

March 10, 2015

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Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State House of Representatives
Salem, OR 97301
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

Thank you for the invitation to provide information regarding Energy Trust of Oregon and how our energy efficiency programs and incentives could be used to assist public school districts, should they choose to discontinue the use of disposable food service trays and utensils.

For the record, Energy Trust is an independent non-profit organization charged by the Oregon Public Utility Commission with helping Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas utility customers save energy and generate renewable energy.

Energy Trust's energy-efficiency programs and services are designed to capture all available, cost-effective energy conservation. Doing so keeps the cost of energy lower for all utility customers, as it is cheaper to save electricity or natural gas than to build and operate a power plant to generate an equivalent amount of electricity.

Earlier this year, Representative Nosse inquired as to whether Oregon public school districts could utilize Energy Trust assistance to support K-12 schools wishing to discontinue the use of disposable food service trays and packaging.

While Energy Trust does not offer programs specifically to incent switching from polystyrene to reusable trays and packaging, it is consistent with our mission to help schools reduce the water heating costs associated with making this switch. As an example, Energy Trust offers programs and incentives to many Oregon K-12 public schools for installing energy-efficient appliances such as dishwashers. Eligibility is based on location, utility service, and building type.

- For K-12 instructional buildings in PGE and Pacific Power territory, Energy Trust and the Oregon Department of Energy coordinate to provide incentives for energy efficient dishwashers.

- For K-12 buildings in NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas territory, which are not served by PGE or Pacific Power, Energy Trust can provide incentives for up to \$900 for qualified dishwashers utilizing water heated by natural gas.
- Energy Trust may also serve non-instructional school district buildings such as administration or maintenance facilities in all four investor owned utility territories.
- For schools and school facilities located outside of investor owned utility territory, Oregon's public utilities may offer similar or complementary incentives.

It should be noted that equipment meeting criteria under Energy Trust programs can save up to 18,000 kWh (electric) or 550 therms (natural gas) annually over standard commercial dishwashers.

Energy Trust of Oregon has a long history of working with K-12 school districts as they strive to reduce energy use and associated expenditures. We are eager to work with any eligible district that wishes to install the equipment needed to transition from disposable to reusable food service products.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide background on Energy Trust programs to inform your decision-making. Energy Trust of Oregon looks forward to working with you to continue helping Oregon's utility customers save energy and money.

Respectfully,

Jay Ward

Senior Community Relations Manager
Energy Trust of Oregon