coming months, you will receive an email invitation requesting that you register through **Trade Ally Connect (TAC)**.

Trade Ally Connect will allow you to:

- Register your company and the contacts for your team
- Provide links to your website and social media platforms
- Access all program applications online, replacing Excel workbooks (no more versions)
- Store documents in the cloud - all users will have access to the version in progress
- View a list of all active projects, as well as a history of completed projects

- Track the progress of your projects, from submittal to verification to approval for payment
- Incentive and kWh savings numbers will be updated in real-time, reflecting accurate totals

We look forward to launching TAC soon! We're planning to offer virtual training sessions to help answer questions and guide you through the process. Look for emails announcing registration sometime in quarter 3 (July - September) of this year.

Comfort Ready Home: Spanish Language eLearning Course Now Available



This **online training** is designed for Spanish-speaking residential insulation, windows, HVAC, and high-efficiency water heating contractors and utilities interested in adding or improving their manufactured home floor/belly insulation sales and installation practices.

Reminders:

2024 Minimum Job Requirements

The minimum number of projects to stay in the program for 2024 is now two projects completed and paid. Contractors not meeting this requirement will be removed from the program for 2025.

2024 Program Changes

New workbooks became available on January 1. Please submit all projects completed in 2024 in the most recent versions. Changes include:

- Weatherization and Heating: **the PDI increased by \$25.00** (Weatherization is now \$125/application and heating is now \$175/application).
- We now provide a \$200.00 rebate for advanced smart thermostats listed on BPA's **Smart Thermostat Qualified Products List**. To receive the rebate the make and model number must be listed on the invoice along with credit for \$200.00.
 - Thermostats not on the QPL can qualify if they meet the requirements:
 - ENERGY STAR certification and additional info necessary to prove energy savings **OR** independent or manufacturer evaluation(s) demonstrating energy savings for a smart thermostat.
 - **AND** also have (in addition to evaluation or ENERGY STAR certification)
 - 7-day programmable or learning-based schedule
 - Wi-Fi enabled with remote access

- Built-in occupancy sensor
- Plug-in occupancy sensor packaged with wall unit
- Heat pump auxiliary heat control and optimization capabilities

We are compiling a list of thermostats to submit to BPA, requesting they be added to the QPL. Please send a copy of the specs for the manufacturer(s) you install to Ed, Aaron, or John and we'll request BPA add them to the QPL.

WA State HEAR Program:

Washington State recently launched the HEAR program. This program provides funding to administer enhanced rebates and incentives on qualifying measures in addition to utility funding. We have applied for HEAR Grant Funds, which will be awarded in mid-April, and can be used to support low and moderate-income Residential customers as well as small businesses.

As we get more information and funding, we'll be reaching out to our registered contractor base to help create and implement a plan to deliver those funds.

If you are interested in participating, please send John Petosa an **email** expressing your interest. I'll reach out once we know more. Questions—425-530-6603. Read below for more details, or visit the WA State **Commerce site**.

This is not part of the IRA Funding, we are continuing to work with WA State Commerce to understand how it will evolve.

Washington Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) Program

The State Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program provides grants to eligible third-party administrators to provide rebates and incentives to households and small businesses to purchase and install high-efficiency electric equipment and appliances.

What equipment and appliances are eligible for rebates?

Including but not limited to:

- Heat pumps for home heating (i.e., air-source, ground-source)
- Residential and commercial induction cooking equipment
- Heat pump water heaters
- Heat pump clothes dryers
- Electric panel and wiring upgrades required for installation of new electric equipment

All equipment must be ENERGY STAR certified or AHRI CEE North Region Certified.

How much funding is available?

A total of approximately \$77,600,000 from the State Climate Commitment Account will be available for eligible entities to administer rebates and incentive programs across Washington State. Commerce anticipates investing in the following sectors:

- \$37 million for Local Governments, including Cities, Counties, and Municipally Owned Utility Providers to administer rebates and incentives to LMI households and small businesses
- \$18.6 million to leverage the Federal IRA HEAR Program and existing relationships through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Weatherization Program, and Housing Trust Fund
- \$10 million in projects that install heat pumps in adult family homes
- \$12 million in projects directly administered or supported by Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, Tribal supporting entities, and Tribal partnership

Contact Info

- **Trade Ally Questions**
 - PUDTradeAlly@snopud.com
 - John Petosa
 - jfpetosa@snopud.com
 - (425) 783-8254 (desk)
 - (425) 530-6603
- **Program Questions**
 - John Petosa
 - jfpetosa@snopud.com
- **Technical Questions or Support**
 - Call an Energy Advisor at (425) 229-5598
 - ce@snopud.com (non-urgent)
- **Rebate Application Questions and Submittals**
 - ce@snopud.com

If you have any questions about:

Eligibility ...Equipment...Specifications...Sizing Calculator

CALL BEFORE YOU INSTALL: 425-229-5598!

Thank you for working safely for our customers!



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