Hoping for lower utility bills? Let us help you make it happen!

Follow these simple steps to obtain a rebate and reduce your water and energy costs. City of Bellingham water customers must participate in the Community Energy Challenge AND retrofit a high volume toilet and/or clothes washer to qualify for any rebates.

**STEP 1. Sign up for the Community Energy Challenge (CEC)**

Get a $100 rebate from the City towards a water and energy assessment if you’re a City single-family or duplex water customer.

Get an additional $95 rebate from the CEC with purchase and install of qualifying toilet and/or clothes washer (see Step 2). Find out which water-guzzling fixture and energy-sapping appliance should be replaced first. For more information and to register, visit www.communityenergychallenge.org, or call 676-6099.

**STEP 2. Retrofit your high volume toilets and clothes washer**

Purchase and install a qualifying high-efficiency toilet and/or clothes washer.

Get a $200 rebate for WaterSense labelled high-efficiency toilets.

Up to $100 per toilet rebate, up to two toilets total. Qualifying toilets can be found at http://www.epa.gov/watersense/product_search.html

Get a $100 rebate for a qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer.

Qualifying clothes washers can be found at http://www.pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/ForHomes/Documents/qualifyingclotheswashers.pdf

Rebates only available for City of Bellingham water customers that participate in the Community Energy Challenge. For more information, visit www.cob.org and search “rebate”, or call 778-7700.

Water and energy are connected: it takes water to produce energy, and energy to move water. The City’s Water Conservation Program has partnered with the Opportunity Council’s Community Energy Challenge (CEC) program to offer water assessments in addition to the home energy assessments provided by CEC staff and partners. Incentives are available for both water-and-energy conserving fixtures, appliances, and home improvements. Sign up to start lowering your utility bills today!
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Community Energy Challenge (CEC)?

The CEC is a program that provides participants a water and energy assessment of the home, quality information, a customized energy action plan detailing cost-effective measures, assistance with utility rebates, reliable contractors, and quality assurance. The goal is to help you identify where energy and water savings can be found in your home, and the no-cost, low-cost, rebates, and financing options available to do improvements.

Q: Who qualifies for the rebates?

City of Bellingham single-family residential and duplex water customers that participate in the Community Energy Challenge AND retrofit a high volume toilet and/or clothes washer. New construction residential homes are not eligible.

Q: Can I receive more than one rebate?

Yes— When you sign up for the CEC, you receive a $100 rebate when you install a water efficient toilet and/or clothes washer. Each water customer is also eligible for the pre-tax purchase price (up to $100) rebate per toilet (up two toilets per home, up to $100 each), AND up to a $100 rebate for a qualifying clothes washer. Maximum rebate total is up to $400 per water customer service address. Rebates cover the purchase cost only. It DOES NOT cover installation, additional parts, labor charges, delivery fees or tax.

Q: Can I receive a rebate if I rent my home?

Yes, but the homeowner must sign the application. The owner should also indicate whether the rebate is to be paid to the renter or the owner.

Q: How do I know the flush volume of my old toilet?

• Newer toilets often have a stamp near the hinge of the toilet seat indicating flush volume.
• If there is no stamp on your toilet, you can estimate the capacity of your toilet based on when the toilet was installed, which is often when the house was built.
• If you believe the toilet was installed before 1980, a good usage estimate is 5 gallons per flush (gpf).
• If your home was built from 1980-1993, 3.5 gpf is a reasonable estimate.
• Toilets installed after 1994 are subject to updated plumbing codes, which mandate the use of low-flow toilets. These toilets normally use 1.6 gpf.

Q: How will I know if a fixture qualifies before I buy it?

To assure that the model you want to purchase qualifies, check the current list of certified toilet models on the WaterSense® website, for clothes washers check the Puget Sound Energy list.

Q: Why does the WaterSense® list have toilet tanks and bowls listed separately?

Many toilets are sold in two pieces. Toilet components must match the numbers on the WaterSense® list exactly. No mixing and matching of tanks and bowls from the list is allowed as toilets have been tested in specific combinations for performance and efficiency.

Q: I want to make sure that I buy a toilet that performs well. Is there a way to find out more about models I am considering?

While all toilets certified under WaterSense® must meet performance standards, more detailed information from independent testing is also available. Known as MaP testing, you can view test results here: www.map-testing.com

Q: How long is this rebate program available?

Rebates are first-come, first-served. Participation in the Community Energy Challenge and purchase and installation(s) of water conserving fixtures must be completed by December 31, 2015 or before program funds are depleted. It is up to the water customer to verify program availability, however, we will post any changes on our www.cob.org website (search “rebate”) and attempt to keep customers informed.

Q: How do I get an application?

Contact our partners at the Community Energy Challenge at 360-676-6099 or www.communityenergychallenge.org to sign up for an energy and water assessment and obtain a rebate application.

Q: How long will it take after I submit my application to receive my rebate?

Eligible rebates are generally processed in 4-6 weeks.

Q: The application states that the City reserves the right to schedule an inspection. What does this mean?

City staff may schedule an inspection to ensure the toilet and/or clothes washer meets the rebate requirements and/or is installed in a COB water customer residence.