



BPA launches \$200-million energy conservation program

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Bonneville Power Administration

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CONTACTS: [Ed Mosey](#), BPA (503) 230-5359

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration today unveiled a

\$200-million energy conservation and renewable resource development program that will help relieve the Northwest's current electricity shortage, save salmon and help meet its need for new power resources.

"This is a program we had intended to start next fall, but, with the current shortage, we are offering it immediately," said Acting Administrator Steve Wright. "With the energy shortages and the high cost of purchasing power in this market, we and our customer utilities wanted to kick conservation into high gear now."

Over \$200 million will be available to fund conservation and renewable energy activities in the next five years from this program alone. Regional utilities that buy power from BPA and choose to participate will get a discount on their wholesale power bill if they agree to invest in conservation measures or renewable resources. Each utility decides how to spend its discount funds to achieve the desired results for its service area.

"Given the current and projected price of power on the market, conservation and renewables can come at very attractive prices," Wright said. "Our customers are eager to pursue these opportunities."

"Installation of local renewable generation by individual customers qualifies for the discount", said John Pyrch, BPA's conservation manager. "This includes distributed generation" such as fuel cells fueled by ethanol, photovoltaic arrays, wind generators, fuel-efficient biogas turbines and other equipment.

"The discount program is just one of several BPA has under way," said Pyrch. Others adding up to \$465 million in total investment are:

- Conservation Augmentation, in which BPA offers utilities financing up to 10 years to adopt measures conserving energy.
- Demand Exchange, in which BPA pays large industrial consumers to curtail use of electricity during periods when the system is short of power to meet peak demand.
- Funding for the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and other utilities to implement a region-wide compact fluorescent lamp rebate programs this spring.

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