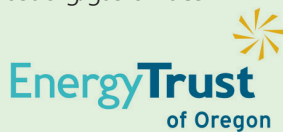


Connections

Income-qualified households can save on an energy-efficient gas furnace

Choosing a high-efficiency gas furnace allows you to enjoy reliable comfort, long-lasting performance, and can lower heating costs.

Energy Trust of Oregon's Savings Within Reach program helps Avista customers who meet income eligibility requirements receive **up to \$1,600 cash back** on a qualifying gas furnace upgrade. Find eligibility details and local contractors who can help at energytrust.org/gasfurnace.



The power of community engagement

Every community needs a hub, a place to go for a little help and support as needed, a place to connect with neighbors.

The 1st Phoenix Community Center is just such a place. Located in Phoenix, 1st Phoenix Community Center was founded in 2016 and is operated out of the Phoenix First Presbyterian Church. The community center recently received a grant from the Avista Foundation.

Among its many services is a very popular Saturday food pantry which provides fresh produce, pantry staples and household essentials, without too many questions asked. Everyone is welcome to stop in and get a little grocery help as needed.

The clothing closet opens on Saturdays and Wednesdays, and holds a wide selection of gently used men's, women's and children's clothing that matches the season. Regular supply drives bring in toiletries and other personal care items.

The community kitchen serves a free dinner once a month. This meal is more of a community meal than a social service, and neighbors of all ages stop in for dinner and a chat.

The picturesque white church is the center of many of the community center's activities including a popular bottle and can donation fundraiser.

The 1st Phoenix Community Center has an easy way people can donate non-perishable food items with its Green Bag Project. Donors get a special green bag to take grocery shopping, and they fill it with canned goods and other pantry staples. Every other month they simply put the full bag outside their front door, and a community center volunteer picks it up—and leaves a new green bag for the donor's next shopping trip. It's sort of like a Boy Scout food drive—every other month.

By mid-August, Green Bag donors had provided 1,430 pounds of food for the food pantry, and the green bags were going out to be filled once again.

Visit 1stphoenix.org to learn more.



Know the signs

From the exhaust produced by your family vehicle to the fuel source of your home's heating system, carbon monoxide (CO) can exist within your home without you even realizing it. CO is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of various fuels, including charcoal, oil, kerosene, propane, diesel fuel, coal, wood and natural gas. Because CO is undetectable to the human senses, it is important for people to know the signs of CO exposure. These symptoms are similar to the flu and can include:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Dizziness

To protect yourself and your family, **consider installing carbon monoxide detectors** throughout your home. These devices monitor CO levels and alert you if the gas reaches dangerous levels. That's why CO detectors are needed and are a legal requirement in some states. CO detectors are available at most home retail outlets. We recommend you only buy UL-listed models and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and operation. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends installing at least one detector in a hallway near your sleeping area.

By having your **heating system and equipment serviced by a qualified technician** at regular intervals or by the manufacturer's recommendation, you can reduce the risk of CO being present in your home or business. Potential sources of CO that shouldn't be used indoors under any circumstances include portable generators, barbecues and charcoal grills. Items to consider for servicing inside your home or business include your water heater and any gas, oil, wood or coal-burning heaters.

If you suspect that you or someone else is experiencing CO poisoning, get to fresh air immediately. Leave the home and call for assistance from a safe place. Get medical attention immediately and inform medical staff that CO poisoning is suspected. Call 911, then call Avista at (800) 227-9187 and do not reenter the home until we can ensure your safety.

Visit myavista.com/resnqsafety for more information on CO and natural gas safety.



Need help with your energy bill?

We have long-standing relationships with local community action agencies across our service territory.

Together, we offer financial assistance programs and energy-saving home upgrade services to help people manage their home energy usage and costs.

Customers can find billing, payment, and home energy-saving programs through their local community agencies.

Thousands of customers also qualify for an ongoing monthly bill discount through our My Energy Discount program. It lowers energy costs for two years. Eligibility guidelines were recently updated and, in most counties, include even higher household income levels.

Visit myavista.com/ORassistance to find your local community action agency and sign up for My Energy Discount.

Connect with us

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