



NW Natural®

## NW Natural Requests Early Credit Of Gas Cost Savings To Customers

NW Natural announced that a tariff filing has been made with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC) to provide a \$32 million credit to its Oregon customers as a result of a recent decline in wholesale natural gas costs.

“The natural gas prices we’ve secured in the last several months are substantially lower than what is currently set in our rates. Given the extremely tough economic conditions our customers are struggling with, we felt it was critical that these savings be refunded as soon as possible,” said Gregg Kantor, NW Natural President and CEO.

Ordinarily, gas cost savings are held in a deferral account and returned as a reduction to customer bills beginning with the annual rates set each November. Kantor also said, barring any dramatic events that might adversely affect energy markets, the company expects to continue to lock in lower priced supplies for the next winter heating season and file this summer for an additional rate reduction that would start in November.

If approved by the OPUC, this refund based on gas cost savings accumulated from November 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 will show up as a credit to Oregon residential, commercial and industrial sales customers on their June bills.

This bill credit will be based on each customer’s actual gas usage during those five months. For example, an average residential customer that uses 92 therms per month from November through March can expect to receive a bill credit of approximately \$33. An average commercial customer that uses 383 therms per month can expect to receive a credit of approximately \$137.

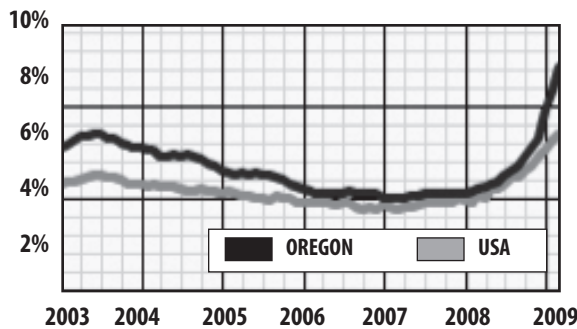
Discussions with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission related to a similar refund for Washington customers are currently underway. In the event a refund does not occur in June, NW Natural will proceed in Washington with the original November 1st date to set rates for the next winter heating season.

### Nominations for SEDCOR Board of Directors

SEDCOR is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 Board of Director positions. All members who are interested in a board position, please send letter of interest to Ray Burstedt, SEDCOR President, by May 15th, 2009.

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Additional information @ [www.qualityinfo.org](http://www.qualityinfo.org)



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

SALEM MSA	March 2009	Feb 2009	March 2008
Raw Data	12.4%	11.3%	6.0%
Seasonally Adj.	11.2%	9.6%	5.4%
OREGON			
Raw Data	12.9	11.7	6.0
Seasonally Adj.	12.1%	10.7%	5.5%
USA			
Raw Data	9.0	8.9	5.2
Seasonally Adj.	8.5%	8.1%	5.1%

Salem MSA Non-Farm Payroll Employment	Mar 09	Feb 09	+/- Mar 08
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>104,100</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>100</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	1,100	1,100	0
Construction	7,600	7,700	-100
Manufacturing Total	11,900	11,900	-100
Durable Goods	6,000	6,000	0
Nondurable Goods	5,900	5,900	0
Food Products Mfg.	3,900	3,900	0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,900	24,800	100
Wholesale Trade	3,800	3,800	0
Retail Trade	17,300	17,200	100
Transportation, Wrhs & Utilities	3,800	3,800	0
Information	1,300	1,300	0
Financial Activities	7,300	7,300	0
Professional and Business Svcs.	11,900	11,900	0
Admin and Support Svcs.	6,000	6,000	0
Educational and Health Svcs.	20,700	20,700	0
Health Care & Social Assistance	17,600	17,500	100
Health Care	14,700	14,600	100
Leisure and Hospitality	12,100	12,000	100
Accommodation & Food Svcs.	10,800	10,700	100
Other Services	5,300	5,300	0
Government	43,500	43,700	-200
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	0
State Government	21,300	21,200	100
State Govt Educational Svcs.	2,300	2,300	0
Local Government	20,600	20,900	-300
Tribal Government	1,900	2,000	-100
Local Govt Educational Svcs.	10,800	10,900	-100

Source: Worksource Oregon

## SEDCOR Member News

**Chemeketa Event Services**, the hospitality arm of Chemeketa Community College has launched a new website. The event department offers information on college facility rental locations, catering and restaurant options and internship opportunities to college students to enhance the classroom learning by gaining real work experience in the hospitality industry. **Visit their website at [www.chemeketaeventservices.com](http://www.chemeketaeventservices.com).**

**Crowell Ing, LLP** is pleased to announce that associate attorney, Nye Wang, passed the United States Patent and Trademark Office patent registration bar exam on April 8, 2009. Mr. Wang joined Crowell Ing after receiving his Juris Doctorate from Willamette Law School in 2008. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Wang passed the Oregon State Bar. Mr. Wang's practice includes civil litigation, intellectual property matters and now patent prosecution. Mr. Wang is now one of two patent attorneys practicing at Crowell Ing. **Call 503-581-1240 or visit [www.crowelling.com](http://www.crowelling.com).**

