

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



ENERGY PROGRAM

Community Energy Efficiency Program Update

The WSU Energy Program continues to build on the success of the Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) that was launched in 2009. Designated by the Washington State Legislature, this program created more interest and uptake in weatherization measures and successfully encouraged other efforts and programs in this area from utilities and others. In fact, the direct spending of CEEP has leveraged more than one dollar of other funding for every state dollar spent. CEEP provides support to homeowners and small businesses across the state so that they can make energy efficiency upgrades to existing residences and commercial buildings. This weatherization work is targeted at middle income residents and businesses. Since its launch, this effort has forged new ground in Washington in the weatherization arena and tested new ideas and technologies.

CEEP focuses on households and businesses that existing energy efficiency enhancement programs have had a harder time serving – including low to moderate income households, rental housing, manufactured housing, homes heated with oil/propane/wood, and small businesses. Since 2009, over 40,000 people have been served by CEEP.

This biennium, we have five CEEP Community Partners – Avista Corporation (Utility), Clark Public Utility District, Opportunity Council (Non-Profit), Puget Sound Energy (Utility), Sustainable Living Center (Non-Profit).

- Avista serves Asotin, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman Counties. Avista is currently partnering with four Community Action Agencies (CACs). The partnerships between Avista, CEEP and the CACs have provided enough funding to perform substantial weatherization upgrades to 14 multifamily complexes (233 total units) this past biennium. These complexes would have never been considered for this level of improvement without the combined funding from Avista, CEEP and the CACs.
- Clark Public Utility serves Clark County. Clark partners with their Low Income Department (Com Care) to income qualify moderate income clients who need weatherization assistance but do not qualify for low income services. They target households that are considered Aging in Place (retirees and fixed-income clients). CEEP and Clark PUD share a 50/50 cost for weatherization projects.
- The Opportunity Council serves Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan counties. The Opportunity Council also works with six different utilities in their territories; Puget Sound Energy, Cascade Natural Gas, Orcas Power and Light, Snohomish County PUD, City of Blaine and the City of Sumas. Their focus on whole home weatherization for low-moderate income households includes both single and multi-family housing.

- Puget Sound Energy (PSE) serves Whatcom, Pierce, Lewis, King and Kittitas Counties with services through CEEP. PSE in partnership with CEEP and CACs completed four Community Solar projects in Whatcom, King, and Kittitas counties on moderate income multifamily complexes. The solar installations will result in a reduction in utility costs and support other services to residents in the complexes. PSE in partnership with CEEP and CACs is testing a Manufactured Housing Replacement Pilot. Four manufactured homes in Pierce, Lewis, King, and Whatcom County are undergoing qualification, removal and replacement of pre-1970s manufactured homes that are beyond repair. This test is one of three in the Pacific Northwest that is helping define and understand how to serve this challenging housing segment.
- Sustainable Living Center (SLC) serves Walla Walla, Franklin and Columbia Counties. SLC works with five utilities in their territory; Pacific Power, Columbia REA, Cascade Natural Gas, Franklin PUD and Big Bend Electric. The CEEP grant supports incentives for weatherization work with a focus on hard to reach targets.