

City of Bellingham Green Building Incentives

Residential & Commercial

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There are a number of economic benefits to green building and low impact development strategies, including reduced operating costs, increased return on investment, increased productivity and human health, enhanced image and marketability, meeting regulatory requirements, and reduced liability. The City of Bellingham places a high priority on protecting the natural environment through sustainable development practices. Residential and commercial builders are encouraged to use green building programs as a guide for more sustainable projects

GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS

- Built Green Whatcom County: A certification program sponsored by the BIAWC for residential building projects
- LEED: A certification program sponsored by the US Green Building Council for new construction (residential and commercial) projects
- Each Northwest ENERGY STAR® qualified home qualified home has been built to meet energy efficiency guidelines set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency

Additionally, the City of Bellingham offers incentives to encourage the use of sustainable development and building practices:

- Free technical assistance
- Expedited building permit review
- Free green building program technical assistance
- For water conservation financial incentives and information sources, see www.cob.org. Search "indoor water conservation". A list of financial incentives and information sources (PDF) is available under the "*Appliances, Fixtures and Devices*" heading.



Low Impact Development Incentives

The City of Bellingham provides a variety of incentives to incorporate low impact development (LID) practices for managing stormwater onsite.

- Free design consultations with city staff
- Access to LID tools and resources
- Flexibility in code standards to allow for LID design strategies (e.g. reduced street widths and use of pervious pavement materials)
- Use of LID practices will help to meet criteria that could qualify a project for a 50% reduction in the stormwater development charges
- Reduced or eliminated need for large-scale stormwater infrastructure such as detention ponds and water quality treatment by providing smaller-scale LID techniques, thereby reducing stormwater infrastructure development costs
- Lower annual stormwater utility fees based on reductions in impervious surfaces on the property. For more information contact: Jason Porter, City of Bellingham Public Works jporter@cob.org

For more information please contact the City of Bellingham Building Green Team
(360) 778-8300 or planning@cob.org

CITY INCENTIVES

ENERGY INCENTIVES



Re-Energize your home or business with energy-saving rebates from Puget Sound Energy. On top of offering customers cost-saving energy efficiency programs and a nationally recognized Green Power Program, PSE is the largest utility owner of wind and solar generating facilities in the Pacific Northwest.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS & INCENTIVES

- **Homeowners**, retrofit projects - PSE.com/ForYourHome
- **Builders**, single-family new construction projects - PSE.com/BuilderIncentives
- **Commercial property owners** - PSE.com/ForYourBusiness
- **Multifamily property owners**, retrofits - PSE.com/MultifamilyRetrofit
- **Multifamily developers**, new construction projects - PSE.com/ForYourBusiness
- **Green Power program** - PSE.com/GreenPower

To learn more about PSE's conservation programs and what energy-efficiency rebates are available, call a PSE Energy Advisor at 1-800-562-1482 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Must be located within PSE's service area. All are tariffed services and subject to change or termination without prior notice. Additional qualifications apply.



Cascade Natural Gas helps homeowners implement energy efficiency improvements by providing cash rebates on qualified upgrades to space and water heating equipment, insulation, duct sealing, fireplace hearths, and/or clothes washers. The following incentives are available to approved residential participants who reside within the Cascade Natural Gas territory and use Cascade Natural Gas for their primary home heat-source.

- \$150 rebate for High-Efficiency Natural Gas Furnace
- \$400 rebate for High-Efficiency Natural Gas Furnace + PTCS Duct Sealing
- \$70 rebate for High-Efficiency Natural Gas Hearth
- \$800 rebate for High-Efficiency Combination Radiant Heating System with Tankless Delivery
- \$750 rebate for ENERGY STAR Plus Certified Home (Gas with or without A/C)

For additional details and updated rebates: http://www.cngc.com/conservation/conservation_residential_washington.asp

Questions? Please contact: Timothy Clark, Cascade Natural Gas Conservation Program
timothy.i.clark@lmco.com 425-877-9796



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ENERGY INCENTIVES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS & INCENTIVES (continued)

Community Energy Challenge



The Community Energy Challenge makes achieving energy efficiency as easy as possible from start to finish. The program provides each participating household and business with quality information, a full energy assessment, a customized energy action plan detailing cost-effective measures, assistance with utility and tax rebates, attractive and accessible financing opportunities, reliable contractors, and quality assurance. For a full list of incentives and additional details on how to sign up your home or business, please visit www.communityenergychallenge.com.