**Sperry Van Ness Commercial Advisors, LLC** announced that Liz Beaty has joined their Salem team as a Senior Advisor. She will specialize in the sale and leasing of retail properties within the Salem/Keizer, Oregon area and along the I-5 corridor. Prior to joining Sperry Van Ness, Beaty served as VP of Commercial Sales and Leasing for Rushing Real Estate for over three years. She is a member of the Salem Association of Realtors, Salem Chamber of Commerce, graduate of the Leadership Salem Program, and is the current 2009 Chair of the Willamette Valley Commercial Realtors. **For more information, please visit [www.svn.com](http://www.svn.com).**

## USDA Renewable Energy Grants

The Oregon USDA office announced a change in their energy efficiency programs. The national USDA office has decided to keep 20% of the total allocation in a pool. This pool is for projects under \$20,000, where USDA's portion is less than \$20,000. Example: If the project total is \$80,000 then USDA's part would be 25% or \$20,000. In the past these grants were competitive on a national basis. Now, if it is \$20,000 or less – it is first come, first served until the money is gone.

Money is available to small rural businesses or agricultural producers. A small business by SBA standards has less than 500 employees. Rural is defined as anything outside the Salem MSA. To apply – No energy audit is required. Submit a REAP application along with a technical report, which can be done by almost any vendor. For small solar projects, because it is renewable energy you can simply ask for \$20,000, no matter what the total of the project. **Contact Nick Harville at 503-485-9802 or email [nharville@sedcor.com](mailto:nharville@sedcor.com) for a REAP application.**

## Economic Census

[www.census.gov/econ/census02](http://www.census.gov/econ/census02)

The Economic Census is a lesser known program from the U.S. Census Bureau. Every five years businesses are surveyed. The 2007 census reports employment, payroll and sales data by industry. For every metro area, county and 93 cities in Oregon, the Census provides information on the bottom line for companies in the community. It's easy to calculate the average sales per employee for many industries. This is handy to see how your firm compares to the industry average.

## Upcoming Member Events & Seminars

May 8th - 9th at the Oregon State Fairgrounds

### GREEN EXPO

Integrating resources and organizations to bring education to the resident community in the Willamette Valley regarding environment stewardship and Renewable and Sustainable Energy solutions. Tables and Sponsorships are available. **Call 503-364-1716.**

May 9th - 3:00 - 8:30 pm

### Silverton Hospital 26th Annual Fun Run

A community celebration of health, fitness and camaraderie. The fun kicks off with a pre-race warm-up provided by Silverton Fitness. A one-mile race for kids and a 5K run/walk start and finish in front of Silverton Hospital's main entrance, and leads participants through the charming streets of downtown Silverton. **Call 503-873-1789 or register on-line at [www.silvertonhospital.org](http://www.silvertonhospital.org).**

May 14th - 3:00 - 8:30 pm at the Oregon State Fairgrounds

### Show-Biz - Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

A spectacular showcase of products and services with something for everyone. **Visit [www.salemchamber.org](http://www.salemchamber.org).**

May 16th, 10:30 am

### Keizer Annual Iris Festival Parade - "On the Move"

Sponsored by Key Bank

**Call 503-393-9111 or Visit [www.keizerchamber.com](http://www.keizerchamber.com)**

May 30th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Salem Conference Center

### Don't Let Back Pain Keep You From Reaching Your Fitness Goals

Presented by Fitness Together. **Call 503-485-4545 or visit**

**[www.ftsalem.com](http://www.ftsalem.com).**

For a complete list visit [www.sedcor.com](http://www.sedcor.com).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 14, 2009 — 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Events at Copper Hill

### Economic Recovery

Where are the Stimulus Dollars in our Region?

**Presented by:**

**Brian Shipley**

Deputy Chief of Staff to  
Governor Kulongoski,  
Oregon Way

**Pat Grose**

Executive Director,  
Enterprise for Employment  
and Education

**Jeff Deiss**

Program Director,  
USDA Rural  
Development

**Teresa Cox, CCAP**

Executive Director,  
Community Action  
Agency

### Annual Honor's Luncheon

Thursday, June 11th

Willamette Valley Vineyards

### Annual Golf Tournament

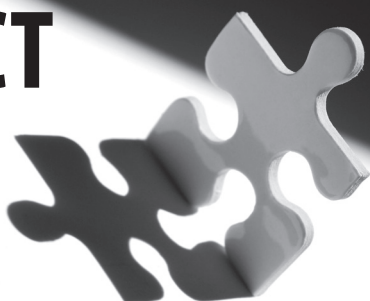
Friday, June 26th

Illaha Hills Country Club

## CONNECT

### Reach Local Business Leaders

with display ads and inserts  
in SEDCOR publications.



For information on rates and deadlines call  
503-485-9803 or email [sappleby@sedcor.com](mailto:sappleby@sedcor.com)



# SEDCOR

Strategic Economic Development Corporation