

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE NORTHWEST

The Pacific Northwest is a leader in acquiring energy efficiency, saving 8,000 average megawatts since 1980

Efficiency benefits the Northwest

When Congress passed the Northwest Power Act in 1980 and created the Council, they did a pretty innovative thing for that time. They made energy efficiency the top priority resource for planning how to meet future demand for electricity in the Northwest. Energy efficiency is a reduction in electricity consumption through improved efficiency.

Over the past several decades, we've found that energy efficiency can be more cost-effective than building new generating plants. It has also created huge cost savings and consumer benefits for the Northwest.

The Council's role in efficiency

The Northwest Power Act authorized Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington to form the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (see nwcouncil.org), 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.

The Council is currently developing its **9th Power Plan** which includes energy efficiency as a vital part of ensuring a reliable power supply. This 20-year plan should be adopted in 2026.



The 9th Northwest Power Plan

The Regional Technical Forum

The Regional Technical Forum (see rtf.nwcouncil.org) is an advisory committee to the Council, established in 1999 to develop standards to verify and evaluate energy efficiency savings. Its members are technical experts on efficiency, represented by regional utilities, the Bonneville Power Administration, Energy Trust of Oregon, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, and many other partners. The RTF develops energy savings measures in residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors to ensure these measures are as reliable as building a new generating resource.

Energy efficiency achievements

Since 1980, the region has met more than half its load growth with energy efficiency, resulting in:

- 8,000 average megawatts saved, enough power for seven Seattles or the average annual output of three Grand Coulee dams
- \$5 billion saved in lower electricity bills per year
- Producing more with less energy compared to the national average

