

Standards Raised for Air-Conditioning Efficiency

The federal government has significantly raised energy-efficiency standards for air conditioners.

But a recent survey indicates 90 percent of homeowners know nothing about the change in January.

The 2005 Home Air Conditioning Test by Emerson, an air-conditioning manufacturer, said only one out of 10 homeowners knows the seasonal energy-efficiency ratio (SEER) of their air conditioner.

The SEER rating is determined by dividing the air conditioner's total cooling output by the amount of energy it uses.

The Department of Energy's new energy-efficiency standards require that all air conditioners manufactured after January 23 must meet a minimum rating of 13 SEER, up 30 percent from the previous 10 SEER standard.

Some manufacturers are targeting the compressor—which pumps refrigerant through the system—when making improvements, resulting in quieter, lighter and smaller systems.

For homeowners, this means buying a new air conditioner this spring could reduce energy bills. ■



KPUD Urges You to Save With New Energy Bill Credits

Congress recently passed a sweeping energy bill that could save you \$500 or more.

You may qualify for a tax credit of up to 10 percent of the cost of making your home more energy efficient, if you do it during 2006 or 2007.

Adding insulation or energy-efficient windows and doors, for example, would qualify for a tax credit. Advanced main air circulating fans,

some furnaces and water heaters, and energy-efficient heat pumps and air conditioners also qualify.

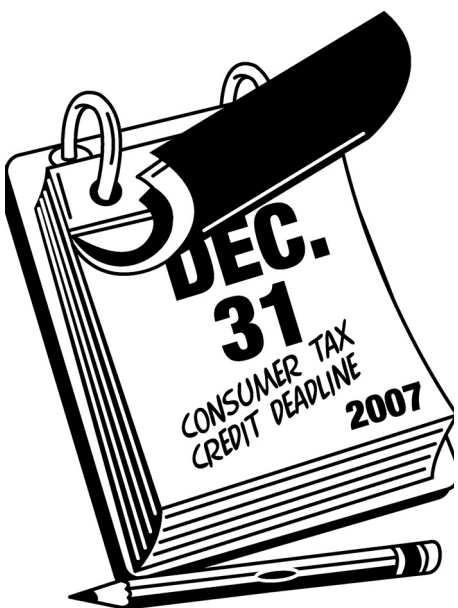
In addition, you could earn a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of adding a solar water heater or a solar electric system to your home, up to \$2,000.

The law specifically outlines how much of a credit you can earn for each kind of improvement, and it is full of limitations. Contact a tax professional for specific information about how you may benefit from the energy bill credits.

Do not put it off, however: The limited-time tax credit offer expires December 31, 2007.

"There are a lot of ins and outs to this legislation," says Tom Svendsen, general manager of Klickitat PUD.

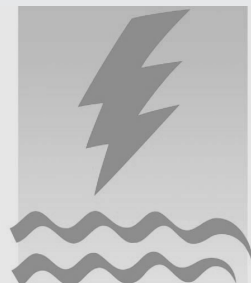
"In the long run, though, the consumer saves a little money on the installation of energy-efficient home improvements and also conserves energy because of the new efficiency. Alone, each is worthwhile. Combined, they could add up to some meaningful savings." ■



Help Us Observe Electrical Safety Month!

Klickitat PUD is celebrating Safe Drinking Water Week and National Electrical Safety Month, from May 1 through 5.

Customers are encouraged to visit the KPUD offices in Goldendale and White Salmon during "Open House" on Wednesday, May 3, for free refreshments and brochures. ■



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