



COMMERCIAL CONSERVATION SERVICES INCENTIVES 2010

We are pleased to announce Commercial Conservation Services (CCS) **incentives from \$250-\$3000** are now available for qualifying* energy efficiency projects! These incentives double the utility rebates for larger energy efficiency projects. CCS incentives can be used in conjunction with any rebates, tax credits or other incentives already available for energy efficiency projects.



Limited Funding – Act Soon!

Total program funding of \$25,000 is available for CCS incentives. Projects will be awarded on a first come-first served basis while funds last. Funding will be committed to projects prior to work beginning so that participant financial expectations are realized.

Special Early Action Offer!

The first 5 projects to utilize this benefit will receive an **additional \$500** demonstration project incentive. This \$500 is in addition to the CCS incentives and reward early actors who can be recognized as models for the community.

QUALIFYING PROJECTS

- Are recommended in a Facility Action Plan developed through Sustainable Connections Commercial Conservation Services Program.
- Qualify for an energy efficiency rebate in excess of \$250 through the electric or natural gas utility. *This rebate is the basis of the additional incentive – we're matching it!*
- Are not a lighting replacement project (see FAQ)
- Pay prevailing wage and meet other reporting requirements – Sustainable Connections will assist with these necessary requirements.
- Communicate with Sustainable Connections prior to beginning the project. *Projects completed without following necessary steps will not be eligible for funding.*

Loan Program:

In addition to the CCS incentives, businesses participating in the Community Energy Challenge have exclusive access to low-interest financing to help cover the balance of the project cost! Loans for qualifying business projects will have 5 year fixed interest rates between 3.50% and 5.00%.** Call about project eligibility details.

**These rates include a 0.50% discount for automatic payment from a Banner Bank checking account, and a 3.0% rate buy down by the Community Energy Challenge. Borrower will be required to pay a \$150 loan fee and a 1% fee to Community Energy Challenge. Financing is subject to meeting qualification standards of the Community Energy Challenge loan program. Actual interest rates vary depending upon loan size and borrower's credit. Loan program rates are subject to change. Rates are current as of June 18, 2010.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get a project recommended in a Facility Action Plan through the Commercial Conservation Services Program (CCS)?

CCS is a service available to small businesses and organizations in Whatcom County. Facility Action Plans are based on a comprehensive energy assessment conducted by our staff. Due to grant funding, this service is available for \$65 for the first year. The energy assessment will help you save energy by recommending quick fixes, low cost and capital energy efficiency measures. Incentives help reduce the upfront cost of the capital measures. For more information including how to sign up go to: <http://sustainableconnections.org/energy/energychallenge/commercial>

Can I use my own contractor?

Yes. Contractors will have to comply with prevailing wage requirements while working on these projects, but many are already doing so. SC staff will be available to help with this requirement.

What is my CCS incentive potential?

The CCS incentive for any individual measure to be paid by Sustainable Connections to the recipient is \$1500, or the incentive amount that would bring the total customer project cost after all incentives to zero, whichever is smaller. The maximum CCS incentive paid to any participant with multiple measures is \$3000 at all facilities that they own.

When will I receive my additional rebate?

We will process rebates after you have received your utility rebate, and provided necessary documentation.

Why are lighting replacements excluded?

These energy efficiency projects are generally very cost effective (often completely paying for themselves in less than 2 years) and qualify for significant utility rebates. We believe further financial encouragement of these projects is not necessary. Lighting replacement projects may still qualify for a preferred term loan through the Community Energy Challenge.

Where is this funding coming from?

This money is available through the Opportunity Council as part of a Community Energy Efficiency Pilot Program made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

For more information contact:

Alex Ramel, Sustainable Connections
Alex@sconnect.org
360-647-7093 ext 112

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➤ *Simple Steps*
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