



FEATURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2010

#10-72

Contacts:

Rebecca Sweetland - (503) 551-2849

Ann Grim – (503) 378-4912

In Oregon 1-800-221-8035

New heat pump makes ‘little piece of heaven’ more livable

In 1853, Albert Winter’s ancestors homesteaded on 160 acres ten miles out of Winston in Southern Oregon. Today Winter lives on the same land.

It is home for Winter and his 92-year-old mother, who lives next door. Life is quiet and peaceful for the retired forester in his small home situated along a creek and surrounded by timber. It’s a “little piece of heaven” and Winter has few complaints.

He does have one, however. His manufactured home is only four years old and well insulated, but it has been expensive to heat in the winter. In addition, it is hard to keep the flat-roofed manufactured home cool in the hot Southern Oregon summers.

Winter called on a Roseburg electrical contractor, Mahalo Heating and Air Conditioning, to explore some alternatives. The firm suggested a heat pump that both heats and cools, new duct work to get more effective air circulation and a new programmable thermostat for better control.

The contractor also mentioned to Winter that since he was retired and owned his home, he may qualify for an incentive program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) funds. The State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate program for Oregon low-income homeowners who purchase ENERGY STAR-rated furnaces, heat pumps, water heaters, refrigerators, clothes washers and dishwashers pays up to 70 percent of the cost of the equipment (up to \$2,000 for heat pumps).

Winters did qualify and took advantage of the program so his new heat pump was installed in July.

“I was impressed with the information on the equipment and the incentives that Mahalo

provided me” said Winter. Although he didn’t have to use the heat pump cooling cycle during this unusually cool summer, he looks forward to using the heat pump for heating this winter.

“I’m expecting to lower my heating bill by half this winter,” he said. He also knows he’ll appreciate how quiet the new heat pump is compared to his old furnace.

Just after Winter’s heat pump was installed, his refrigerator unexpectedly “died.” He remembered hearing that the State Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate program expanded July 1 to include refrigerators and several other appliances. Winter got on the phone and was able to qualify for a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator under the program.

Now Winter can sit back and enjoy his “little piece of heaven.”

More details on how to apply for the Appliance Rebate program follow.

How to apply for the Appliance Rebate Program

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded the Oregon Department of Energy with \$3.6 million of federal stimulus funds from the State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate program. On January 1, 2010, the Department began to provide eligible low-income Oregon homeowners with a 70 percent reimbursement (up to \$2,000) for ENERGY STAR heat pumps and furnaces purchases on or after January 1, 2010.

Eligible Oregonians are those who own their home and earn less than 60 percent of the state’s median income levels (see link below). The Department is partnering with the [Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services](#) which provides additional assistance benefits for those in crisis situations.

Effective July 1, 2010, the Oregon appliance rebate program expanded to include eligible low-income homeowners who purchase ENERGY STAR water heaters, refrigerators, dishwashers and clothes washers. Purchases must be dated on or after July 1, 2010.

Available rebates will be distributed on a “first-come, first-served” basis until funds are depleted or February 17, 2012, whichever comes first.

Interested Oregon homeowners can contact OHCS at 1-800-453-5511 (option 2, selection 4) to learn about the program and apply for a rebate voucher. After purchase and installation of eligible ENERGY STAR appliances, qualified homeowners may redeem vouchers for 70 percent of the purchase price, up to a specified maximum. Old appliances must be legally recycled (not re-sold or re-used) in order to receive rebate funds.

For more information, see www.ohcs.state.or, call 1-800-453-5511 (option 2, selection 4) or e-mail appliancerebate@hcs.state.or.us.

Rebate maximum amounts for ENERGY STAR:

Furnaces – 70% up to \$2,000
Heat pumps – 70% up to \$2,000
Refrigerators – 70% up to \$700
Electric heat pump water heaters – 70% up to \$1,400
Gas tankless water heaters – 70% up to \$1,200
Gas storage water heaters – 70% up to \$1,400
Dishwashers - 70% up to \$400
Clothes washers – 70% up to \$800

###

Oregon Department of Energy

625 Marion St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-3737

Phone: 503-378-4040

Toll-free in Oregon: 1-800-221-8035

Fax: 503-373-7806

Website: www.oregon.gov/ENERGY