

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE NORTHWEST

The Pacific Northwest is a leader in acquiring energy efficiency, our second largest resource after hydropower

How We Did It

With the passage of the Northwest Power Act in 1980, the region would be on a path to acquiring low-cost energy efficiency, which the Act defines as the energy resource of first choice when considering new resources.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council works with the Bonneville Power Administration, utilities, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, the Energy Trust of Oregon, and energy organizations to meet the efficiency targets in the Council's regional power plans.

Major sources of energy efficiency have been in weatherization, lighting, and commercial and industrial improvements. As technology advances, so will energy efficiency. We expect to see continued improving efficiencies in lighting, heating and cooling systems, water heaters, and electronic devices.

Learn more about the impact of energy efficiency and how we work together to develop it here in the Northwest at www.nwcouncil.org.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council

The Northwest Power Act authorized Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to form the Council, giving the region a stronger voice in planning our energy future and managing natural resources in the Columbia River Basin. The Act requires the Council to develop, with broad citizen participation, a regional power plan to ensure an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply, along with a program to protect and enhance fish and wildlife affected by hydropower dams in the basin.

Wholesale power revenues from BPA fund the Council. The Act requires BPA to follow the Council's plan.

The Regional Technical Forum

The Regional Technical Forum is an advisory committee to the Council, established in 1999 to develop standards to verify and evaluate energy efficiency savings. Its members are individual experts that bring technical expertise and a variety of perspectives working together in a public process to determine reliable savings estimates for utilities and regulators. These estimates support program planning and ease evaluation burden for utilities. The RTF also enables the region to track progress against the plan and is critical in the region's success in achieving energy efficiency. Learn more at rtf.nwcouncil.org.

Energy Efficiency Achievements

Since 1978, the region has met more than half its load growth with energy efficiency, resulting in:

- More than 6,000 average megawatts saved, enough power for five Seattles
- \$4 billion saved in lower electricity bills per year
- Carbon emissions reduced by 23.5 million tons per year
- Producing more with less energy compared to the national average

