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## NEWS

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### **Warrenton waste disposal company puts a lid on energy waste** *Lighting upgrade improves work environment, lowers utility costs*

WARRENTON, Ore. – December 19, 2012 – Western Oregon Waste, WOW, a Recology company, serves Oregon’s North Coast communities with business and residential garbage and recycling pick-up from offices in Warrenton, Ore. The outdated and inefficient lighting in its 15,000-square-foot maintenance warehouse, coupled with growing interest in reducing energy costs, motivated the company to improve working conditions in the facility and save money by saving energy.

Like many other businesses in Clatsop County, WOW is doing everything it can to control operating costs. Many are turning to energy-efficiency solutions and finding that lighting improvements are the best — and often, the easiest — first step because of the potential long-term cost savings and short payback period. Cash incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon can help trim costs further.

“Our building had older lighting that took several minutes to warm up and turn on,” said Trisha Hayrynen, environmental compliance specialist, WOW. “If there was a power outage, the shop was rendered useless. When the power came back on, the lights took longer to warm up, which delayed the completion of maintenance projects and had an impact on our productivity.”

By working with Energy Trust, WOW conducted a study of its facility and developed a plan to upgrade from inefficient high-intensity discharge, incandescent and T12 lighting to induction, T8 and compact fluorescent light bulbs and controls.

“We’re saving energy, and the quality of light has improved tremendously for mechanics who service our fleet of trucks,” continued Hayrynen. “Our employees can see better and accomplish more with this new lighting. The office areas are brighter and less dingy, plus the improved lighting is less intense and easier on the eyes. It is hard to believe such a simple change could make such a big difference.”

Energy Trust provided WOW with a cash incentive of \$14,185 toward the cost of the overall improvements, which are expected to save up to 72,228 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, or approximately \$5,900 in annual utility costs.

“The Energy Trust incentives made it an easier decision to go forward with the project,” she continued. “It is nice to do something that is needed, and at the same time benefit our employees, our business, and improve the value of our building.”

“Pacific Power looks forward to even more Energy Trust outreach with our business customers to show the value to them of taking advantage of the expertise and incentives available. Like WOW, they, too, can immediately benefit from upgrades through Energy Trust funds, reduced operating costs, increased employee productivity and a brighter work environment,” said Sheila Holden, regional community manager, Pacific Power.

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](http://www.energytrust.org) or call 1-866-368-7878.

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