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NEWS

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Washington nonprofit insulates service through energy savings

New roof insulation reduces natural gas consumption, improves operating costs

VANCOUVER, Wash. — October 24, 2012 — Share, a Vancouver nonprofit serving the hungry and homeless, is using energy efficiency in a big way to save on overhead costs and redirect funds back into serving the community.

An ambitious effort to consolidate programs and improve its community impact is on display at the organization's new Share Fromhold Service Center, located at 2306 NE Andresen Road. Share purchased the former 22,000-square-foot Timber Lanes Bowling Alley to reduce overhead by combining operations under one roof, improve accessibility and deliver more effective services. The sustainably-designed facility is renovated to achieve U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED[®], Silver certification.

Share worked with Energy Trust of Oregon, a nonprofit organization that offers cash incentives to Washington business customers of NW Natural, for a variety of natural gas upgrades to make their operations more energy efficient.

Built in the 1970s, the former bowling alley had inadequate insulation in the roof and walls that did not meet current energy codes. If left unchanged, the poorly insulated building would allow the heated air inside to escape more quickly, which wastes energy, is less comfortable for occupants and costs more in utility bills.

Share's local contractor, RSV Building Solutions of Vancouver, considered whether to demolish the roof and replace it completely, which would have been cost prohibitive for the nonprofit, or to reinforce the existing insulation to meet both LEED requirements and Share's energy-efficiency needs. RSV kept the current roof and older R-19 batt insulation in place, installed an overlay of R-30 rigid insulation and built a new roof over the top.

Energy Trust provided Share with cash incentives of more than \$6,800 for the roof insulation project that is expected to save 5,455 annual therms of natural gas and more than \$5,400 in annual utility costs.

“These efficiency measures make our building more comfortable for staff, volunteers and our clientele, and are a long-term investment in our program,” said Diane McWithey, executive director, Share. “By reducing our energy consumption, we will be able to save money on our utility bills that can be redirected back into services to help people in need in our community.”

“Making your home or business more energy efficient is one of the most cost-effective things you can do,” said Bill Edmonds, director of environmental management and sustainability, NW Natural. “That’s why our partnership with Energy Trust of Oregon is so vital to our efforts in helping customers save money and reduce energy use.”

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and tapping renewable resources. Our services, cash incentives and energy solutions have helped participating customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas save more than \$1 billion on energy bills. Our work helps keep energy costs as low as possible, creates jobs and builds a sustainable energy future. Learn more at www.energytrust.org or call 1-866-368-7878.

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