

Union-label green jobs — in your attic — for no money down

In terms of “bang for the buck,” the most important green jobs of the future look a lot like the low-tech home insulation jobs of the past. That’s because dollar-for-dollar, home insulation is the cheapest way to reduce energy use and combat climate change.

But the jobs don’t have to be low-wage too. In a state-sponsored program now entering its third year, workers earn

a living wage insulating attics and walls, and Portland-area homeowners even have the option to choose union-signatory contractors.

The program, Clean Energy Works Oregon, uses in-program financing and rebates of up to \$1,500 to eliminate upfront costs for homeowners. Homeowners who take out loans through the program have the option of paying them back on their utility bills.

And two contractors participating in the program — Abacus Energy Solutions and Faison Energy Solutions — are signatory contractors employing members of Laborers Local 296.

“It’s not rocket science, insulating a

home, so people tend to get paid a lower rate,” said Abacus owner Jim Plantico. But thanks to a Clean Energy Works Oregon requirement that participating contractors pay at least 180 percent of Oregon’s minimum wage, workers earn at least \$16.11 an hour. As a union-signatory contractor, Plantico said, Abacus pays 3 percent over that to cover union dues, and offers a better set of health benefits through the union health trust, plus paid holidays and vacation.

Plantico said Abacus also uses union subcontractors on furnace and duct work, such as Milwaukie Heating and Cooling, an HVAC contractor signatory with Sheet Metal Workers Local 16.

Homeowners can plug into the program and get a union-signatory energy audit at weatherizeforgood.org or by calling 503-893-9240.



Rochelle Sadler, a member of Laborers Local 296, blows insulation in the attic of a 1986 home in Portland’s St. Johns neighborhood. She is one of 10 full-time employees at Abacus Energy Solutions. The homeowners — Oregon AFSCME lobbyist Eva Rippetateau and her husband, AFSCME international field coordinator Andy Chavira — chose Abacus because it’s a union shop. Chavira said \$4,500 of blown fiberglass attic insulation, air sealing, and HVAC improvements will cut their energy bill — and make a couple of chilly rooms more comfortable.



We Shop the Insurance Companies for You!

We’ll find the right coverage at the best price for all your personal insurance needs.

- Independent agency
- Fully union owned by Teamsters Federal Credit Union

Insurance Agency

503-251-2398

Toll Free 866-312-2399

www.cuinsuranceagency.com

Hearing on paid sick leave pushed back to March 7

A second public hearing on a proposed sick leave ordinance by the Portland City Council has been pushed back to March 7. Initially, earned sick leave was supposed to come up for a second hearing Feb. 27 and then up for a final vote in early March. Instead, the second hearing on a revised version of the ordinance will be held Thursday, March 7, at 3 p.m.

A final vote will follow on a later date.

... SPEEA split decision in Boeing

(From Page 1)

ber 2011. During that time the union has filed three unfair labor practice (ULP) charges against Boeing. The most recent was Feb. 13, after company security, acting on management orders, banned engineers and technical workers from leafletting at the Everett factory. The actions are in addition to reports of managers holding mandatory

meetings with employees to interrogate and intimidate them regarding the contract votes. The other ULPs relate to Boeing taking surveillance photographs of employees marching last year inside and outside the factory, and for seizing employee cameras and photographs of union marches.

All of the charges are pending before the National Labor Relations Board.

Meantime, SPEEA and Boeing met Feb. 27 (after this issue went to press) under the auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to “explore settlement options.”

Boeing has said its previous proposal was the company’s “best and final offer.”

“There are pathways to a negotiated agreement available,” Goforth said prior to the talks. “With this second re-

jection by technical workers of Boeing takeaways, it’s time for the company to stop wasting resources and improve its offer to reflect the value and contributions technical workers bring to Boeing. That way, we can avoid a strike and focus on fixing the problems of the 787 and restoring customer confidence in Boeing.”

Boeing tried to build its Dreamliner 787 passenger jet on the cheap by outsourcing much of the work. After experiencing yearslong delays, the Dreamliner is currently grounded because of problems with the plane’s lithium-ion batteries.

Boeing currently is enjoying record profits, a completely funded pension plan, 4,200 airplanes on backorder, and \$20 billion cash on hand, the union said.

Is Primary Care Obsolete?

NOT AT FANNO CREEK CLINIC.

We still believe that long-term relationships between patients and physicians provide the best medical care, and are committed to caring for our patients even after they turn 65 and go on Medicare.

It would be wrong not to.

Meet Fanno Creek Clinic’s Newest Providers



Nicholas Kuhn, MD

Susan Yeh, MD

Louise McHarris, DO

Gloria Frandsen, LCSW



Now Accepting New Patients and Most Major Insurance Plans

FANNO CREEK CLINIC
2400 SW VERMONT ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97219

503-452-0915

WWW.FANNOCREEK.COM

Tired of Working in PAIN?

Most Insurance Plans Accepted!

PROUDLY SERVING PORTLAND WORKERS FOR OVER 29 YEARS

Beeson Chiropractic helps bring the relief you need!

- ♦ Treatment for pain due to overuse and repetitive motion
- ♦ Chiropractic adjustments
- ♦ Treatment for accident and sports-related injuries
- ♦ Rehabilitation exercises
- ♦ Therapeutic massage
- ♦ Internal diagnosis and treatment
- ♦ Lab tests and x-rays



Dr. Dan Beeson, Chiropractor
7215 SE Thirteenth Ave. in Sellwood

CALL 503-238-7025