Proper control of your heating equipment is critical for maintaining a comfortable and productive business environment and keeping energy costs down. Energy Trust of Oregon can help business customers of NW Natural in Washington achieve those goals through installation of direct digital controls, DDCs, on heating equipment.

DDCs automatically monitor and control components on your heating system by collecting localized data from sensors throughout your building and sending that data to a computer with special control software. Sensors, which can be analog or digital, can collect data on everything from temperature to ventilation levels. Working together, the sensors, controllers and microprocessor optimize your equipment, allowing you to run the minimum amount of capacity to cut energy costs by up to 15 percent.

DDCs deliver more than just energy savings

Equipping your heating system with DDCs benefits your business in other important ways. By continually delivering precise, uniform temperatures, DDCs can increase occupant comfort, resulting in the opportunity for enhanced employee productivity and lower churn. Because they carefully monitor all components of your heating system, DDCs can pinpoint problems before they become major, extending equipment life and reducing maintenance costs. DDCs also can make it less likely that your building will have issues with indoor air quality and humidity.

Using input from sensors, DDCs can control heating and other equipment by monitoring variables, such as:

- Temperature, inside and outside
- CO₂ levels, indicating the need for more or less ventilation
- Relative humidity and air pressure
- Time of day and building occupancy changes
- Smoke
Earn cash incentives for installation of DDC systems

Energy Trust offers cash incentives on the installation of qualifying DDC systems for business customers of NW Natural in Washington. While DDCs are not listed on our standard incentive list, qualified upgrades are eligible to receive custom incentives. We can help you reduce your energy costs and make your business more sustainable.

We make the process easy

Eligible DDC projects typically require an energy study or other technical assistance to receive an Energy Trust incentive. You may be eligible to receive up to 50 percent off the study cost—reimbursed by Energy Trust—afer improvements are implemented. Studies can be performed by an engineer of your choice. All equipment purchases must receive pre-approval from Energy Trust to qualify for custom incentives. An Energy Trust representative will work with you through each step of the process.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY MAKES THE GRADE

Evergreen School District is trimming energy costs by implementing DDC systems at two of their schools, including Mountain View High School. The savings achieved through these improvements allows the district to redirect those funds back to educating students.

“Support and guidance from Energy Trust of Oregon made it possible for us to leverage available funding to accomplish direct digital controls projects at two of our schools that we would not otherwise been able to afford. As a result, we are already seeing energy savings.”

Dave Cone,
resource conservation manager
Evergreen School District

+ Take control of your energy costs. To learn more, visit www.energytrust.org/washington or call 1.866.368.7878.