

HOW WE WAKING

Weatherization Reduces Heating Costs

More than 270 Portland homeowners and renters on limited incomes are cutting their electrical bill by about 20 percent, thanks to a weatherization program recently completed by Pacific Power.

The utility offered free energy efficiency measures to families in need. The program, which began in January of last year, resulted in the weatherization of 3,000 homes and apartments throughout Oregon.

"In a very short period of time, this program helped a considerable number of families lower their energy bills while adding comfort to their homes," said Carl Talton, Pacific Power manager. "On average, we were able to shave about 20 percent off each home's energy bill."

Under the program, homes received energy-efficiency measures such as ceiling and floor insulation, door weatherstripping, thermostats, water heater and pipe insulation, energy saving showerheads and faucet aerators.



A worker installs insulation in a northeast Portland home as part of a weatherization program by Pacific Power.

"Although we've completed this program, we have other programs to help all of our residential customers with their energy needs," Talton said. For more information about saving energy, you can call the Pacific Power Energy Services Hotline at 1-800-222-4335.

City Housing Plan Recognized

Strategies for Fair Housing, a city of Portland plan for increasing housing opportunities for disabled and homeless people, has been awarded both national and state awards from the American Planning Association for Outstanding Planning.

The project was spearheaded by commissioner Gretchen Kafoury in 1992 to respond to policies and regulations that made it difficult to locate critical housing in the city.

An 18-member citizens' task force met for over a year to make recommendations for improving the siting process.

Staff from the Bureau of Housing and Community Development and the Bureau of Planning facilitated the work and crafted the strategy, which was adopted by the city council in late 1993.

"This is quite an honor," Kafoury said.



Oooh So Good! Workers at the Albina branch of Oregon Adult and Family Services went all out recently to prepare a special luncheon to celebrate Cultural Awareness Day and Black History Month. (Photo by Donn Thomas)

The Portland Observer

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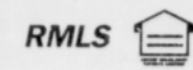
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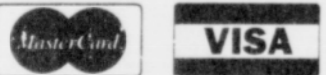
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