

## Puget Sound Energy blitzes Upper County businesses

By Johanna Dalton

UPPER KITTITAS COUNTY – Last week, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) was the newest shop to open in Cle Elum. For three days PSE operated a pop-up storefront on 1st Street to support their small business blitz of Cle Elum and surrounding areas. Teams of PSE consultants went door-to-door offering free energy-efficiency upgrades to businesses in Cle Elum, Roslyn and South Cle Elum.

“Puget Sound Energy has been offering energy efficiency programs that include lighting upgrades for several years,” said Brian Lenz, PSE’s local community engagement manager. “We like to provide the most up-to-date, energy-efficient lighting technology when it becomes available.”

The PSE teams replaced T12 florescent ceiling tubes with newer, more efficient T8s, switched out compact florescent lights (CFLs) with LED bulbs, and outfitted bathrooms with occupancy motion-sensors and low-flow faucet aerators.

“The storefront was a fun way to draw attention to the wide range of energy-efficiency programs we offer for both businesses and homeowners,” said Lenz, “Pop-up office made it easy for the small business owners we visited to return paperwork, as well as for anyone interested to come in and pick up information on how Puget Sound Energy can help reduce their power usage and lower monthly bills.”

John Brubeck, an energy efficiency consultant with Willdan Energy Solutions working on behalf of PSE, says that one of the hardest parts of these door-to-door blitzes is getting people to believe that they are actually providing the new fixtures and labor for free.

While the recent blitz was for businesses, PSE offers a wide range of rebates, incentives and programs for homeowners for everything from heating to lighting to windows. For more information, visit [pse.com](http://pse.com) online.

The PSE teams will be working around the Upper County through the end of June.

### **Don’t toss your CFLs!**

Why? Compact florescent lights (CFLs) contain poisonous mercury gas. While the amount of mercury in a single CFL bulb is extremely small, if disposed of in landfills and waste incinerators the level of mercury released could be harmful to the environment. CFLs need to be taken to special facilities that will dispose of them safely.

Here are a few places that will recycle old CFLs in Kittitas County:

**Kittitas County Solid Waste:** 925 Industrial Way, Ellensburg, (509) 962-7542; open Monday to Friday, 8am – 4pm.

**Puget Sound Energy:** Ellensburg Business Office, 207 North Pearl, Ellensburg, (800) 562-1482; open Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm.



INSTALLER BRANDON MONTEITH, an employee at Willdan, a service partner of Puget Sound Energy, installs an LED light bulb for a Cle Elum business last week.

Photo courtesy of Carey Rose, Puget Sound Energy