



Connections

February 2024 | Oregon

Learn what's using the most energy in your home

Whether you are a homeowner or renter, keeping your home energy efficient can make a significant difference in your energy costs and comfort.

Knowing where to start can be overwhelming, that's why our partner Energy Trust of Oregon offers an online home assessment. This multiple-choice assessment takes around 20 minutes to complete and gives you the information you need to make the right customized decisions for your unique home.



Visit energytrust.org/assessment to reach your home's full energy-saving potential.



Need help with your energy bills?

We're here for you.

Everything around us is becoming more expensive, challenging household budgets. If your paycheck isn't stretching as far as it used to, making it hard to manage your energy costs, we understand. Maybe you're unable to work or you're simply having a hard time getting ahead—whatever the reason, we're here to assist.

Avista offers options that can relieve the stress of high winter energy use. If you're looking for ways to get caught up on or pay your bill, control or lower your monthly energy costs, here are some possible solutions:

- **Comfort Level Billing** – Divides your yearly energy usage into 12 equal payments, so you pay the same amount each month¹
- **Preferred Due Date** – Aligns your bill's due date with your payday, giving you more control over when you need to make your payment¹
- **Payment Arrangements** – Short-term and long-term payment plans to help you catch up on past due charges¹
- **NEW Monthly Bill Discount** – *My Energy Discount* can lower your energy costs every month, for two years. Eligibility guidelines are more inclusive than traditional energy assistance programs, making it easier to get help. Funding is available to all who qualify, and no paperwork or appointments are needed to apply.²
- **Hardship Grants** – Immediate financial help for your bill is made possible by Avista, but offered through local community action agencies
- **Energy Assistance Grants** – Seasonal or annual financial help for your bill²
- **Energy-Saving Home Upgrades** – Projects such as added insulation or a new furnace and water heater, are made possible by Avista, but offered through local community action agencies²

Continued on back





Continued from front
Need help with your energy bills?

- **Rental, Food, Transportation and more** – Local community action agencies offer programs to help with non-energy needs²

If you need help with your energy bill and are unsure what options may be available to you, visit myavista.com/assistance or call us at (800) 227-9187 to learn more.

¹ Eligibility varies by account. ² Income and other restrictions may apply.

When the libraries closed, the community stepped up to reopen them

In 2006, Josephine County voters rejected a taxing district that was to pay for its libraries, and the county closed all its library branches.

It turned out that residents in Grants Pass and nearby communities were not ready to let their libraries go and this summer, the library foundation celebrated a huge milestone: it purchased land in downtown Grants Pass for a brand-new library building.

“We raised \$254,000 to buy the property and we are so excited we were able to do that,” executive director, Rebecca Stoltz said. “The community really showed up.”

Over the next three to five years, the library foundation—which recently received a grant from the Avista Foundation—plans to raise another \$26 million for the new library building in Grants Pass which will also function as a community center.

“We couldn’t do it without all the volunteers. We are so grateful for them,” Stoltz said. “And the donors of course—we are thankful for every single donation, big and small.”

To learn more about the Josephine Community Library Foundation and its work, visit jclfoundation.org/home.



Save money on energy-efficient home upgrades

With Avista’s rebates, you can save energy and money when purchasing high-efficiency equipment like a new water heater or natural gas furnace. You can get money back when you buy a smart thermostat, add insulation, or upgrade your windows, too.

Visit myavista.com/getrebates to see how you can save on your next project.



Keep the path to your meter clear

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, 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 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/resngsafety for more information.

Connect with us

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

Toll-Free: (800) 227-9187 | Web Site: myavista.com | Email: ask@myavista.com

