



News Release

PSE Reminds Customers Low-Income and Other Assistance is Available for Heating Bills

Almost \$29 Million Available From PSE HELP and Federal LIHEAP Programs

BELLEVUE, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 14, 2009--As Washington state recovers from the recent winter cold weather and storms, Puget Sound Energy is reminding customers having trouble paying their heating bills that almost \$29 million in monetary assistance is available this year from two low-income programs administered by community service agencies that recently received increased funding from the PSE and the federal government. The utility also encourages customers to call PSE at 1-888-225-5773 to sign up for the balanced payment plan, which averages bills across a 12-month period.

PSE customers can also apply to The Salvation Army Warm Home Fund for emergency, short-term utility bill assistance. This fund is maintained by voluntary contributions from PSE employees, customers and shareholders. PSE customers should contact their nearest Salvation Army district office for more information about the Warm Home Fund.

"As we deal with this winter's unusually cold and wet weather, particularly during these challenging economic times, PSE wants customers to know that help is available," said Bert Valdman, executive vice president and chief operating officer for PSE. "This assistance, intended to help keep customers warm and stretch their budgets for other necessities like food and rent, was used by nearly 18,000 families last year. With increased funding this year, even more families should be able to get help paying their heating bills."

Depending on income and household size, a qualified low-income recipient can receive \$750 from PSE's Home Energy Lifeline Program, or HELP, and up to \$1,000 in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) bill credits.

The amount of HELP aid given to a PSE electricity or natural gas customer depends on household size, income, and energy usage. The program is open to residential customers with household earnings up to 150 percent of the federal poverty standard. For a family of four, the income cap is \$2,650 per month.

Both HELP and LIHEAP are administered by nonprofit community service agencies in each county PSE serves. HELP funds are available to PSE customers year-round while LIHEAP funds are available through June 30, 2009, or until the funding is exhausted.

HELP recently received a \$4.8 million boost in funding as requested by the utility and approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, which will provide nearly \$14.7 million in 2009 to help low-income households served by PSE pay their natural gas and electricity bills.

Additionally, the federal government in November 2008 doubled the dollars earmarked for LIHEAP. Community service agencies serving residents in PSE's 11-county Washington state service area will receive a \$14 million appropriation from LIHEAP this year, representing a 100 percent increase over the 2008 funding level.

PSE customers needing contact information for the nearest HELP or LIHEAP community service agencies should call toll-free, 1-866-223-5425 or the agency in their county listed below.

Community Service Agencies

Island County
Opportunity Council
360-679-6577
1-800-317-5427

Jefferson County
Olympic Community Action Programs
360-385-2571

King County
Multi-Service Center (for South King County)
1-800-348-7144

Hopelink (for North and East King County)
1-800-348-7144

Central Area Motivation Program (for Seattle)
1-800-348-7144

Kitsap County
Kitsap Community Resources
360-479-1507
www.kcr.org

Kittitas County
HopeSource
1-509-674-2375 (Cle Elum)
1-509-962-0435 (Ellensburg)
www.hopesource.us

Lewis County
Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason and Thurston counties
360-736-1800

www.caclmt.org

Pierce County
Pierce County Department of Community Services (county residents)
1-866-223-1359

Metropolitan Development Council (Tacoma residents)
253-572-5557

Skagit County
Skagit County Community Action Agency
1-360-428-1011

Snohomish County
Snohomish County Human Services Department
425-388-3880

Thurston County
Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason and Thurston counties
360-438-1100
www.caclmt.org

Whatcom County
Opportunity Council
360-255-2192
1-888-586-7293

Eligibility criteria to receive LIHEAP and PSE HELP funds
LIHEAP income limits*
Number in Household Monthly Income Limit

| | |
|----|---------|
| 1 | \$1,083 |
| 2 | \$1,458 |
| 3 | \$1,833 |
| 4 | \$2,208 |
| 5 | \$2,583 |
| 6 | \$2,958 |
| 7 | \$3,333 |
| 8 | \$3,708 |
| 9 | \$4,083 |
| 10 | \$4,458 |

PSE HELP income limits*
Number in Household Monthly Income Limit

| | |
|----|---------|
| 1 | \$1,300 |
| 2 | \$1,750 |
| 3 | \$2,200 |
| 4 | \$2,650 |
| 5 | \$3,100 |
| 6 | \$3,550 |
| 7 | \$4,000 |
| 8 | \$4,450 |
| 9 | \$4,750 |
| 10 | \$5,021 |

* Income limits are effective Oct. 1, 2008-Sept. 30, 2009. In most counties, household income can be up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level. The qualifying income is lower in Lewis, Jefferson, Kittitas, Whatcom and Skagit counties.

About Puget Sound Energy

Washington state's oldest and largest energy utility, with a 6,000-square-mile service area stretching across 11 counties, Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers. PSE, a subsidiary of Puget Energy (NYSE:PSD), meets the energy needs of its growing customer base primarily in Western Washington through incremental, cost-effective energy conservation, procurement of sustainable energy resources, and far-sighted investment in the energy-delivery infrastructure. PSE employees are dedicated to providing great customer service to deliver energy that is safe, reliable, reasonably priced, and environmentally responsible. For more information, visit www.PSE.com.

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Source: Puget Sound Energy