

March 2019 | Washington • Idaho



## Landscaping for energy savings

**Pleasing to the eye and energy efficient, landscaping can save money all year round.**

- **Shade:** Well-selected, well-placed deciduous trees can provide summer shade and allow incoming solar heat in the winter once they have dropped their leaves. These trees are best placed on the south and west sides of your home.
- **Windbreaks:** The right combination of trees and shrubbery can provide a natural screen that protects your home from wind, noise and dust. Generally, rows of shrubs and evergreens placed on the north and west sides of your home are most effective.
- **Foundation Planting:** Low trees and shrubs planted close to your home reduce wind currents and create a dead air space that helps reduce heat loss in the winter and buffers your home from hot outside air in the summer.

These techniques may not be feasible in rural forested areas due to fire safety and concerns.

When planning your landscape, make sure to select utility friendly trees to plant near power lines. Also, avoid planting trees and shrubs near underground electric and natural gas lines and ground-level transformers.

Visit [myavista.com/advice](http://myavista.com/advice) for other great energy efficiency tips.



## Salt of the earth

**It has been said, “If you really want to make a friend, go to someone’s house and eat with him...the people who give you their food give you their heart.”**

This sentiment is lived out at Fleur de Sel, an award-winning restaurant nestled in the Highlands neighborhood of Post Falls, Idaho. Featuring French bistro and Northern Italian cuisine, this welcoming fine-dining establishment serves creative and comforting fare, sprinkled with a healthy dose of sit-down-and-feel-at-home flair.

Owners Laurent and Patricia Zirotti believe that sitting around the table to share a meal is a great way to build community. And although, in their restaurant, connections are often made between a few people at a time, the Zirottis are passionate about building bridges to connect even larger numbers through food.

Once each month, Laurent carves out time to lead a Community Cooking Class in the Second Harvest Kitchen — an endeavor, he admits, that’s done selfishly on his part simply because it feels so good to share joy and encourage other people to try new things, discover new flavors, and be fearless in the kitchen.

“When you ask people, ‘What is your comfort food?’ eight out of 10 people will tell you something from their childhood because it’s about a feeling, a memory, more than a meal,” Laurent explains. “My mother always made delicious food, seemingly from nothing. So, when I teach, I try to help people understand that even the most simple of dishes can be special, and delicious!”

Visit the Second Harvest Kitchen’s website to learn more about all of the cooking classes they offer.

And get a taste of the Zirotti’s incredible cooking, either at Fleur de Sel in Post Falls, or at the Fleur de Sel Creperie just south of downtown Spokane.

# Know what's below: Excess Flow Valves



**What is an Excess Flow Valve (EFV)?** An excess flow valve (EFV) is a device that automatically restricts the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is punctured or severed. Such damage may result from excavation. The EFV is installed underground on the service pipeline that runs between the natural gas main (usually located near the street, alley, or easement) and the Avista meter on the customer's property. Generally, the EFV is installed as close as possible to the natural gas main.

EFVs have been installed on most new and replaced natural gas customer services since 2008, however, since April 2017, existing natural gas customers without an

EFV on their natural gas service may elect to have one installed at the customer's request and expense. Installation costs vary greatly due to different conditions within our service territory. Customers will be billed for actual labor and materials costs associated with the installation. Estimates for cost and timeframe for construction will be provided as requested on a case-by-case basis. There is no ongoing maintenance cost for the customer.

Whether you have an EFV installed or not on your service line, you need to call 811 to have all underground utility lines properly marked at least two business days before starting any projects that require digging.



If you would like to pursue having an EFV installed in your service line or if you would like to find out if you already have an EFV, please call us at (800) 227-9187 or email us at [ask@myavista.com](mailto:ask@myavista.com)

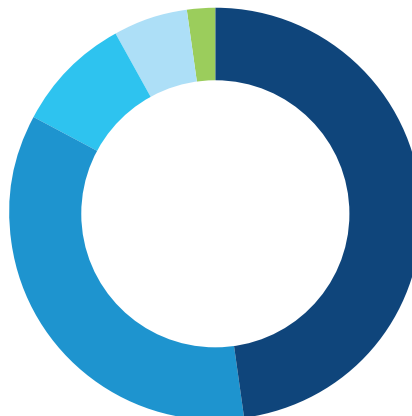
## Electric utilities' fuel mix disclosure

**Avista uses different kinds of fuel to produce the electricity that powers the lives and businesses of our customers.** In addition to the diverse mix of fuel that we use to generate power, we also have long and short-term purchased power contracts in place and purchase power on the wholesale market. It all adds up to a diverse energy mix that provides our customers with clean, reliable power at fair, reasonable rates.

Avista-owned generation includes eight hydroelectric projects and eight thermal generation facilities. We also have long-term contracts for additional hydro and wind power. Over 50 percent of company-owned generation is renewable energy.

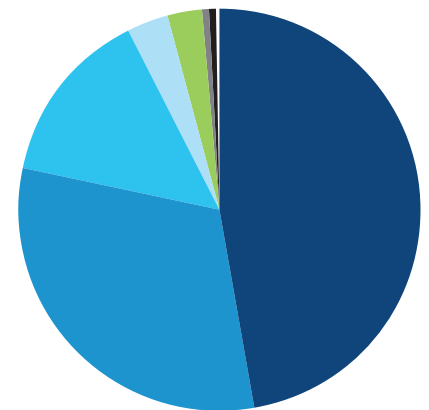
In addition, customers purchased the environmental offsets associated with 68,863,500 kilowatt-hours of new renewable wind and solar power in 2017 through Avista's Buck-A-Block program. These participating customers paid for and received the benefit of the renewable energy offset, so it is not reported in Avista's energy mix.

Learn more about Avista's diverse energy mix at [myavista.com/fuelmix](http://myavista.com/fuelmix).



**Avista-Owned & Controlled Generation As of Dec. 2017**

- Hydro 49%
- Coal 9.5%
- Wind 4.5%
- Biomass 2%
- Natural Gas 35%



**Washington Fuel Mix Disclosure Purchased Power As of Dec. 2017**

- Hydro 47.28%
- Natural Gas 31.09%
- Coal 14.31%
- Wind 3.20%
- Biomass 2.95%
- Other Biogenic\* 0.59%
- Waste\* 0.57%
- Petroleum\* 0.01%
- Nuclear\* 0%
- Other Non-Biogenic\* 0%
- Solar\* 0%
- Biogas\* 0%
- Geothermal\* 0%

\*Avista doesn't own or operate generation facilities.

The Washington State Department of Commerce issues in its annual report the types of fuel used to generate the power that utilities in the state deliver to their customers. The fuel mix of purchased power is based in part on all generating resources of the regional electrical system, plus utility-owned generation and fixed contracts. The recently released 2017 Utility Fuel Mix Disclosure data is available at [commerce.wa.gov](http://commerce.wa.gov) (key word search: fuel mix disclosure).

## Connect With Us

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