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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

NEWS RELEASE

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Free duct and home performance program expands to Ridgefield

Vancouver, WA – Residents of Ridgefield now can sign up to have a free home heating duct inspection.

Clark County Community Development is expanding an energy audit program that tests home heating ducts, air tightness and insulation to include homes in Ridgefield. Previously, the Duct and Home Performance program has focused on homes in Clark County's unincorporated areas and Vancouver.

The program received a grant from U.S. Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Since it started in March 2010, it has paid for the inspection of 360 homes.

Inspectors determine how much heat is leaking out of a home's ductwork instead of reaching rooms and perform a limited energy conservation home audit. Based on the findings, the inspector will refer the resident to private contractors who can seal the home's ducts or make other needed upgrades.

Duct sealing for a 1,800-square-foot home typically costs \$600-\$1,000. If the resident or homeowner uses a contractor on an approved list from the inspector, the grant will provide a \$100 rebate to off-set improvement costs. Clark Public Utilities and Northwest Natural, through the Energy Trust of Oregon, also have incentives for improvements.

Applicants must live in the Ridgefield city limits and have a forced-air heating system with at least 50 percent of the ducts accessible through a crawl-space or attic. A renter must have the landlord's approval. Manufactured houses are excluded.

To sign up or see if you are eligible, contact: Steve Alexander, Energy Efficiency Services, (360) 397-2375 ext. 4752 or steve.alexander@clark.wa.gov. To learn more, go to www.clark.wa.gov/commdev.

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