



DISHIN' OUT EFFICIENCY: HVAC UPGRADES CUT UTILITY COSTS

NEW DUCTLESS HEAT PUMP AND SMART THERMOSTAT IMPROVED CUSTOMER COMFORT WHILE CONSERVING ENERGY

PROJECT-AT-A-GLANCE

Equipment installed

- Three ductless heat pumps
- One commercial smart thermostat

Financial analysis

- \$8,400 project costs
- \$1,300 cash incentives
- \$320 estimated annual utility bill savings

Estimated annual energy savings

- 2,200 kWh

Benefits

- More comfortable environment for customers
- Reduced energy consumption and costs
- More reliable heating and cooling performance

The owners of The Dirty Cowgirl food truck made the jump to a brick-and-mortar restaurant in 2022. Since then, the newly renamed Dirty Cowgirl Saloon has become a gathering place where the Wasco community and travelers alike can enjoy a hot meal and a cool beverage.

“When we bought the building, there were so many things I wanted to do to fix it up,” said Celeste Jackson, one of The Dirty Cowgirl Saloon’s owners. She turned to Energy Trust of Oregon and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to help cover the cost of new a ductless heat pump (DHP) and commercial smart thermostat.

The Dirty Cowgirl Saloon’s new equipment qualified for \$1,300 in Energy Trust cash incentives, which, combined with the REAP grant, funded just over half of the upgrade. Without the incentives or grant, Jackson and her business partner would have taken on debt or waited until they had more money to make the upgrades, risking additional challenges as they rolled into the busy summer months. “Project costs add up, so any funding we can get is a big help,” said Jackson.

A DHP was the obvious choice when it came to replacing their HVAC equipment because it provides both heating and cooling. The new equipment performs consistently and will save the business over \$200 a year on utility costs.

A newly installed commercial smart thermostat optimizes the DHPs by leveraging advanced programming, scheduling, and remote access features for enhanced efficiency and control. In addition to improved temperature regulation, the smart thermostat will save the owners of The Dirty Cowgirl Saloon over \$100 on utility bills annually. “Every penny we save on our utilities gets us that much closer to our next upgrade,” said Jackson.

An Energy Trust energy advisor helped the owners of The Dirty Cowgirl Saloon prioritize equipment upgrades based on how much energy they could save the business as well as the availability of cash incentives. This coaching gave Jackson an idea of how much the business can expect to save on energy costs with each potential project.



Out of all the programs we’ve participated in, Energy Trust had the simplest process. There’s no reason not to look into it if you’re making a big purchase.



**Celeste Jackson, co-owner,
The Dirty Cowgirl Saloon**



Learn more about available incentives for Oregon businesses by visiting www.energytrust.org/existingbuildings.

Email existingbuildings@energytrust.org or call **1.866.605.1676** to get in touch with a team member today.

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