

# Weatherization Assistance Programs

With the state that the economy is in, people are finding money scarce. Between paying the ever increasing utility bills, as well as mortgages or rent and any other thing that comes up, having the money to fix any problems like a leaky roof or replacing failing windows. What follows is a list of programs in the Pierce County area that can help lower the cost of renovating your home and help you save money.

## Rebuild it Together South Sound

### OUR PROGRAMS

Rebuilding Together South Sound has two programs. Our main program is Rebuilding Day, which takes place on the last weekend in April. We also have a Year Round Program that addresses home modification and emergency repairs.

### Rebuilding Day

All of our home repairs are completed on or around an annual event, National Rebuilding Day, the last Saturday in April. All year we prepare to address the repair needs of our applicants on this day. We visit qualified homes and start planning for the work day in April when all the repairs are done. Our House Captains work with builders to plan the work that will be done, what materials are required, and who will work on the team. Our amazing volunteers can do all kinds of repairs, from plumbing, electrical, and carpentry, to repairing roofs, windows, and flooring.

On Rebuilding Day everyone comes together. The homeowner and the volunteer crew roll up their sleeves and get to work! A large crew and a full day can transform a home.

To qualify for Rebuilding Day you must own your home, be low-income, reside in our service area (Pierce County, Federal Way, and Auburn) and be elderly, a person with a disability, or a family with children.

To see photos from past Rebuilding Day projects, visit our [Facebook](#) page. [Rebuilding Day Application](#)

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### Year Round

Our Year Round program includes home modification and emergency repairs.

Home modification is adaptation to the living environment intended to increase ease of use, safety, security and independence. Some examples of modifications are walk-in showers, grab bars, comfort toilets, wheelchair ramps and widened doorways to give added safety and mobility in the home and easier access to the community. These construction projects may require many steps and may not be accomplished in a day.

Emergency repairs are repairs that address leaking roofs, leaking plumbing, or loss of heat. Emergency repairs are considered on a case by case basis.

To qualify for the Year Round Program you must own your home, be low-income, reside in our service area (Pierce County, Federal Way, Auburn) and be elderly or a person with a disability. Applications for the Year Round Program are accepted at any time. [Year Round Application](#)

## **Ambassador Program**

Rebuilding Together South Sound is pleased to announce a new program for volunteers! This multi-faceted program integrates volunteers into our tiny office to assist with our big efforts.

Examples of Ambassadorial opportunities include representing Rebuilding Together South Sound at local fairs and to organizations/businesses or assisting with our two fundraisers (Golf tournament and Wine tasting). Ambassadors understand the goal, vision and mission of Rebuilding Together South Sound and can be called upon to represent the organization effectively to the public in a variety of ways. There is surely something to suit every wish if what you wish is to volunteer.

Ambassadors are required to attend a short orientation and will then receive alerts regarding opportunities via email. Nothing is required- if one wishes to volunteer one needs simply to reply to the e-mail.

## **Current RTSS Ambassador Opportunities:**

***Logistical assistance***- help get ready for National Rebuilding Day 2012 (Saturday April 28th, 2012).

***Safety Captain***- Be a safety Captain on National Rebuilding Day. This opportunity will require an additional online and in-person orientation.

***Be a photographer***- Enjoy taking photos? Help chronicle our National Rebuilding Day and Year Round efforts.

***Plan Quarterly Events***- Plan quarterly events to keep volunteers engaged with the mission of Rebuilding Together South Sound and one another. This could be a barbecue or just choosing a local establishment and making reservations.

***Client Evaluations***- Meet previous homeowners and follow-up with our repairs- How have they held up? Have you seen a change in your energy bills? Each of our home owners has a unique and wonderful story that will move you and help to fully understand the importance of our work.

## **Paint Tacoma Beautiful**

### **Eligibility requirements**

Applicants must be low-income senior (60 or older) or low-income disabled (on SSI) homeowners who are unable to do the work themselves. The homes must be owner-occupied, which means that the applicant must be living in the home and must be the owner (i.e., no rentals). Homes also must be in Tacoma or Pierce County.

### **Where's the catch?**

*There is none!* We know that it sounds too good to be true, and if you would like to contact some of the homeowners we've served, let us know.

This program is possible because of the generosity of hundreds of people in the community. The labor is all free (volunteers), and all paint and repair materials are purchased with funds that have been given to us for that purpose (See Donors and Contributors).

