



News Release

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Local Utilities Want to "Empower Your Shower"

Free Showerheads to Help Customers Save Water, Energy

BELLEVUE, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--July 9, 2008--Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD), Tacoma Public Utilities and Cascade Natural Gas today launched a joint effort to help area homeowners save energy and water by offering free, high-efficiency showerheads and bathroom faucet aerators. The program, known as "Empower Your Shower," will offer the efficient showerheads and aerators to single-family residential households of the four utilities beginning today and continuing as long as supplies last.

"With these free, efficient showerheads, our customers can better manage their energy and water use, save money and help protect the environment," said Cal Shirley, vice president of energy efficiency services for PSE, noting that surveys of participants in previous showerhead giveaways found the overwhelming majority were highly satisfied with the efficient models.

"High-efficiency showerheads help homeowners by reducing both their water and energy consumption," said Mary Smith, PUD senior manager of conservation. "They can cut the energy needed to heat showers by as much as 20 percent."

As a provider of both water and electric service, Tacoma Public Utilities sees the showerhead program as a vital tool for its customers.

"The average home uses between 80 and 100 gallons of water per person each day," said Dan Muir, Tacoma Public Utilities water conservation program specialist. "An efficient showerhead will reduce water, sewer and energy costs."

With many homes using natural gas water heaters, Lisa Espinosa, Director of Conservation for Cascade Natural Gas Corporation believes its customers will find the new showerheads have a real impact. "Water heating is one of the primary uses of natural gas," Lisa Espinosa said. "These efficient showerheads will reduce that demand, but still give homeowners the comfort they want."

These efficient, high-performance showerheads offered by the "Empower Your Shower" program provide a flow of 2.0 gallons per minute (gpm), while older less-efficient models may use from 2.3 to 5 gpm. Customers will be able to obtain them by visiting www.showerheadprogram.com or by calling 1-888-404-8773.

In addition to the showerhead and aerator, participants also will receive information on other easy energy- and water-saving steps, such as:

- Set the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees or the "low" setting.
- Keep your shower under five minutes.
- Showers generally use less hot water than baths.
- Limit the water running when brushing teeth, shaving or washing dishes.
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads only.
- Find and fix toilet and faucet leaks right away.
- Water your lawn, including rainfall, at the rate of one inch per week.

Customers will receive their free showerhead, aerator and energy-saving tips through the mail approximately four to six weeks after their request is made. Each customer is eligible for one free showerhead and aerator kit. Combined, the four participating utilities serve 871,950 single-family households in Western Washington.

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About Cascade Natural Gas

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's (CNGC) serves about 230,000 customers in 91 cities and towns in Washington and Oregon. CNGC, a subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc (NYSE: MDU), meets the energy needs of its growing customer base through incremental, cost-effective energy conservation, procurement of sustainable energy resources, and long-term investment in energy. CNGC employees are dedicated to being in the community to serve by providing great customer service that is safe, reliable, reasonably priced, and environmentally responsible. For more information, visit www.CNGC.com.

About Puget Sound Energy

Washington state's oldest and largest energy utility, with a 6,000-square-mile service area stretching across 11 counties, Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and 735,000 natural gas customers, primarily in western Washington. PSE, a subsidiary of Puget Energy (NYSE:PSD), meets the energy needs of its growing customer base through incremental, cost-effective energy conservation, low-cost procurement of sustainable energy resources, and far-sighted investment in the energy-delivery infrastructure. PSE employees are dedicated to providing great customer service to deliver energy that is safe, reliable, reasonably priced, and environmentally responsible. For more information, visit www.PSE.com.

About Snohomish County Public Utility District

Snohomish County PUD serves one of the fastest growing counties in the Pacific Northwest, delivering electricity to about 315,000 customers and water to nearly 20,000 customers. It's currently the second largest public utility in the Pacific Northwest and the 12th largest in the United States. It plans to address continued growth, first and foremost, by pursuing all cost-effective conservation. With a network of 5,800 miles of lines, the PUD's electric distribution system encompasses an area of 2,200 square miles. For more information, visit www.snopud.com.

About Tacoma Power

Tacoma Power serves 162,000 customers in the cities of Tacoma, Fircrest, University Place, portions of Fife, Lakewood, Federal Way, Steilacoom, Fort Lewis, McChord Air Force Base and other parts of Pierce County.

Tacoma Water serves 97,000 customers in the cities of Tacoma, University Place, Fircrest, Federal Way, Puyallup and other parts of Pierce County.

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