



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Energy Program

The Community Energy Efficiency Program

2024 Update



Heat pump being installed. Photo credit: BigStock

Delivering services since 2009

The WSU Energy Program continues to build on the success of the Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) that was launched in 2009. Designated by the Washington State Legislature, this \$5 million program for the 2023-2025 biennium provides energy efficiency support and financial assistance to low- and moderate-income residents (those just above Washington's low-income thresholds). Through the CEEP partners, these funds assist homeowners, multifamily dwellings and small businesses to make energy efficiency upgrades and achieve carbon reductions. CEEP partners also target harder-to-reach customers such as those with non-utility heating sources (i.e., wood, propane, oil), leverage existing utility incentives and seek out other complementary funding, deploying customer education opportunities and supporting local workforce development and training.

2023-2025 Biennium CEEP Partners

CEEP projects are led by community-based or non-profit organizations with deep community roots and are geographically dispersed across the state. Building relationships with their communities, fellow community organizations and local installers has been vital to the success of each CEEP partner's program development.

Our current CEEP Program partners include:

The Opportunity Council – Serving Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties, and with six different utility partners in their territories, the Opportunity Council’s focus is on whole home weatherization for low-moderate income households- including both single and multi-family housing. The Opportunity Council is exceeding their goals- successfully operating what they call a “one-stop shop” for customers- administering energy audits, contracting with local installers to complete upgrade measures, and providing quality assurance inspections post-project completion.

Sustainable Living Center – Serving Walla Walla, Franklin and Columbia Counties and working with five utilities in their territory, the Sustainable Living Center supports incentives for energy efficiency and weatherization work- prioritizing hard to reach individuals and families. With a focus on implementation of whole house weatherization measures, the Sustainable Living Center performs residential assessments and audits. And, working with several local contractors, they coordinate energy efficiency upgrades- ensuring customers are maximizing utility rebates and other incentives for cost savings.

For the People – A coalition of local groups in the South Whidbey Island region, including the community supported organization For the People, use CEEP funding for a decarbonization campaign called “Kicking Gas.” Their primary focus is on installation of ductless heat pumps to replace non-utility heat (propane, oil, or wood) on southern Whidbey Island. The Kicking Gas program provides education, outreach, enrollment, sliding-scale subsidies and financing to ensure the retrofits are affordable. For the People is making great progress on their conversion goals (to ductless heat pumps from wood, oil or propane) and have educated hundreds of households on decarbonization efforts.

Elevate – A place-based decarbonization program upgrading Pierce County’s unsubsidized, affordable rental housing. Upgrading this housing stock has been critical for preserving affordability, meeting the region’s housing needs, and minimizing displacement while supporting climate resiliency. Elevate is a new organization within the CEEP program and has been building relationships with building owners deemed likely eligible candidates. They are working to move forward with assessments prior to installation of electrification measures.

Electrify King County – A collaborative partnership between King County and the cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island and Redmond, this program installs high-efficiency (continued on pg. 4)...



Linda Irvine (left) of the Kicking Gas campaign chats with a recipient of CEEP funding. Photo courtesy of For the People.

Counties with Current CEEP Projects



Home pressure assessment.
Photo credit: WSU-EP.

The CEEP Partners at a Glance

2023-2025 Partner	Biennium Goals	Progress as of September 2024 All partners are on track to meet their goals
Opportunity Council	87 energy efficiency retrofits	69 assessments 41 upgrades
Sustainable Living Center	275 home assessments/ audits with potential of energy efficiency upgrades	128 assessments 80 upgrades
For the People	100 ductless heat pumps 50 hot water tank conversions 50 induction stove installations	93 upgrades
Elevate	10-20 multi-family decarbonizations and energy efficiency measures	Conducting building assessments
Electrify King County	175 single family air source heat pump upgrades 100 multi-family air source heat pump upgrades	110 upgrades (single and multi- family)
South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity	40 ductless heat pump upgrades	20 upgrades

air source heat pumps in King County as a primary decarbonization measure, with a focus on eastside cities and south urban unincorporated areas. The program is accelerating high-efficiency, electrical heat pump installations in the region with a range of incentives and outreach strategies. Installations focus on oil- and natural gas-heated homes, as well as inefficient electrical-heat homes. Program focus includes near-low- and market-rate rentals, non-U.S. citizen and *First Language Not English* households. They are busy coordinating heat pump installations and providing thousands in heat pump rebates to qualified customers.

South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity – This program focuses on heat pump installations and decarbonization measures in Thurston County. In partnership with the City of Olympia, the goal is to increase community awareness of the benefits of heat pump technology and increase local installations of air-source heat pumps. Following the model of successful solarization campaigns in Thurston County and other regions, this campaign employs a group-purchase model to achieve economies of scale and reduce upfront cost barriers to heat pump retrofits for all program participants. Also addressed are other common barriers for low- and moderate-income participants by integrating fully subsidized weatherization, electrical upgrades, and other critical repairs necessary for heat pump retrofits for all income qualified participants.



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Creating Energy Solutions

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