

SYNERGY EASTERN OREGON

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON

PENDLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT ROUNDS UP ENERGY SAVINGS

Pendleton School District leaders launched a comprehensive strategy to lower costs and improve the classroom learning environment. Two 64,000-square-foot elementary schools were built and a third renovated for the Pendleton Early Learning Center, all featuring energy-efficient lighting, various energy upgrades and solar arrays. At Pendleton High School and Sunridge Middle School, mechanical systems were upgraded and a passive solar heating solution was upgraded to work properly for the first time.

“Energy Trust of Oregon helped us come up with a plan to touch every school, provide efficiency across the district and support student achievement through better facilities,” said Michelle Jones, director of business services, Pendleton School District. “Now we can redirect our energy cost savings into strategies that help us maintain, and even improve, our services to students.”

Energy Trust provided Pendleton School District with \$183,700 in cash incentives and technical assistance for its energy-saving improvements and \$50,000 in cash incentives for its solar project. Together, these projects resulted in annual utility bill savings of \$93,000.

FIRST STUDENT-BUILT, ENERGY-EFFICIENT HERMISTON HOME HITS THE MARKET

In 2016, Hermiston students completed construction of the first energy-efficient home built through the Columbia Basin Student Home Builders Program. The three-bedroom, two-bathroom house in Hermiston has an EPS™—Energy Trust’s energy performance score—of 72 on a scale of zero to 200, with zero being the best possible rating. The average score for similarly sized houses built in Oregon is 112. The house features efficient ducting and insulation techniques, energy-efficient windows and lighting, a tankless water heater and a high-efficiency furnace.

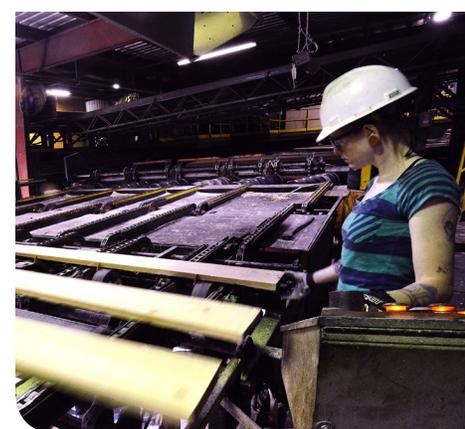
Hermiston Schools, in cooperation with the Northeast Oregon Homebuilder’s Association, created the program to train high school students from the Hermiston, Umatilla and Stanfield school districts in start-to-finish residential construction. Students receive classroom instruction and work side-by-side with local designers and contractors. The proceeds from the sale of each student-built home are used to fund the next project, with the goal of producing one home every year.

BOISE CASCADE SAWMILL CUTS ENERGY TO SAVE BIG

Employees and managers at Boise Cascade’s Kinzua Lumber are working to improve operations at the Pilot Rock sawmill through Energy Trust’s industrial Strategic Energy Management initiative. Through a combination of behavior changes, new practices and process improvements, the mill is saving more than \$99,000 in energy costs every year and annual electricity use has dropped by 1.8 million kilowatt hours.

“We’re in a very competitive industry,” said Mike Zojonc, mill manager, Boise Cascade. “Our employees understand that by saving energy, we’re saving revenue that we can direct back into our business and help sustain the longevity of this location.”

The team meets monthly to track energy performance, identify additional energy-saving opportunities and build employee participation. The energy team’s initial goal was to save 5 percent off the mill’s baseline energy use. About a year after participating in Strategic Energy Management initiative, the company was already saving 14 percent.



EASTERN OREGON CULTURAL CENTER TAKES CONTROL OF ENERGY USE

Four Rivers Cultural Center, a nonprofit cultural facility in Ontario, operates an 81,000-square-foot facility that houses a museum, offices, art gallery, conference center, seven classrooms and the student services department for Treasure Valley Community College. For years, the cultural center manually adjusted its 1997-era thermostat controls. With approximately 30 individual thermostats spread across the facility, it took hours for the staff to update heating and cooling controls each day.

Energy Trust provided a cash incentive of \$5,888 for a programmable thermostat control system, allowing staff to manage heating and cooling throughout the building from one central location. In addition to saving energy and money, the new controls reduced five hours of work per week to just 20 minutes. Four Rivers Cultural Center expects the new building controls to save more than 2,900 therms of natural gas each year and more than \$2,700 on annual energy costs.

PENDLETON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PUTS WASTE TO WORK

The City of Pendleton Wastewater Treatment Plant is one of nine Oregon wastewater treatment facilities that uses anaerobic digestion to treat municipal wastewater solids and reuses the resulting methane gas to generate renewable energy and power its own operations. With support from Energy Trust, Pendleton installed two 65-kilowatt combined heat and power microturbine engines that generate heat and electricity used by the plant, instead of burning biogas in an inefficient boiler.

With more capacity in the digester than needed in the short term, the city installed an organic waste receiving station and now accepts grease and food processing wastes from local commercial and industrial sites. Since the plant was able to accept and use fats, oils and grease, restaurants and other businesses to maintain their grease traps and enforce local grease ordinances. Biosolids produced by the process are used as a soil amendment on city-owned farmland, which adds valuable nutrients to help replenish the soil.

TRADE ALLY OF THE MONTH: B.D. ABLES INC. - BUILDMASTER™

B.D. Ables, Inc. - Buildmaster™ is the first EPS builder in Northeast Oregon. For owner Larry Ables, adopting the EPS scoring system was an easy decision: "We have used some of the EPS practices for years so it was a natural and easy transition to work with Energy Trust and their trade allies to meet the requirements."

Along with showcasing his top-quality homes, EPS is a valuable tool to educate clients on how energy-efficient homes work and the advantages they offer. It's one of many Energy Trust resources Ables turns to in highlighting these benefits. "Marketing and education are vitally important [to selling homes]. The support we get from Energy Trust and its trade allies has helped immeasurably."



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