## **Selection process**

Members of the Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful Planning Committee will screen applicants and schedule appointments to look over proposed projects. **Proof of income will be required during the visit.** Applications will be rated according to a number of factors, including applicant's income and how badly the house needs to be painted. Those homes in greatest need of a paint job will have priority. The size of the house and the scope of the work involved also will be considered in the selection process. Homes needing extensive repair prior to painting will not be considered as there are no funds for major repairs. Some 2-story houses may be beyond the scope of our volunteers. Applicants will be notified by mid-July whether their home has been chosen.

## **Tacoma Power**

### **Get money to weatherize your home**

Your inefficient home may be costing you money. Tacoma Power can help you pay for and install efficient replacement windows, insulation and duct sealing so you can start saving energy and money, and increase the comfort and value of your home.

### **We can help pay for the work**

Tacoma Power offers rebates, zero-interest loans and grants to help you pay for the changes.

- Tacoma Power will pay up to \$3,450 when you insulate your ceilings, floors and walls and seal your heating air ducts.
- Tacoma Power will pay up to \$1,000 when you replace your inefficient windows.
- In most cases, any remaining cost can be financed with a seven-year, zero-interest loan.
- Qualifying low-income customers are eligible for a grant that typically covers the entire cost of new windows and insulation.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

You can participate in the weatherization program if you're a Tacoma Power customer, your home is electrically heated and was built before 1988. To qualify for new windows, your home must be fully insulated.

If your home has a historical designation or you live in a historic district, you may need a permit to complete your weatherization project. Click [here](#) to find out if your home fits into either of those categories, or contact the city or county in which you live.

Or, if you're renting an apartment, let your landlord or property manager know about rebates available to them and encourage them to [learn more](#). Rebates for multifamily properties apply to existing electrically heated multifamily buildings built before 1988 that are less than four stories in height and contain five or more dwelling units.

## **TAKE THE FIRST STEPS**

- Take a look at our [participating contractor list](#). Tacoma Power recommends getting at least two bids.
- Decide which contractor you want and sign bid forms
- Compete the weatherization application; submit it and your bid forms to Tacoma Power

## FORMS AND APPLICATIONS

Form/application type	Who should complete this form
<a href="#">Weatherization application instructions Application</a>	Anyone requesting weatherization work
<a href="#">Owner authorization form</a> (for non-income qualified property)	Owners of properties that are <b>not</b> income-qualified
<a href="#">Grant application instructions, income guidelines Grant application</a>	Owners or renters of property that may meet income qualifications
<a href="#">Owner authorization form</a> (for income-qualified property)	Owners of properties that are income-qualified

For more information about weatherization, please call (253) 502-8363 or e-mail [power@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:power@cityoftacoma.org).

## Puget Sound Energy – PSE

### Re-Energize Your Home and Get Rebates

Saving energy is good for you *and* the environment. Let PSE help you get started with money-saving offers\* on energy-efficient products and services. For personalized advice, call a [PSE Energy Advisor](#) at 1-800-562-1482, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Click here for a list of [rebate applications](#).

*\*Incentives apply to existing single-family properties with four attached units or less. For property owners of five or more attached units, [click here for rebates](#).*

- » [Jump to: Rebates for residential electric customers](#)
- » [Jump to: Rebates for residential natural gas customers](#)
- » [Jump to: Contractor Referral Service limited time offers](#)

### Rebates for residential electric customers

#### Heating systems

[Ductless heat pump \(1.0 ton minimum\): \\$1,200](#)

[ENERGY STAR® qualified geothermal heat pump: \\$1,500](#)

[Forced-air furnace to air-source heat pump conversion: \\$1,500](#)

[Air-source heat pump: \\$200 to \\$350](#)

[Heat pump sizing and lock-out control: \\$300](#)

For a limited time, [CRS-referred customers](#) who purchase and install qualifying home/water heating products, with PSE rebates ranging from **\$50 to \$1,500**, can now receive an evenly matched promotional offer of up to **\$500** from [participating contractors](#)

## **Water heating systems**

[ENERGY STAR qualified heat pump water heater](#): **\$500**

[Storage \(.94 energy factor or higher\)](#): **\$50**

[Waste-water heat recovery system](#): **\$250**

For a limited time, [CRS-referred customers](#) who purchase and install qualifying home/water heating products, with PSE rebates ranging from **\$50 to \$1,500**, can now receive an evenly matched promotional offer of up to **\$500** from [participating contractors](#)

