



Northwest SEED (Sustainable Energy for Economic Development) Project Coordinator Jill Eikenhorst educates community members about ductless heat systems. Northwest SEED offers discounted group installation rates in Klickitat PUD's service territory.

Photo courtesy of Northwest SEED

Efficiency Campaign Comes to Klickitat

Energize Klickitat campaign launches to save energy and support the local economy

By Jill Eikenhorst

Klickitat County residents soon will be able to learn about and buy discounted ductless heat pumps as part of a community-based energy-efficiency campaign called Energize Klickitat. Ductless heat pumps use 25 to 50 percent less energy than traditional electric heating systems, heat spaces more evenly, and provide air conditioning in the summer.

Energize Klickitat will help area homeowners and businesses cut energy waste and lower their bills, while supporting businesses to build the local economy. The project is a partnership between Northwest SEED, a regional nonprofit, and the Greater Goldendale Area Chamber of Commerce, with funding from the Department of Agriculture.

Participants will get a simplified process and lower prices by bundling their installations with other customers. A team of local volunteers will choose an installation contractor through a competitive bidding process. The selected contractor will offer discounted, transparent pricing to program participants who attend an educational workshop. In addition to the Energize Klickitat discount, participants may be eligible for Klickitat PUD rebates of \$800 to \$1,000.

Ductless heat pumps are highly efficient zonal heating and

cooling systems that have at least one head unit indoors—usually placed high on the wall—a compressor located outside, and a refrigerant line connecting them. These systems often are installed within a day because no ductwork is needed.

Businesses and homeowners interested in installing a ductless heat pump can attend one of three workshops March through May. Workshop attendees will learn about the technology, costs, incentives and maintenance. Workshops are set for the following dates and locations:

- March 28, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Maryhill Museum of Art.
- April 28 to 30, Goldendale Home Garden & Sportsman Show (date and time TBA).
- May 24, 6 to 7 p.m., Mt. Adam's Elks Lodge.

Workshops are free and open to the public. Residents and businesses in Klickitat County are eligible for the group discount. Register online at www.nwseed.org or call (509) 596-1181.

Northwest SEED educates, equips and empowers communities to develop their own energy solutions that provide real community benefits. As a nonprofit organization, Northwest SEED works directly with communities to identify practical solutions that support a sustainable local economy founded on locally owned energy. ■