

Fall 2017

## Environmental offset = RECs

When renewable energy projects, like wind farms or solar arrays, generate electricity, they earn Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) that can be used to environmentally offset, or compensate for, the carbon emissions created by other energy resources (e.g. the gasoline used by an automobile). For every 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity generated, a wholesale wind farm is credited with one REC.

Each year, Avista purchases 70,000 RECs on behalf of you and other Buck-A-Block participants. This amount offsets the environmental impact of 5,800 homes, essentially making them 100% emission-free. Avista does not make any money from this program. Buck-A-Block is a way to provide our customers with a simple and inexpensive option to participate in the renewable energy conversation.



## Happy Birthday Buck-A-Block!

It has been 15 years since Avista's Buck-A-Block program began offering customers the voluntary opportunity to purchase environmental offsets from certified regional wind farms. The program was designed to be an easy, inexpensive way for customers to support the development of renewable energy.

For every BUCK (\$1.00) participants contribute each month, Avista purchases a BLOCK (300 kilowatt hours) of renewable energy credits (RECs) from wind projects on their behalf. Over Buck-A-Block's 15 year

history, participating Avista customers in Idaho and Washington have purchased more than 846 million kilowatt-hours of new renewable energy—enough emission-free energy to offset the environmental impacts of 70,000 homes.



To celebrate this 15-year milestone, Avista is providing a \$15 treat. See reverse side for details.



Northeast Community Center  
(Spokane, Washington) - 7.41 kilowatt solar array



Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute  
(Moscow, Idaho) - 6.2 kilowatt solar array

## Buck-A-Block Solar Grants

In the last 15 years, contributions by Buck-a-Block participants have helped provide grants for the development of solar projects throughout Avista's Idaho and Washington service territory. These projects give local communities an up-close look at a solar array and its functionality. Grant recipients also teach residents the benefits of renewable energy and share information about the Buck-A-Block program.

Information about grant recipients and their projects can be found as an attachment to this newsletter. Grants are limited and are based on funding availability.

Past grant recipients have included: Kendrick School District, Kettle Falls School District, Lapwai School District (high school), Northeast Community Center (Spokane), North Wall School (Spokane), Orofino School District (middle school), Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute (Moscow), Palouse Discovery Science Center (Pullman), Spokane Public Schools (North Central High School), and the West Valley School District Transportation Building. (Spokane Valley)

## Events Coming Soon:

Buck-A-Block participants are invited to join Avista and the community as we celebrate environmental stewardship at these upcoming events:

### DC Charging Station Commissioning Event

Thursday, September 14, 2017  
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Kendall Yards

Please join Avista as we celebrate the installation of downtown Spokane's first DC Electric Vehicle Fast-Charger in its new location at Kendall Yards. The event is part of Drive Electric week, which encourages everyone to drive electric vehicles. Come learn about our pilot program for electric vehicle charging and how else Avista is at work in our communities.

### Drive Electric Week: Electric Vehicle Showcase Ride and Drive

Thursday, September 14, 2017  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Kendall Yards

Saturday September 16, 2017  
Cork House 1400 N. Meadowwood Ln.  
Liberty Lake, 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

National Drive Electric Week, September 9-17, 2017, is a nationwide celebration to heighten awareness of today's widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and highlight the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. They are fun to drive, are less expensive and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles, are better for the environment, promote local jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Are you considering going electric? Come talk to owners who have successfully done so.

### ReForest Spokane

Saturday, October 14, 2017  
10:00 a.m. - Noon, on the Centennial Trail

Avista is partnering once again with the Lands Council of Spokane to Reforest Spokane. Join us the morning of Oct 14 at Olmsted Park, located on Summit and Nettleton Street in Kendall Yards, as we plant some trees along the Spokane Centennial Trail. You can learn how the Lands Council and Avista are committed to preserving and protecting the Spokane River and area around it.

## Update on Renewable Incentives for Solar Rooftop and Wind Generators

Washington State residents who own or are considering the installation of rooftop solar or wind generation for their home or business may want to research the recent passing of Senate Bill 5939.

There are few changes for existing renewable systems (certified by the Washington State Department of Revenue before October 1, 2017), but current customers will still need to recertify their systems with Washington State University Energy Extension Office. Current renewable customer incentives will end September 30, 2020 with no extension available.

The incentive rate for customers who install and certify renewable systems after October 1, 2017, will be lower over the next eight years. Incentive levels will decrease incrementally during the first four years of the new program.

Existing solar customers who want to install additional panels will need to have a separate production meter and will need to follow the requirements of the new incentive program.

Avista will continue to track the program requirements and how they may affect our existing and new renewable energy customers. To review the history of this legislation and the recently passed bill, visit the Washington State Legislature website at: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/bills/summary?BillNumber=5939&Year=2017>.



## Is Solar Right For Me?

Are you interested in installing solar on your home and curious about what size of system your roof would hold? Check out Avista's Solar Estimator, an interactive, online tool that lets residential and commercial customers research and make decisions about potential rooftop solar designs.

Our Solar Estimator can provide a quick glance at the feasibility, cost and the benefits of installing solar panels. Your possible savings are estimated by looking at your historical energy use or average monthly bills, as well

as the costs related to installation and maintenance. Federal and state incentives are also included in the evaluation.

The information provided by our Solar Estimator is for illustrative purposes only, but it is a good place to start. You should always consult with a solar professional to evaluate the actual potential of your structure. You'll find our Solar Estimator at [Myavista.com/solarestimator](http://Myavista.com/solarestimator)

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To celebrate the Buck-A-Block program and its participants, who've supported the growth of renewable energy for these last 15 years, we've giving you a \$15 coffee gift card to Dutch Bros. To claim your gift, simply complete the form on the right and return it with your monthly Avista bill, or email your information to [buckablock@avistacorp.com](mailto:buckablock@avistacorp.com). Please respond no later than October 20th, 2017, or while supplies last.



15 YEARS =  
\$15 DUTCH BROS.  
BUCKS!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACCT #: \_\_\_\_\_