



April 2022 | Oregon

Connections

Celebrate Earth Day with simple energy-saving solutions

Participating in Earth Day can take many forms, and no action is too small. You can make simple changes at home to increase comfort, lower energy costs and benefit our planet.

Replacing furnace filters regularly, sealing air and duct leaks, or investing in a smart thermostat are just a few low-cost, energy-saving solutions.

For more energy-saving tips, visit us at myavista.com/tips.



April is National Safe Digging month

Call before you dig: gas pipeline safety

To keep our natural gas system safe and reliable, Avista completes regular maintenance annually. We perform several procedures including, but not limited to, leak surveys, pipeline monitoring, meter inspections and swapping out gas meters. Please know that, from time to time, you may see one of our workers in your yard performing these maintenance actions.

And remember, for home projects, state law requires you to call at least two business days before you start digging. Calling 811 will initiate a request for someone to visit your work site to mark the ground above utility lines. Customers can also request private locates for non-utility underground work (this will entail a fee) by calling 811. This way, you won't accidentally hit a line while you're digging. Thanks for being our partner in safety.

Visit myavista.com/safety to learn more.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



The Southern Oregon Land Conservancy is preserving landscapes for the future

The Rogue River meanders from the rocky Pacific Coast to the Cascade Mountain Range, through a beautiful and fertile landscape patchwork made up of farms, vineyards and wilderness.

Steve Wise is the executive director of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC), which is focused on preserving functional landscapes from border to border.

"We cover the southern third of the state, but Jackson and Josephine Counties are the primary focus of our work," Wise said. "The Rogue River Valley holds tremendous potential for preserving wild salmon, and it has a huge biodiversity and many different kinds of ecology."

Since its inception in 1978, 70 conservation easements have been made between SOLC and a property owner, with the goal of preserving the land in its current state.

"We work with the owner to keep the land healthy, but the owner is responsible for taking care of the land," Wise said. "An easement is perpetual and forever. It's attached to the deed, and it never goes away."

SOLC also owns lands, like the Rouge River Preserve, which is 350 acres of wild land and two miles of riverbank.

"It's a remarkable example of native landscape and it's a living classroom for students and visitors," Wise said.

A grant from the Avista Foundation will help SOLC continue its hosted field trips, and also help educate a corps of volunteer docents who will offer free guided hikes in the Jacksonville Woodlands.

"The preserves that we own are not open to the public all the time," Wise said. "Our mission is to preserve the ecology as much as we can, so sometimes we leave it alone to the butterflies and birds and animals that live there."

Wise said two years of COVID lockdowns and restrictions have reminded people how much they enjoy being outdoors.

"We believe in healthy lands and in preservation of our quality of life," Wise said. "We do this work for current and future generations. It's a big job but we try to guarantee the future for our children."

Visit landconserve.org to learn more about hikes and educational programs in the Rogue River Valley.



We have options.

Do you need help paying your bill?

We understand that there may be instances where customers find themselves facing financial difficulties. Avista partners with community agencies to provide financial assistance, plus we offer other services to help you manage and pay your bill such as: **Bill Assistance Grants, Comfort Level Billing, Preferred Due Date, and Payment Arrangements.**

We're here to help. Please call us at (800) 227-9187 to discuss your options with a Customer Service Representative or visit us at: myavista.com/assistance for more information.

Comfort Level Billing

There's a lot to be said about knowing the exact amount you will be billed each month. Customers who have chosen to be on comfort level billing know exactly how that feels and its free, quick and easy to sign up.

Comfort level billing can smooth out seasonal highs and lows by dividing your bill into 12 equal payments. To qualify, your account must be in good standing with at least 12 months of usage history.

Sign up on myavista.com/clb or call (800) 227-9187 to speak with a customer service representative who would be happy to help over the phone.



Connect with us

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