Renewable Energy Incentives



PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Puget Sound Energy, Net Metering & Production Metering Programs

PSE customers who generate their own electricity can reduce their need to purchase energy, and any excess they produce is fed back to the utility grid. PSE's net metering program provides a credit for this excess on the customer's monthly bill. Credits can be rolled forward each month and expire on April 30th, the end of the net metering year.

In addition to PSE's net metering program, customers who install approved solar, wind or biomass systems to generate electricity on their own property are eligible for state-sponsored economic development incentives through the utility. Each monthly bill shows energy generated, and the customer receives an annual payment of up to \$5,000.

For more information and eligibility contact: Jake Wade, Puget Sound Energy, jake.wade@pse.com, 425-462-3459

TAX INCENTIVES

Federal Energy Policy Tax Credits (consult a qualified tax accountant for details)

The following federal tax credits are available for energy efficiency measures on home improvement and new residential construction projects in 2011, and for renewable energy systems placed into service between 2008 -2016:

- Accelerated depreciation for qualifying renewable energy assets including wind, solar and geothermal equipment.
- A tax deduction of up to \$1.80 per square foot is available to owners or designers of new or existing commercial buildings that save at least 50% of the heating and cooling energy of a building that meets ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2001. Partial deductions of up to \$.60 per square foot can be taken for measures affecting any one of three building systems: the building envelope, lighting, or heating and cooling systems.
- Residential Energy Efficiency Property Tax Credit of up to 30% is available for primary residence homes.
- \$ 2,000 tax credit for builders of new energy efficient homes that achieve a 50% increase in efficiency over the 2004 International Energy Conservation Code. Available through 2011.

International Energy Conservation Code

- Tax credit up to 30% of the total cost of photovoltaic systems, thermal water heating, small wind energy and Fuel cells.

For more information, assistance and IRS forms contact the Tax Incentives Assistance Project: www.energytaxincentives.org



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TAX INCENTIVES

WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVES

City of Bellingham

City of Bellingham (COB) single family residential water customers who participate in the Community Energy Challenge are eligible for up to \$150 in rebate toward purchase and/or installation of qualifying indoor or outdoor water conservation measures. Water conservation measures potentially eligible for rebate include qualified water efficient clothes washers, high efficiency toilets, rainwater catchment systems and irrigation upgrades. Verify program requirements and product eligibility through COB Water Conservation program staff: aaccetturo@cob.org or ahood@cob.org.

State and Federal Programs

Various **State and Federal Programs** rebate programs are available to encourage purchase of water-saving home appliances. Before you purchase, check information on these websites to verify rules and qualifying models and to research product performance.

- The **WashWise Clothes Washer Rebate** program offers rebates of \$50, \$75, or \$100 for purchase of qualified resource-saving clothes washers. Rebate amount depends on the model purchased. www.washwiserebate.com
- **WaterSense** is a partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The website contains information to identify quality, water efficient products backed by independent testing and certification. www.epa.gov/watersense
- The **Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency** provides a comprehensive source of information on state, local, utility and federal incentives and policies that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. www.dsireusa.org
- **GreenerChoices.org** is maintained by Consumers Union, the non-profit publisher of Consumer Reports. The site provides reviews of many products and is a practical information source on buying “greener” products that have minimal environmental impact and meet personal needs. For clothes washer information, choose “*appliances*” under the “*green shopping*” heading. www.greenerchoices.org
- The **Alliance for Water Efficiency** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water. This website provides background information and reports on how well popular toilet models perform using “realistic test media.” Many of the models reviewed are WaterSense-certified high-efficiency toilets (HETs). [www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Maximum_Performance_\(MaP\)_Testing.aspx](http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Maximum_Performance_(MaP)_Testing.aspx)



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WATER INCENTIVES