

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer, General Manager,
West Oregon Electric Cooperative



Energy Assistance Gets a Boost

Thanks to Five Star Builders, Oregon Heat, the Staff and Board of Directors of WOEC, and a coming visit from Santa Claus, energy assistance available for members of West Oregon Electric Cooperative just got better. Generous donations have increased the amount of funds that

will be available to our members.

Santa Claus will again visit WOEC to help raise funds for our "Care to Share" energy assistance program. Thanks to a generous donation by Five Star Builders the first 50 people will get the initial \$5 photo FREE. Santa will be available for keepsake photographs on December 8th, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and on the 9th and 10th from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the new WOEC office. These special photographs are full color and make great gifts for the holidays. They are the same price for individual, family, group photos. All proceeds raised from the sale of photographs will go directly to help families in the Co-op service area who need assistance with their electric bills. For more information, call the WOEC office at 503-429-3021 and ask for Sarah or Kellie.

Oregon Heat had a very successful fund raising event at their annual fund raising banquet on October 1st. This year we set a new high raising funds for energy assistance. The WOEC Board of Directors donated \$5,000 this year to Oregon Heat which goes to help our members. The Co-op will be including envelopes in one of the upcoming billings so that individual members of our Co-op can donate to the Oregon Heat program. The dollars donated to Oregon Heat will be spent on Co-op members only, so you know that your donation will definitely go to help out a friend, family member, neighbor, or other family or individual in need of energy assistance. You can truly be the difference in whether or not someone in need has lights and heat this winter.

For those of our members who find themselves in a difficult situation and are unable to pay their electric bill, please call the West Oregon Electric Cooperative office before you get disconnected for non-pay. We would like to help by making payment arrangements with you. If you are disconnected, the costs increase and you will have to pay all past due amounts up front to get your power back on.

Oregon Heat, St. Vincent De Paul, and WOEC's Care to Share energy assistance funds are available to qualifying members. If you are in need of assistance paying your electric bill, please call Mary at 503-366-8014.

For those members who are able to help others who are in need, Oregon Heat envelopes will be provided in upcoming WOEC billings. Please donate to help other West Oregon Electric Co-op members.

If you are on a fixed or limited income and need help paying your electric bill, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) may be your answer. LIEAP funds are used to help pay electric, oil, wood, natural gas or propane heating bills.

Eligibility is based on the number of people and total gross income within a household. Gross income is money from all sources before taxes and other deductions. To qualify, a household must meet federal income guidelines.

A list of utilities, state and local social service agencies, community and charitable organizations, and other resources, are on the Department of Energy's web site at www.oregon.gov/energy, or call 1-800-221-8035.

To learn more about the LIEAP or to schedule an appointment, call one of these numbers:

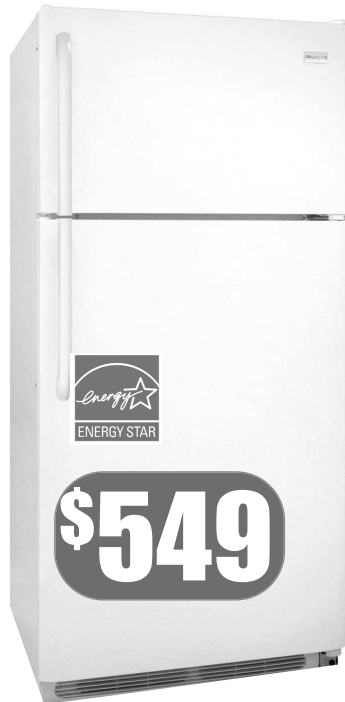
- Columbia County, 503-397-4951
- Clatsop County, 503-325-1400
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- Yamhill County, 503-472-0457.

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