

# Connections

## Insulation incentives

**By insulating your home, you can reduce your monthly bills, maintain comfortable temperatures year-round and reduce outside noise.**

As a natural gas customer of Avista, you can get cash back when you insulate your attic, walls or floors thanks to incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon.

Visit [energytrust.org/save](https://energytrust.org/save) or call (866) 368-7878 to learn about available incentives.



## ACE brings art to rural schools in Eastern Oregon

**In a stately old library building in the middle of town is where you will find Art Center East (ACE).**

Abigail Shown is the development coordinator for this multifaceted arts institution, which was founded in 1977 as the Eastern Oregon Regional Arts Council

The main mission of ACE—which recently received some funding from the Avista Foundation—is to provide arts education to K-8 students and teachers across Eastern Oregon.

“Because this part of Oregon, just like large parts of Northern Idaho and Washington, is very rural there is little or no funding for arts in the public school system,” Shown said. “We have an artist in rural schools’ program where an artist can come and teach their medium in a school.”

Funding from Avista and other grant givers goes toward covering the salary for the artist and other expenses associated with teaching a class in for instance oil painting. “It lets us provide these classes for free or at a very reduced cost,” Shown said.

ACE was closed or had very limited hours during COVID, a time Shown said was used to applying for grants and other funding. Her and her colleagues were so successful that ACE can now pay its teachers \$8 per student per hour they teach. That’s up by \$3.

“That will start in September,” Shown said. “We average about 150 class hours per quarter, and we have about 60 teaching artists on our roster. It is so important that we can pay them.”

The next big fundraising goal for ACE is to raise an estimated \$400,000 to install a lift that will make the building ADA compliant, by making it possible for those with limited mobility to reach the gallery shop on the top floor.

“The city has committed \$50,000 and the community has donated \$30,000 and we have gotten funding from grant givers; it’s just going to take a while to make it,” Shown said.





Continued from front  
**ACE brings art to rural schools  
 in Eastern Oregon**

In the meantime, ACE is operating at full speed ahead. The building holds a glass blowing studio and a ceramics studio, and features ongoing exhibits in three galleries. Admission is always free and hours are Wednesday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## How cold weather impacts home energy use

**Have you felt the need to bundle up lately?** Winter is just around the corner and your house is feeling that chill, too. When it gets cold outside, your home has to use more energy to stay warm, even if you don't touch its thermostat. Homes use more energy this time of year because they cool down quicker—much like a cup of coffee.

In the summer, a warm cup of coffee will stay warm for quite some time, even if placed outside. If placed outside during the winter though, it will cool down rather quickly. So, as the temperature outside drops and your house struggles to retain heat, its heating system has to run more frequently and for longer periods of time. This causes its energy use to spike, which you likely notice between October and February or March.

The cost of heating your home can account for 40% to 60% of your monthly winter energy bill, but there are easy ways to help manage that energy use and maintain comfort.

Use this handy checklist to get started:

- **Check fireplace dampers** – When not in use, a chimney with an open damper can allow up to 25% of the heated air in your house to escape.
- **Change furnace filter** – Our Furnace Filter Replacement Program can help ensure you never forget to replace your filter again.



- **Adjust thermostat** – Set your thermostat in the winter to 68°. Reducing the temperature below that by just three degrees can result in a 10% reduction of energy used for heating.
- **Check water heater** – Water heating can account for nearly 14% of your monthly energy use and is often the second largest source of consumption in your home.
- **Seal drafts and leaks** – Use items like window plastic, caulk, and weather stripping to keep the warm air in and the cold air out. If upgrading your insulation, we may have a rebate available to help.

For more winter energy-saving tips, visit [myavista.com/winterbill](http://myavista.com/winterbill).

## Be alert to invisible carbon monoxide

**Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel available.** But if natural gas isn't burned properly, say, because of a faulty furnace, it can emit carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas that can cause flu-like symptoms and even death. Be alerted when CO is present. Install a UL-listed carbon monoxide detector.

We just want you to be safe. Visit us at [myavista.com/safety](http://myavista.com/safety) for more information.



## Do you need help paying your bill?

**We understand that there may be instances when 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 **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 for more information, visit [myavista.com/assistance](http://myavista.com/assistance).

**We have options.**

## Connect with us

Mailing Address: 1411 E. Mission, PO Box 3727, Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Toll-Free: (800) 227-9187 | Web Site: [myavista.com](http://myavista.com) | Email: [ask@myavista.com](mailto:ask@myavista.com)