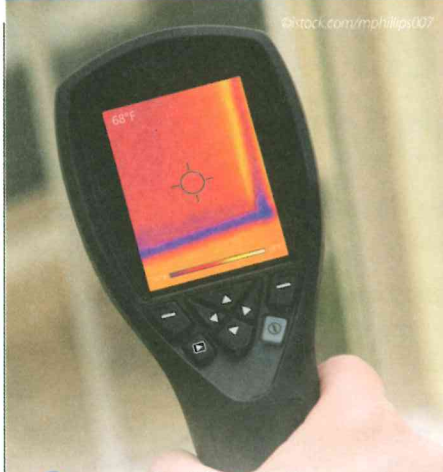


ENERGY EFFICIENT PROGRAMS



Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative's (OTEC) Energy Services team is tasked with an important job: demonstrate and educate members on how to conserve energy. OTEC's Energy Services Representatives' (EPR) are constantly on the phone, in the field visiting with members and vendors or in the OTEC community promoting energy efficiency methods and programs. One of the most important functions EPRs perform is to help members find ways to pay for upgrades in order to realize energy savings quickly.

The programs are funded primarily through Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a result of the

# Energy Services Department Program News

Pacific Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act that became law in 1980. This move was consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's regional power plan. Consequently, BPA is obligated to see that increased future energy demands are met primarily through energy conservation as opposed to building new generation facilities. Utilities are eager to help BPA achieve their goals because wholesale power costs are lower if a utility successfully keeps overall energy usage below BPA's needed thresholds, or the Tier 1 allocation. Lower utility demands in turn reduce demands placed on BPA's hydroelectric generators, equating to reduced need for new power plants.

As an added incentive, BPA utilities receive funds to cover a portion of internal costs required to administer local conservation programs. In addition to BPA monies, each year

OTEC budgets money for rebates to encourage members to make smart choices when installing a heating system or purchasing new appliances.

Like OTEC, electric utilities enter into agreements to participate in conservation programs and in doing so also agree to comply with BPA's program rules. The number and types of programs and the criteria to qualify for the rebates changes each year, which means EPRs must constantly be researching, studying and updating their knowledge to be ready to offer up-to-date and accurate information.

OTEC also offers rebates for energy efficiency projects outside BPA programs. Currently, OTEC adds cooperative funds to rebates for water heater replacements and offers a rebate for heat pumps, and mini-ductless heat pumps that are not eligible for BPA funding. ●

Since 1989, OTEC has offered energy efficiency and conservation programs that have become increasingly popular with our members. Here are the programs OTEC currently subscribes to that offer rebates through BPA.

**AGRICULTURE:**

- Sprinkler Packages
- Variable Frequency Drives
- Custom Projects
- Cattle Fountain Freeze Resistance Water Tanks

**NON-RESIDENTIAL:**

- Commercial Lighting Retrofit
- Custom Projects (Any project that does not fit under the deemed

rebate program and can prove to save energy)

**INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS:**

- Commercial Lighting Retrofit
- Custom Projects (Compressed air, variable frequency drives, HVAC and controls)
- Water and Sewer projects for city municipalities
- Variable Frequency Drives for potato and onion sheds

**RESIDENTIAL:**

- Water Heater and Energy Star Appliances
- Mini Ductless Heat Pumps
- Window Replacements
- Energy Star Manufactured Homes

Our members have greatly benefitted by taking part in these energy efficiency programs. An average of 5 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) are saved each year by consumers who participate in the programs. Not only do they benefit by lowering energy usage and their monthly energy bill, but also, the rebates are enough incentive to participate in the program. This brings new jobs to local contractors, which in return stimulates the local economy. It's a win-win, for the members, the vendors, OTEC and the local economy.

If you are interested in participating in an energy efficiency program, call your local OTEC offices to learn more.