

November 2020 | Oregon

## Save \$1,000 on qualifying natural gas furnaces



**Our partner Energy Trust of Oregon is offering a bonus incentive to help keep you warm this winter.**

Income qualified households and single-family rental properties are eligible for a limited time incentive of \$1,000 towards a high-efficiency natural gas furnace. This offer ends in March 2021, so visit [energytrust.org/gas-furnaces](http://energytrust.org/gas-furnaces) to learn if you qualify or call (866) 368-7878.



## At Home with Lisa: Plastic window sheeting

**I hate to say it, but the weather is starting to get a lot cooler. It's time to really prepare my house for winter.**

Energy bills are higher in the winter, since colder temperatures mean our heating systems are working harder to keep us warm. There are also fewer hours of daylight, holidays with visitors, decorations and cooking large meals, and billing cycles can go from 27 days to 35 depending on the month. I found all of this information at [myavista.com/winterbill](http://myavista.com/winterbill).

*Lisa, an Avista customer, bought her 1910 house because she loved the old-world character, some of which doesn't make her house very energy efficient. Lisa is sharing her experience on taking some simple do-it-yourself improvements to inspire others to do the same. You'll find her stories at [myavista.com/connect](http://myavista.com/connect) every Tuesday morning.*

One fairly easy way to make sure cold air isn't coming through my windows is clear plastic sheeting. I received a kit at Avista's Energy Fair last year and I'm hoping these sheets will help my heating bill. You can find these at the hardware store for about \$10.

First, I cleaned off the window trimming. At the energy fair, they gave me a tip that isn't on the instructions of my kit. I should get some painters' tape so the double-sided tape I use in the kit won't rip the paint off my walls.

Once the painters' tape was in place, I applied the double-sided tape directly to the painters' tape. I measured the plastic sheeting, leaving a 2-inch overlap on all sides. I pressed the plastic into place.

This was the hardest part about this project. While I was hanging the plastic, some parts of it stuck to the double-sided tape and it hung crooked. I had to carefully peel it off and do it again a couple of times.

The fun part of this project is getting out my hair dryer and blowing it about ¼ inch away from the surface of the plastic. This removed the wrinkles.

This winter, when it really starts to get cold, not only will I have ridded myself of the draft, but the space between the plastic and the window will heat up, lending me some extra warmth. Visit [myavista.com/connect](http://myavista.com/connect) to see pictures of my window project.





# Your natural gas prices decreased

Your natural gas rates decreased on Nov. 1 by .3%, a savings of **\$0.19 per month on average for residential customers.** The decrease is a result of approved adjustments we filed with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon this summer. Each year, we file adjustments to better align the price you pay for natural gas with our costs for providing service.

These adjustments are just one way we ensure you are paying for reliable energy at a fair price. To learn more about how your energy is priced, visit [myavista.com/rates](http://myavista.com/rates).

## Holiday lights

Bright, twinkling lights are one of the joys of the season, whether on the eaves of your home or strung on trees.



While those merry little lights are a delight for many, incorrect usage can cause fires, injuries from falls or electrical shocks. To keep the holidays festive and fun, follow these safety tips while decorating outdoors:

- Use lights — and if needed, extension cords — that are approved for outdoor use.
- Before decorating, check all light strands for damages and burned out lights. Frayed insulation, exposed wires and broken plugs are all hazards and should be discarded. When replacing bulbs, unplug the strand.
- Consider purchasing miniature or LED lights as they use less energy and are long lasting. LED lights are also shatterproof and present no fire hazard.
- To avoid accidentally leaving your lights on, consider a timer. Make sure the timer you use is rated to handle the total wattage of your lights.



Visit [myavista.com/safety](http://myavista.com/safety) for more safety tips.



## Connect With Us

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