



News Release

For More Information Contact:

Frank Mansell

Director, Public Relations

(206) 381- 6838

fmansell@cngc.com

Julie Marshall

Director, Customer Service

(206) 381-6789

jmarshall@cngc.com

Cascade Natural Gas contributes an extra \$100,000 for low-income energy assistance

October 5, 2000—Seattle, WA — Cascade Natural Gas Corporation announced that it will contribute an extra \$100,000 to its Winter Help low-income energy assistance program. Eighteen community service agencies in Washington and Oregon will receive the \$100,000 in the coming weeks. The funds, allocated based on the anticipated needs in the communities, will help Cascade’s customers pay for their natural gas bills.

“Recently, the nation has been faced with significant increases in energy costs. It is evident that the higher prices we must pay for our gas supplies can result in hardship for many of our customers,” said Brian Matsuyama, Cascade’s Chairman, President & CEO. “We feel that this extra \$100,000 dollars will provide much needed help for those who will be most adversely affected. This contribution is in addition to \$30,000 that we have already committed for this year’s Winter Help program.”

The company will also distribute copies of its *Practical Energy Savings Tips* brochure to these agencies so those customers can take appropriate conservation measures. To help even out their winter heating bills, customers will also be encouraged to join the company’s Budget Payment Plan.

Cascade established Winter Help in 1989 as a means to help disadvantaged customers pay their energy bills. In past years, the company, its employees, and concerned customers have contributed more than \$640,000 to Winter Help. Energy payments are made from Winter Help funds on behalf of qualifying customers, after the community service agency has evaluated each applicant’s need. Since 1989, Winter Help has assisted more than 3,000 Washington and Oregon families.

...MORE

Practical Energy-Saving Ideas

Using energy wisely can reduce consumption and save money on utility bills. Here are ten energy conservation tips:

1. Seal leaks around doors, windows, and other openings, such as pipes or ducts with caulking or weather-stripping.
2. Insulate pipes or ducts that run through unheated areas.
3. Set thermostats between 65 and 70 degrees during the winter, at least 5 degrees lower when sleeping and at 58 degrees when away from home for more than a few hours. (Warmer temperatures are recommended for homes with ill or elderly persons or infants).
4. Set water heater temperatures at 120 degrees, and install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets.
5. Change or clean filters in heating and cooling units twice a year. Close vents and doors in unused rooms.
6. Use drapes, shutters, awnings, shade trees, glass with reflective film or solar screens to keep sunlight out in the summer and let it in during the winter.
7. Check to see if attic and basement (or crawl spaces) have the recommended level of insulation. Check with your local building inspector for this information.
8. Consider storm or thermal windows and doors or double paned glass. A less expensive alternative is plastic sheeting, which can be temporarily fastened over doors and windows to retain heat or air conditioning.
9. Be sure that dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers are fully loaded before operating.
10. When buying new appliances, compare energy efficiency ratings and annual operating costs. A slightly higher initial cost for a high-efficiency appliance could pay itself back in a very short time through energy savings and lower utility bills.

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation is a Seattle-based local distribution company that provides natural gas service to 184,000 residential, commercial, industrial and transportation customers in 90 communities in Washington and Oregon. The Company's stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE:CGC).

MORE

Winter Help Community Service Agency contacts:

Aberdeen, WA Coastal Community Action Program	Vicki Petitt	1-800-828-4883
Baker City, OR Community Connection	Mary Jo Carpenter	541-523-6591
Bellingham, WA The Opportunity Council	Annette DeSalvo	360-734-5121
Bend, OR Central Oregon Community Action Agency Network	Melanie Harper	541-548-2380
Bremerton, WA Kitsap Community Resources	Mike Botkin	360-478-2301
Kennewick, WA Benton Franklin Community Action Council	Donna Anderson	509-545-4065
Longview, WA Lower Columbia Community Action Council	Sheila Girt	360-425-3430
Moses Lake, WA North Columbia Community Action Council	Carolyn Schell	509-765-9243
Mt. Vernon, WA Skagit County Community Action Council	Marie Stangeland	360-416-7585
Ontario, OR Malheur Council on Aging	Belinda Rimirez	541-889-7651
Shelton, WA Mason County Community Action Council	Dale Lewis	360-438-1100
Toppenish, WA Northwest Community Action Center	Elma Soliz	509-865-7630
Walla Walla, WA The Salvation Army Community Action Program East Central Oregon	Lt. James Lloyd Donna Kinnaman	509-529-9470 541-276-1926
Wenatchee WA Chelan Douglas County Community Action	Hazel Harwood	509-662-6156
Yakima, WA Yakima Valley Opportunity Industrialization Center	Monica Stout	509-452-2555

###