

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for HB2939
The “Right To Know Your Energy Use and Save Money” Act

What is the purpose of this bill?

- To empower all Oregonians with the information they need to better manage their energy consumption and save money on their bills; and to support Oregon’s goal of meeting 100% of new electricity demand through efficiency.

What is a comparative energy usage report?

- A comparative energy usage report provides households with a snapshot of home energy use over time, including comparisons with similar homes in their area and personalized tips to help them save money.
- Research has proven that providing people with a comparison that puts their usage into context is more effective at motivating people to use less energy than data alone.

What entity would deliver the reports to households?

- The Energy Trust of Oregon in cooperation with the Investor Owned Utilities or as otherwise determined by the Public Utility Commission.

How much energy and money would this bill help Oregonians save?

- HB2939 has the potential to deliver on an annual basis \$30 million in bill savings, 220,000 MWh’s in electricity and 4 million therms in gas savings. The savings will be equivalent of taking nearly 20,000 homes off the grid.

Are there examples of programs this large that have been successful in other jurisdictions?

- Yes. Over 1 million households in both California and Massachusetts are receiving comparative energy usage reports, and these customers have saved over \$60M on their bills to date.

How much energy and money have these programs saved nationally to date?

- In five years, households across the country have reduced their energy consumption by more than 2 TWhs, nearly equivalent to taking Portland off the grid for a year. They have saved more than \$230 million on their bills and more than 3.2 billion lbs of CO2, equivalent to taking 200,000 cars off the road for a year.

How much would this bill cost to implement?

- The program would pay for itself in less than three years, providing benefits through lower bills for Oregonian households that exceed the costs of running the program.

What experience has Oregon had with comparative usage reports?

- In 2011, the Energy Trust of Oregon launched a pilot program to 60,000 households across six counties (Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, Yamhill).
- To date, the reports have delivered bill savings of \$30 per household per year, 15,725 MWh, and 534,000 therms.

Why is this bill necessary if ETO is already running a similar program?

- All Oregonians have the right to easy to understand and meaningful insights into their energy consumption that help them save money.
- Oregon has fallen behind other states like Rhode Island, which will deliver energy usage comparison information to all customers in 2013.

Would all households be eligible to receive the energy usage information?

- All households would be eligible to receive energy usage information except those on special medical rates, without sufficient data, or are otherwise deemed ineligible by the Public Utility Commission.

How do these reports affect low income, seniors, and vulnerable households?

- They deliver consistent savings across income and age, including those with the highest relative energy burden, such as renters, low-income households, and seniors.

How can they help other efficiency programs and contractors who implement them?

- They have proven to increase participation in other efficiency programs by 20-60%.

Why is this bill creating an opt-out program?

- Opt-out programs are able to engage all households and maximize savings, while preserving customer choice and privacy. To date, approximately 1% of households have opted out.

What is a randomized control trial and why is it necessary?

- Randomized controlled trials are used to measure the effect of an intervention by comparing two groups that were randomly selected. One group receives the intervention while the other, the control group, does not.
- This methodology is the recommended gold standard by the U.S. Department of Energy-led State & Local Energy Efficiency (SEE) Action Network. It is the most rigorous way to verify that the program actually delivers real savings to households.