



We can help you find incentives and rebates available through regional utilities and state or federal programs.

FOR EXAMPLE:

UTILITIES:

- Visit Home Print at Puget Sound Energy (www.PSE.com) and the conservation incentive program at Cascade Natural Gas (www.CNGC.com) to learn about rebates and incentives that could increase your business or home's performance.
- Find incentives that are right for you at DSIRE (www.DSIREUSA.org), a database of incentives and policies for renewables and efficiency. This is a comprehensive resource for state, local, utility and federal incentives.

WATCH FOR NEW PROGRAMS

With the adoption of the **Climate Action Plan**, Skagit County is shaping an energy efficiency program for Skagit County residents that will reduce barriers to implementing energy savings and create higher performance homes.

Home Star - the federally funded program is taking shape and will offer federal incentives and rebates under two programs:

- Silver Star** - will provide rebates up to \$3,000.
- Gold Star** - will provide up to \$8,000 to conduct a comprehensive energy audit and for sustainably reducing the energy use in one's home.

Contact us for help and more information!
360.202.3303

www.SustainableOptionsAndSolutions.com
Linda@SustainableOptionsAndSolutions.com

**DON'T MAKE
THE JOURNEY ALONE.
SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS
AND SOLUTIONS
IS YOUR GUIDE.**

We come alongside and help you to:

- Lower your utility bills
- Create higher indoor air quality
- Provide considerations for site and water conservation
- Lower your maintenance costs
- Reduce your home's carbon footprint

To guide our clients in the journey toward higher performance homes, we work as aggregators to package and implement resources available from regional utilities and energy conservation programs.



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**BEGIN THE
JOURNEY
TOWARD
A HIGHER
PERFORMANCE
HOME.**



DEVELOPING COMMUNITY
THROUGH SOCIAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



LOWER YOUR UTILITY BILLS

1 Switch to Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Replace some or all of your incandescent bulbs with fluorescents.

Savings: Changing five of the most frequently used light bulbs in your home could save you \$100 per year on electric bills!

2 Program Your Thermostat

Programmable thermostats allow you to program the systems to reduce output when they are not needed.

Savings: Could reduce your energy bill by \$100 per year or more!

3 Plug Air Leaks

Common leaks occur around windows, doors, and other wall penetrations. Plugging those leaks with weather stripping and caulk can be a simple task.

Savings: Could reduce your energy bill by \$100 per year or more!

4 Tune Up Your Heating and Cooling (HVAC) System

Have a checkup for your HVAC system every two years. Be sure to clean the filter monthly during times of peak usage.

Savings: Could reduce your energy bill by \$100 per year or more!

5 Choose ENERGY STAR® Appliances

When considering the price of a new appliance, take into account not only the purchase price, but also the long-term savings associated with an energy-efficient appliance.

Savings: Could reduce your energy bill by \$50 per appliance per year or more!

6 Reduce Water Use

- **Indoor:** Use less water by adding aerators to your sink faucets and changing to lowflow showerheads.
- **Outdoor:** Incorporate native plants in your landscape plan.

Savings: Could reduce your water bill by as much as \$100 per year!

7 Switch to Green Power

With green power, you do not have to change your electricity provider. Instead, customers choose to pay a premium on their electricity bill to cover the extra cost of purchasing clean, sustainable energy. More info on green power can be found at: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/markets/index.shtml>.

CHOOSE GREEN PRODUCTS

8 Buy Local

Buying local produce reduces the amount of fossil fuels required for the transportation of products from other parts of the country or the world. It also reduces the amount of plastic and paper products consumed in the packaging of such far-traveling products.

9 Use Low-VOC Products

Improve indoor air quality by using products that don't give off "volatile organic compounds" (VOCs). Try low-VOC or no-VOC paint and cleaning products.

10 Use Wood Alternatives or FSC-certified Wood Products

The type of flooring and cabinetry materials you use can have a positive effect on your health and pocketbook.

- Consider using environmentally preferable and rapidly renewable products.
- Choose wood products from sustainably managed forests.
- Use locally sourced products when possible.

11 Use Rapidly Renewable Flooring Materials

There are affordable, durable, and rich-looking flooring options made from grasses and trees. Bamboo, cork, and eucalyptus flooring products are a sustainable alternative to traditional hardwoods.

GREEN YOUR YARD

12 Plant Trees to Provide Shade and Wind Protection for Your House

Planting trees can help you save money on heating and air conditioning bills.

13 Use Native Plantings

Native plants have been growing in your area for thousands of years. As a result, they are more likely to thrive with minimal care. That can mean less need for water, fertilizer and pesticides. Additional info on green landscaping techniques can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/garden/>.

14 Use Nontoxic Gardening Techniques

Many gardeners over-apply or improperly apply pesticides, putting themselves, their families, and pets at increased health risk. Our clean air and drinking water are affected by pesticides and garden equipment emissions.

GREEN YOUR TRANSPORTATION

15 Carpool, Use Public Transportation, Walk or Bike When Possible

Environmental responsibility does not begin and end at your doorstep; green transportation means can greatly reduce your energy expenditures and carbon emissions.

16 Buy a High-efficiency Car

See the U.S. Department of Energy's list of most fuel efficient cars at <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/bestworst.shtml>.



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