



NEWS

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Energy Trust of Oregon expands efforts to provide energy monitors for checkout at 154 Oregon libraries

Plug-in tool helps find energy-saving opportunities around the house

PORTLAND, Ore. — November 27, 2012 — From the entertainment center in the living room to the fridge in the kitchen or clothes washer in the basement, electronics and household appliances compete for hundreds of energy dollars at home. Knowing which ones are the biggest culprits is a great first step to making changes to save on the monthly energy bill.

To help Oregonians discover savings opportunities in their own homes, Energy Trust of Oregon teamed up with the Oregon State Library in 2010 to provide Kill A Watt® energy monitors that can be borrowed, like a book, at more than a hundred libraries around the state. Now, the popular offering has expanded to 21 additional locations, including libraries in central, eastern and southern Oregon, on the coast and around the Willamette Valley area.

“Using these energy monitors is eye opening and a great way to learn where household energy costs can be trimmed,” said Marshall Johnson, residential program manager, Energy Trust. “We are excited that so many library patrons throughout the state have an opportunity to try it out for themselves.”

The Kill A Watt is simple to use: plug it into an electric socket, then plug the electronic device to be measured into the Kill A Watt. The monitor shows how much energy the device is using in kilowatt hours, the same measurement used on electricity bills. Those numbers can be calculated to show energy costs by hour, day, month or year.

Using the results from the Kill A Watt, households can make adjustments to reduce their overall energy use and lower monthly utility bills. The monitors can help identify older appliances that may be costing a bundle to keep around or reveal hidden energy wasters, like electronics that still draw power even when they are turned “off.” This “phantom power” can be 5 to 15 percent of a home’s electricity use and can often be prevented by unplugging a device or using a power strip to cut power completely.

Monitors at the library are packaged with directions and tips, plus advice on how to apply the information learned to start saving energy.

“Our public libraries have always helped to provide knowledge and free resources to the communities we serve,” said MaryKay Dahlgreen, state librarian, Oregon State Library. “Together with Energy Trust, we are able to help patrons gain better knowledge about their energy use as well.”

Kill A Watt monitors are now available at 154 public libraries around Oregon, including all 19 Multnomah County Library locations — Oregon's largest library. The Oregon State Library estimates that more than 2.7 million patrons have access to the new energy-saving tools.

A complete list of participating libraries and more information about the Kill A Watt monitors can be found at www.energytrust.org/checkoutsavings. Libraries within Energy Trust's electric service territories, which are served by Portland General Electric and Pacific Power, are eligible to take part.

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and tapping renewable resources. Our services, cash incentives and energy solutions have helped participating customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas save more than \$1 billion on energy bills. Our work helps keep energy costs as low as possible, creates jobs and builds a sustainable energy future. Learn more at www.energytrust.org or call 1-866-368-7878.

The Oregon State Library in Salem has been working to develop and improve library services for all Oregonians since 1905. The State Library provides information and research to state government agencies and serves blind and print-disabled Oregonians with talking book and Braille library services. To learn more about the State Library go to www.oregon.gov/osl.

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