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Conservation Programs

The following programs and services are designed to improve the resource efficiency of your home and business. Also take a look at our [Conservation Tips](#) for a list of energy and water saving ideas.

[Residential Efficiency Programs](#) - Appliance rebates, energy and water audits, woodstove removal, heating/air system leak tests, zero interest loans, weatherization and more

[Commercal Efficiency Programs](#) - Industry specific rebates or zero-interest loans, including lighting, solar, commercial kitchen installations, etc.

[Green Business Program](#) - The City of Ashland's Green Business Program is a voluntary program that encourages environmental stewardship while practicing economical and ecologically sound business practices. Flexible and attainable criteria are addressed for organizations of any size and type. Catagories include energy, water, waste management/recycling, toxic reduction, transportation and education.



Solar Electric (PV) Rebate Program This program is designed to encourage Ashland citizens and businesses to invest in photovoltaic generation installations by paying rebates for qualifying installations. Cash incentives offered by the City of Ashland for grid-connected solar electric systems are \$1.50 per watt for residential systems and \$1.00 per watt for systems installed on businesses up to a maximum of \$7,500.

In order to qualify, all of the following requirements must be met:

- 1) The system must be a net metered system interconnected with the City's electrical grid and must comply with all of the City's net metering requirements.
- 2) The owner of the system must enter into an Interconnection Agreement and Buyback Agreement with the City of Ashland.
- 3) The system must have adequate solar access: Systems must have total solar resource fractions (as per the Oregon Dept. of Energy Solar Electric Sun Chart Worksheet) of 75% and no shading by a tree between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- 4) The system must be installed with City Building and Electrical Permits and comply with all permit requirements.

Net Metering Policy

Ashland was the first utility in Oregon to adopt a net metering policy. Customers that invest in small-scale wind or solar electric systems will be compensated at full retail cost for excess electricity they produce.

Renewable Pioneers/Green Tag Program

Ashland utility customers can support clean, renewable energy by purchasing Green Tags from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). Each time an Ashland resident buys Green Tags, BEF will direct a portion of the purchase to local renewable energy projects such as installation of solar electric systems. To become a Renewable Pioneer, visit www.GreenAshland.org or call BEF toll-free at 1-866-233-8247.

In addition to these conservation programs, the Conservation Staff have put together a [conservation tips and info](#) section detailing additional ways to reduce resource consumption in

your home or business.

For more information on these programs and other services offered through the Conservation Division, please contact:

[Robbin Pearce](#) - Residential and Commercial Water Conservation, Air Quality, Street Trees, and Green Business Program. 541-552-2062

[Larry Giardina](#) - Commercial Energy Conservation and Solar Program. 541-552-2065

[Dan Cunningham](#) - Residential Energy Conservation and Conservation Analyst. 541-552-2063

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Water Tips

Follow these tips to save money and water.

Inside:

- Install an aerator on faucets to reduce the amount of water used by adding air to the water flow.
- Replace washers in faucets to eliminate drips. A dripping tap can waste eight bathtubs of water in one month.
- Install a low-flow showerhead to reduce water use. They have the same pressure as regular shower heads.
- Run only full loads in your dishwasher and clothes washer; wash in warm or cold water, not hot.
- Add a displacement device to the toilet tank reduce the amount of water in the tank. This tip save save as much as a 1/2 gallon per flush.
- Replace old toilets with low flow toilets to reduce and reduce the amount of water use by 1 to 3 gallons per flush.
- Be aware of the amount of water you use and look for ways to use less whenever you can.

Outside:

- Water landscaping early in the morning or evening to avoid rapid evaporation.
- Adjust sprinklers to water plants only (not pavement).
- Mulch around all plant material to reduce evaporation.
- Watch for runoff. Soil can only absorb so much moisture.
- Learn what types of grass, shrubbery and plans do best in your area and plant accordingly. Plant the right plants in the right places.

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