## **Showerheads**

[WaterSense® labeled showerheads](#): **Up to \$10 off online or at retail stores**

[Premium-efficiency showerheads](#): **Free, when you take a short survey**

## **Appliances**

[Clothes washer](#): **\$50 to \$100**

[Refrigerator](#): **\$75**

[Pick-up and recycling of old refrigerators](#): **Free + \$30 cash back**

## **Electronics**

[Look for the "Energy Forward" label to find the most efficient electronics on the market](#)

## **Lighting (instant in-store discount)**

[Compact fluorescent light \(CFL\) bulbs](#): **Up to \$3**

[CFL fixtures](#): **Up to \$12**

[LED bulbs](#): **Up to \$10**

## **HomePrint™ Assessment**

[In-home overview of your home's energy use](#): **Free**

## **Home Performance with ENERGY STAR**

[Comprehensive energy performance evaluation and three-step rebate process](#): **\$450**

## **Converting to natural gas**

[Home and water heating](#): **\$1,950 to \$3,950**

[Home heating only](#): **\$500 to \$2,500**

[Water heating only](#): **\$950**

## **Insulation**

[Floor insulation](#): **50 percent of the cost, up to \$400**

[Attic insulation](#): **50 percent of the cost, up to \$400**

[Wall insulation](#): **50 percent of the cost, up to \$400**

[Duct insulation](#): **50 percent of the cost, up to \$200**

[Duct sealing](#): **Free** for qualifying customers

## **Windows**

Windows, electric only: **\$5 per square foot, up to \$750**

For a limited time, CRS-referred customers who purchase/install a minimum of five ENERGY STAR windows can now receive a promotional offer of **\$100 per window, up to \$1,500**, from participating contractors

## **Manufactured homes**

ENERGY STAR qualified manufactured home: **\$300**

Energy upgrade program for existing manufactured homes: Free

## **Rebates for residential natural gas customers**

### **Heating systems**

ENERGY STAR qualified boiler (95 percent AFUE): **\$350**

ENERGY STAR qualified forced-air furnace: \$100

Fireplace: \$200

For a limited time, CRS-referred customers who purchase and install qualifying home/water heating products, with PSE rebates ranging from \$50 to \$1,500, can now receive an evenly matched promotional offer of up to \$500 from participating contractors

### **Water heating systems**

ENERGY STAR qualified tankless: **\$150 to \$200**

ENERGY STAR qualified storage (.67 energy factor or higher): \$100

For a limited time, CRS-referred customers who purchase and install qualifying home/water heating products, with PSE rebates ranging from **\$50 to \$1,500**, can now receive an evenly matched promotional offer of up to **\$500** from participating contractors

### **Showerheads**

WaterSense labeled showerheads: **\$10 off**

## **Home Performance with ENERGY STAR**

Comprehensive energy performance evaluation and three-step rebate process: **\$450**

## **Insulation**

Floor insulation: **50 percent of the cost, up to \$400**

Attic insulation: **50 percent of the cost, up to \$400**

Wall insulation: **50 percent of the cost, up to \$400**

Duct insulation: **50 percent of the cost, up to \$200**

Duct sealing: **Free** for qualifying customers

## **Manufactured homes**

[ENERGY STAR qualified manufactured home](#): **\$150**

[Energy upgrade program for existing manufactured homes](#): **Free**

## **Contractor Referral Service (CRS) limited time offers**

### **Heating and water heating systems**

For a limited time, [CRS-referred customers](#) who purchase and install qualifying home/water heating products, with PSE rebates ranging from **\$50 to \$1,500**, can now receive an evenly matched promotional offer of up to **\$500** from [participating contractors](#)

### **Windows**

For a limited time, [CRS-referred customers](#) who purchase/install a minimum of five ENERGY STAR windows can now receive a promotional offer of **\$100 per window, up to \$1,500**, from participating contractors. Qualifying customers can also receive up to an additional [\\$750 PSE rebate](#).

## **Energy Star**

### **Tax Credit**

10% of cost up to \$500 or a specific amount from \$50-\$300

Expires December 31, 2011

Must be an existing home & your principal residence. New construction and rentals **do not** qualify.

### **Biomass Stoves:**

Biomass stoves burn biomass fuel to heat a home or heat water. Biomass fuel includes agricultural crops and trees, wood and wood waste and residues (including wood pellets), plants (including aquatic plants), grasses, residues, and fibers.

