

Conservation: Icing on the Cake

Klickitat PUD (KPUD) has worked with Bonneville Power Administration's Conservation Rate Credit Program for more than a year. One hundred and forty-seven customers have taken advantage of KPUD's rebate offers, with many using more than one.

Here is what KPUD customer Linda Bruce wrote about our program, after receiving rebates for windows and duct sealing:

About two years ago, we had the opportunity to purchase a house and 10 acres in Horse Heaven Hills, which placed us squarely in Klickitat County PUD territory. Imagine our delight not only that we are in KPUD country, but that we're only one-quarter mile from family, which thrills us to death.

As a KPUD customer, we receive Ruralite, which we thoroughly enjoy and regularly read cover-to-cover. In several issues I noted the energy conservation box, which gave ideas for applying all sorts of energy efficiencies around the house. I cut the article out for future reference, never dreaming I would be contacting KPUD for a conservation discussion within months of first seeing the article.

We love our new home, and you can't imagine the thrill of being surrounded by thriving grapes, especially when in full leaf or heavy with fruit. But the reality of a poorly maintained, previously owned home soon set in, and we quickly realized there was work to be done.

We decided to have the house resided, so we contacted a contractor in the Tri-Cities to do the work. The contractor suggested if we were thinking about replacing any doors or windows, this would be the time to do so, as it's much easier to do when old siding is removed and new siding put on. That's when the light bulb flashed, and I thought of the Ruralite article, which mentioned replacing windows and doors with

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Linda Bruce
KPUD customer

energy-efficient ones.

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We opted to utilize the KPUD low-interest loan program available to qualifying customers to finance the windows and doors, and it was absolutely easy. Sharon handled all the paperwork, explained everything in more detail than we ever wanted to know (they have to do that), and made the process seem simple and we got a rebate for installing energy-efficient products, not to mention the home energy-efficiency improvement tax credit from the federal government.

Who can ask for more than that? Especially when we were doing the project anyway, this was like icing on the cake!

When we had completed the project, we happened to be talking with Sharon about the mice that had taken up residence in the house and didn't seem inclined to move elsewhere. We had seen many, trapped many, chased many, even set furni-

ture outside with some in it. There were still more mice! We had deduced they were coming out of the furnace ducts, to which Sharon replied she might have a solution.

KPUD works with certified contractors who seal and test the airtightness of your house to determine if there are leaks in the ducting. We immediately contacted one of those contractors, who came out, examined our HVAC, found several—not just one or two, mind you—mouse nests, cleaned out the ducting and found a large hole in our duct work under the house, where the mice were obviously coming in.

We are pleased to report there have been no more mice, and this service was a lifesaver.

Needless to say, our overall experience with the Klickitat PUD Conservation Program has been a stellar one, and our utility bills prove it. As we continue to make upgrades and improvements to our home, we will continue to work with KPUD on additional energy conservation measures.

Thank you, Sharon, and to all the folks at KPUD, it's been a sheer pleasure. ■

For more ideas on how you can conserve energy or take advantage of the rebate program, call Sharon Ohnstad, Energy Services Specialist, at (509) 773-7622.