



# August 2023

Newsletter

## DUCTLESS & DUCTED HEAT PUMP REBATE PROGRAMS

OCEC is currently offering Ductless Heat Pump and Variable Speed Ducted Heat Pump rebate programs. These programs are available to all OCEC members who replace their existing electrical zonal or electric forced air heating systems. Requirements include installation in an existing single-family home by a Comfort Ready Home certified contractor.

All members who have had ductless heat pumps or variable speed ducted heat pumps installed by a Comfort Ready Home certified contractor in their existing homes **after January 1, 2021** are now eligible.

Local certified contractors include Cascade Mechanical, Fisher Refrigeration, Holdens Air LLC, North Cascades Heating & Air Conditioning, and Otonicar Electrical Contracting Inc.

The current Energy Efficiency Rebate fiscal year with BPA ends soon, please submit your forms to OCEC by September 14, 2023.

If interested, visit [www.ocec.coop/rebates-assistance/](http://www.ocec.coop/rebates-assistance/) to learn more or download your application.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*



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# OKANOGAN COUNTY CONNECT BROADBAND

Don't forget to go to [www.okanogancountyconnect.com](http://www.okanogancountyconnect.com) and check out the online map to see if your home or business qualifies for the limited time free installation of lightning fast fiber!

Okanogan County Connect is a partnership between Methownet and Okanogan County Electric Cooperative to bring fiber to the OCEC service area with the help of federal grant funding.

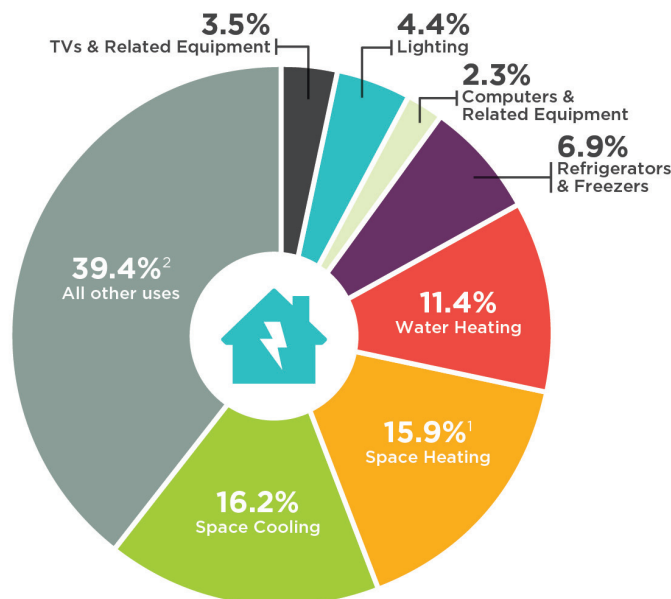
The source of the \$12 million grant for the upper valley project is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a program enacted in 2021 to mitigate economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project was designed to be accomplished with the \$12 million grant, the maximum amount available through the funding source.

OCEC is required to provide a \$1.2 million match for the federal funds. Last month, the Okanogan County Commissioners committed \$500,000 in county ARPA funds towards the match.

Even if your home is outside of the phase 1 installation area you should sign up to be notified of when fiber will be coming to your neighborhood, [www.okanogancountyconnect.com](http://www.okanogancountyconnect.com)

## How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: Energy Information Administration 2022  
<sup>1</sup>Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.

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