

Connections

Energy-saving tips for a cool summer

Stay cool and comfortable as the weather warms up with energy-saving tips from Energy Trust of Oregon.

Learn new ways to save energy at home with simple changes like closing the blinds during the day or sealing drafty windows and doors. There are also incentives available on larger upgrades like insulation.

Visit energytrust.org/save to learn more about comfort upgrades.



A focused path forward

In 2021, Kendyl Kaplan began a new opportunity at Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley (RBTRV). She joined the organization in two newly created roles: Manager of Operations and Outreach. Working closely with the Executive Director, Kendyl quickly learned daily operations and helped strengthen the organization's foundation.



RBTRV supports seniors and people with disabilities who want to remain safely in their homes as they age. The organization completes repairs and installs accessibility features like ramps and safety equipment. These improvements reduce fall risks, increase independence, and help keep people housed in the Rogue Valley.

With a background in medical roles, Kendyl understood the challenges many people face when trying to live safely at home. She used that experience to expand RBTRV's impact, applying for grants and supporting projects ranging from grab bars to ADA-compliant bathroom remodels.

When Kendyl stepped into the Executive Director role, she made a strategic decision to narrow the organization's focus. Today, RBTRV provides durable medical equipment and wheelchair ramps—the services most urgently needed in the community. Despite funding challenges, RBTRV is currently the only provider offering this support in the Rogue Valley.

That focus led to Ramp Re-Run, a program that refurbishes and reuses donated ramps for people waiting to return home safely. With more than 100 people on a ramp wait list, each reused ramp helps meet a critical need. RBTRV also checks in with ramp users each year to see if ramps can be reused for others in need.

Support from an Avista Foundation grant will help RBTRV continue providing these essential services.

Visit rbtrv.org to learn more or help sustain this valuable program.



Rooted in safety

If planting trees and shrubs is on your to-do list, make sure you start your landscaping project by knowing where underground utilities are located. Planting too close to underground lines can cause safety concerns while digging and as the vegetation matures. It's good practice not to plant a tree within ten feet of a natural gas line.



Tree roots will spread out at least as wide as the tree's canopy and often much further. As the roots spread and grow deeper, they can entangle or even break natural gas lines or damage protective gas pipeline coatings. Severe storms can also uproot trees which can pull up or break a natural gas line, potentially causing a serious gas leak.



SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.

Shrubs, flowers, and ground cover are good choices for landscaping near natural gas lines since their root systems are not as extensive as those of trees. When selecting your plantings, consider the size of the root ball, the matured plant's roots and keep in mind the distance to a natural gas line. Before starting any project that involves digging, always click or call 811 at least two full business days in advance to

have your underground utilities located. The service is free, and privately-owned lines can be located for a fee. Otherwise, one strike with a shovel could nick a line, creating a dangerous situation. Plus, it's the law.

Visit myavista.com/811 to learn more.

Need help with your energy bill? We've got options.

Life can throw curveballs, and keeping up with your energy bill isn't always easy. If you're feeling the pinch, you're not alone—Avista has resources to help.

We offer flexible payment plans and assistance programs for qualifying customers. You can also explore home energy upgrades designed to improve efficiency and lower costs.

You may also qualify for *My Energy Discount*, which reduces your natural gas bill every month for two years. Thousands of Avista customers are currently receiving a discount and it takes just a few minutes to apply. There's no paperwork and no appointment needed.

Visit myavista.com/ORassistance to see what's available.

Free energy-saving home upgrades

We work with trusted local community agencies to offer free home energy upgrades for many renters and homeowners in Oregon. These upgrades help homes stay warmer in winter and cooler in summer by reducing drafts and avoiding wasted energy.

At no cost, eligible customers may receive a home energy inspection, added insulation, air sealing and more.

Learn more at myavista.com/ORLIEE or call us at (800) 227-9187 to see if this program is a good fit for your home.



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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