**Tax Credit Amount:** \$300

**Requirements:** Thermal efficiency rating of at least 75%

### **Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning (HVAC)**

An advanced Main air circulation fan is an efficient fan, or blower motor which blows the air that your furnace heats up through the duct system.

**Tax Credit Amount:** \$50

**Requirements:** Must use no more than 2% of the furnace's total energy

### **Insulation**

Adding adequate insulation is one of the most cost-effective home improvements that you can do.

**Tax Credit Amount:** 10% of the cost, up to \$500

**Requirements:** Typical bulk insulation products can qualify, such as batts, rolls, blow-in fibers, rigid bards, expanding spray, and pour-in-place. Products that air seal (reduce air leaks) can also qualify, as long as they come with a Manufacturers Certification Statement, including:

- Weather stripping

- Spray from in a can, designed to air seal
- Caulk designed to air seal
- House wrap

Tax credit does **NOT** include installation costs. But, you can install the insulation/home sealing yourself and get the credit.

### **Roofs (Metal & Asphalt)**

Qualified roof products reflect more of the sun's rays, which can lower roof temperature by up to 100°F, decreasing the amount of heat transferred into your home.

**Tax Credit Amount:** 10% of the cost, up to \$500

#### **Requirements:**

“Metal roofs with appropriate pigmented coatings” and “asphalt roofs with appropriate cooling granules” that also meet ENERGY STAR requirements.

### **Water Heaters (non-solar)**

Gas, oil, propane water heaters. Water heating can account for 14%-25% of the energy consumed in your home.

**Tax Credit Amount:** \$300

**Requirements:** Energy factor greater than or equal to 0.82 **OR** a thermal efficiency of at least 90%

### **Fenestration (Windows & Doors)**

Windows, doors, and skylights. Energy efficient windows, doors and skylights can reduce energy bills.

**Tax Credit Amount:** 10% of the costs, up to \$500, but windows are capped at \$200

**Requirements:** Must be Energy Star qualified

### **Tax Credit**

30% of cost with no upper limit

December 31st, 2016

Existing homes & new construction qualify. Both principal residences and second homes qualify.

Rentals **do not** qualify.

### **Geothermal Heat Pumps**

Geothermal heat pumps are similar to ordinary heat pumps, but use thground instead of outside air to provide heating, air conditioning and, in most cases, hot water. Because they use the earth's natural heat, they are among the most efficient and comfortable heating and cooling technologies currently available.

#### **Requirements:**

Closed Loop:

EER greater than or equal to 14.1

COP greater than or equal to 3.3



Open Loop:

EER greater than or equal to 16.2

COP greater than or equal to 3.6

Direct Expansion:

EER greater than or equal to 15

COP greater than or equal to 3.5

Tax credit includes installation costs

### **Small Wind Turbines (Residential)**

A wind turbine collects kinetic energy from the wind and converts it into electricity compatible with a home's electrical system.

**Requirements:** Must have a nameplate capacity of no more than 100 kilowatts.

### **Solar Energy Systems**

Solar water heaters come in a wide variety of designs, all including a collector and a storage tank, and all using the sun's thermal energy to heat water. Solar water heaters are typically described according to the type of collector and the circulation system.

**Requirements:** At least half of the energy generation by the "qualifying property" must come from the sun. The system must be certified by the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC) or a comparable entity endorsed by the government of the state in which the property is installed.

Note: The credit is not available for expenses for swimming pools or hot tubs. The water must be used in the dwelling. Photovoltaic systems must provide electricity for the residence, and must meet applicable fire and electrical code requirements. Tax credit includes installation costs.

### **Tax Credit:**

Credit Details: 30% of the cost, up to \$500 per 0.5 kW of power capacity

December 31, 2016

Existing homes & new construction qualify. Must be your principal residence. Rentals and second homes **do not** qualify.

### **Fuel Cells (Residential Fuel Cell and Microturbine System)**

Fuel cells are an important enabling technology for the hydrogen economy and have the potential to revolutionize the way we power our nation, offering cleaner, more-efficient alternatives to the combustion of gasoline and other fossil fuels.

**Requirements:** Efficiency of at least 30% and must have capacity of at least 0.5 kW.

Tax Credit includes installation costs.

[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax\\_credits.tx\\_index](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index)