



# SOLAR WATER HEATING REDUCES FAMILY'S ENERGY COSTS

## LOW INCOME SOLAR ACCESS PILOT

The David and Antonia-Pelayo Sevilla family of Junction City worked hard to own their piece of the American Dream—their first home. After one winter, it was clear the household budget could not stretch far enough to cover the high cost of heating water and their 1,300-square-foot house. With monthly electric bills growing quickly, the family of four considered selling the house.

With the help of Energy Trust of Oregon's Low Income Solar Access pilot, the family's electrical bills are under control and they are happily and comfortably able to remain in their three-bedroom home. Funded by Energy Trust, the pilot provides technical and logistical support and resources for qualified community action agencies to facilitate the installation of solar water heating systems in low-income households statewide.

Low-income families often struggle with energy costs, spending a large share of their income on electricity. The Low Income Solar Access pilot helps these families reduce energy costs by decreasing the cost of water heating, which typically accounts for 20 to 30 percent of household energy consumption. It also gives them an opportunity to be leaders in energy efficiency. Pacific Solar and Rain (an Energy Trust solar contractor) installed

a flat plate-style solar water heating system in the Sevilla home that is expected to save the family \$250 to \$300 per year on their energy bill.

The home was also fully weatherized with new insulation, new vinyl windows and programmable thermostats. Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County, the public housing authority for Lane County, coordinated the weatherization services.

"Energy Trust helps Oregonians invest in energy-saving improvements and renewable power for their homes and businesses," said Peter West, director of energy programs, Energy Trust. "The Low Income Solar Access pilot helps homeowners who aren't able to make those investments on their own, but want to save money and be good stewards of the environment."

The improvements made a powerful impact on the family's household budget. "We're saving money and we still have all the hot water we need," said Antonia-Pelayo Sevilla. "We are very happy."



### HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

For more information about the Low Income Solar Access pilot and how you can be involved, contact Joe Berney, pilot consultant, at 541.686.5852 or [Joe.Berney@csgpr.com](mailto:Joe.Berney@csgpr.com).

*Working with the Low Income Solar Access pilot, the Sevilla family can enjoy all the hot water they need while saving energy at the same time.*



### Strategies

Under the Low Income Solar Access pilot, HACSA is one of nine agencies across the state providing weatherization and solar water heating system installation services. For the Sevilla home, HASCA worked with Energy Trust solar contractor Pacific Solar and Rain.

### Pilot benefits

- Lower energy costs for low-income households
- Efficient home water heating
- Estimated annual energy savings of 2,700 kilowatt hours
- Estimated annual savings in dollars \$250-\$300
- Estimated annual environmental savings of one and a half tons of carbon per household



**For information about Energy Trust, visit [www.energytrust.org](http://www.energytrust.org) or call 1.866.368.7878.**

### PILOT GOALS

- Minimize energy costs for home water heating
- Enhance home comfort and livability
- Provide renewable energy access for low-income ratepayers
- Develop Oregon's capacity to provide renewable energy technology to all citizens
- Decrease the carbon footprint of homeowners

### EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

- Solaray Te64c-80-1 (64 sq. ft. of collector area)
- Ruud Rspe 80 He-1 (80-gallon heat exchanger tank)
- Steca Controller Model # Setr 0301 U

### PROJECT TEAM

- Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County
- Energy Trust of Oregon
- Oregon Department of Housing and Community Services
- Pacific Solar and Rain
- Pacific Power