

# Connections

## Save energy at home

**There are always more ways to save.** Find out how, Lisa, an Avista customer, whose DIY videos show easy, low-cost ways to keep your home comfortable year-round.

To learn more, watch now at [myavista.com/energytips](https://myavista.com/energytips).



## Don't let heat escape

**Heat is always trying to escape in the winter, causing your energy use to increase and your home to feel chilly.**

Heat escapes through air leaks, commonly found in floors, walls, ceilings, ductwork, fireplaces, exhaust fans, windows and doors.

If you can see light coming in through cracks around your windows or doors, you can be sure that heat is going out and cold air is coming in. A small, ¼ inch gap around a doorframe is equivalent to a softball-sized hole in the wall, letting air travel in and out freely. The good news is, sealing these leaks can be easy. Find quick DIY videos with Lisa, an Avista customer, on our website.

Looking for other possible culprits responsible for letting your heat out? If you've got a window or wall air conditioning unit that isn't covered, wrap it up now to stop air leaks. Not using your wood fireplace? An open chimney flue acts as a giant funnel for air to escape, so close the damper. Finished cooking or showering? Turn off your ventilation fans to prevent warm air from getting sucked straight out of your house. Not feeling much air coming out of your central air vents? You can lose up to 60% of your heat before it ever reaches your room vents, if your ductwork is poorly connected or uninsulated. Learn more about what impacts your winter bill at [myavista.com/winterbill](https://myavista.com/winterbill).

If you're in need of new insulation, windows, doors or more, Avista may have a money-saving rebate for you. Visit [myavista.com/getrebates](https://myavista.com/getrebates) to see how you can save on your next project.



# Generation Alive empowers youth to lead with compassion

**Think about the words ‘generation live.’** We believe in the premise that you find life when you don’t live just for yourself – what we want to do is raise up a generation that is alive.

Those are the words of J.J. Vanzil, CEO of Generation Alive, a Spokane-based non-profit that recently got some funding from the Avista Foundation.

“Our mission is to activate youth to lead with compassion,” Vanzil said.

“We provide opportunities and training curriculum and help young people get involved in serving their community.”

By giving back, Vanzil said youth discover the joy of serving others, and they are also given opportunities to lead and discover their full potential.

“As adults we tend to tell kids that they are not old enough or mature enough

to do certain things, we tell them what they can’t do,” Vanzil said. “Generation Alive is all about what they can do. How they can get involved.”

Generation Alive works with youth from elementary through high school and one of the primary means of engagement is the creation of Action Teams in the schools.

About 40 schools participate in Generation Alive and the Action Team is formed by student volunteers who go through a step-by-step curriculum: First they form the action team, then they lead a school assembly where they share what matters to them, what they feel passionately about. Then they do a fundraising campaign in support of the project they’ve chosen.

Finally, Generation Alive facilitates the donation of money to chosen projects.



“We collaborate with non-profits all over the area, it could be a shelter or the Humane Society, whatever the students pick,” Vanzil said. “And, at the end of the fundraising part, we do a compassion challenge where Action Team students commit to doing two hours of community service on their own, to help that organization.”

Generation Alive is well established in the greater Spokane-area and this year Vanzil said the organization is expanding to North Idaho. “Last year we had 250 action team students in 21 schools. This year our goal is to double the number of students to 500,” Vanzil said.

However the biggest impact may be on students who participate in a school assembly. “This year around 15,000 students will participate in school assemblies and fundraising for non-profit organizations,” Vanzil said. “That is by far our greatest touchpoint.”

*At Avista, we recognize our unique position gives us the chance to contribute in an impactful way and make a real difference in people’s lives. Since 2002, the Avista Foundation has made grants totaling over \$13 million to organizations that support vulnerable and limited income populations, education, and economic and cultural vitality. It is a separate, non-profit organization established by Avista Corp., and does not receive funding from Avista Utilities or AEL&P customers through rates. For more information on grant applications and geographical areas covered, please visit [avistafoundation.com](http://avistafoundation.com).*

## Out of sight, out of mind

**It’s a phrase that could refer to the jar of half-used pasta sauce buried in the back of the fridge.** Not that we don’t care about refrigerator hygiene, but it won’t surprise you to know we are referring to gas meter safety.

Avista will need access to your gas meter for periodic readings and maintenance. And in case of an emergency, we’ll need immediate access to the shutoff valve. With these things in mind, take a look at your meter with fresh eyes. Is there anything in the way? Are there plants hiding the dials? Is debris gathered around it?

In the winter, is it buried under six inches of snow? If the answer is yes to any of these, help us out by carefully removing these obstacles and making the pathway to the meter safe. While we’re talking about the meter, we’ll also ask that you never lean objects against it, place objects on top of it, or build anything (like a deck) above it. Finally, be careful when operating a vehicle near your meter. It can be relatively easy to forget about and accidentally back into it, which could result in a dangerous situation.

Beyond these simple steps, Avista will take care of everything else, like periodic maintenance. Out of sight, out of mind is a cliché. But when it comes to the natural gas meter on your property, it’s best to keep it in mind, even when it’s out of sight.

Visit [myavista.com/resnsgsafety](http://myavista.com/resnsgsafety) for more information.



## Connect with us

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