

#8

Return the 3% Public Purpose Tax to Its Original Sunset Date of 2012

Background:

Portland General Electric (PGE) and PacifiCorp (PPL) customers pay a 3% charge on their bills that goes for energy conservation, renewable resources and low income energy programs. Both NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas collect lesser amounts from their customers. The public purpose charge came about from Senate Bill 1149, which the legislature approved in 1999, and took effect March 1, 2002. The Energy Trust of Oregon is the independent third party nonprofit founded to administer the majority of those funds for conservation and renewable energy projects. The balance of the public purpose funds are distributed to schools, low income weatherization, and low income housing.

The language of SB 1149 stated that the public purpose charge was to be temporary while it served as a subsidy to help utilities and customers transition to a renewable energy economy. It was to sunset in 2012. However, in 2007, the legislature passed SB 838, which imposed a mandate on most electric utilities to procure 25% of their power from any combination of five so-called “renewable sources” (wind, solar, wave, geothermal, and biomass) by 2025. SB 838 also extended the sunset date of the Public Purpose tax to 2026, with virtually no public discussion of this provision.

Cascade’s bill would:

- ✓ Return the sunset date of the Public Purpose tax to 2012.

Details of this month's charges

Meter #	Schedule	Amount
Energy Charges		
Basic Charge		10.00
Energy Use Charge		11.07
250 kWh x 4.429¢		709.43
709 kWh x 6.204¢		43.99
Transmission Charge		1.93
959 kWh x 0.201¢		27.25
Distribution Charge		94.24
959 kWh x 2.841¢		
Adjustments (see schedule for more information)		
105 Regulatory Adjustments (959 kWh x -0.003¢)		0.03 CR
		0.03 CR
Taxes and Fees		
Low Income Assistance (fixed charge)		0.33
Public Purpose Charge (3%)		3.16
Current Charges		97.37

How to contact PGE: PortlandGeneral.com

Customer Service:
 Portland (503) 228-6322 Salem (503) 399-7717
 Outside Portland/Salem 1-800-542-8818

Power Outage/Downed Power Line:
 Portland (503) 464-7777
 Outside Portland 1-800-544-1795

Energy Experts: 1-800-722-9287

TTY (Relay for hearing impaired): 1-800-735-2900

24-hour Payment Options:
 Online at PortlandGeneral.com (once or recurring)
 By check over the automated phone system
 (503) 228-6322 (Portland), (503) 399-7717 (Salem)
 By Debit/Credit - Bill Matrix 1-877-518-6542 (fee added)
 At VCOM Centers in most 7-Eleven stores (fee added)

Pay your bill in person at a PGE Office:
 GRESHAM 335 NE Roberts Avenue
 HILLSBORO 1001 SE Tualatin Valley Highway
 PORTLAND 121 SW Salmon Street
 SALEM 4328 SE 82nd Avenue, Suite 2050
 SHERWOOD 16771 SW 12th Street, Suite D
 WOODBURN 2079 Progress Way

Mail payments with remittance slip to: P.O. Box 4438
Other correspondence: P.O. Box 4404

Account #
 Previous Amount Due 82.13
 Payments/Adjustments 82.13 CR
 Balance Forward 0.00
 Current Charges 82.80

AMOUNT DUE \$
 Due date for current bill

Your energy use

Meter #	Schedule	Meter Reading
04/07/08		29003
03/06/08		28206
32 days of service		797 kWh