

ORDINANCE No. 1815

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SUMAS, WASHINGTON, ADDING SECTION 12.08.055 TO THE SUMAS MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION ACT.

WHEREAS, RCW 19.405.120 as part of the Clean Energy Transformation Act, requires utilities to make energy assistance programs and funding available to low-income households for the represented purpose of lowering the residential energy burden; and

WHEREAS, it is required to establish a portfolio of energy assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that a number of households demonstrate a need for energy assistance; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate implementation of Energy Assistance Programs, it is necessary to add a section to address the criteria and procedure of application; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMAS, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The following is added as Section 12.08.055 to the Sumas Municipal Code to read in its entirety as follows:

12.08.055 Energy Assistance Programs

(1) Electric Base Fee Waiver

- a.** The Electric Base Fee Waiver shall be available to all qualifying households, allowing the residential electric base fee to be waived at its current rate, as established in SMC 12.08.030 Schedule of Rates.
- b.** Eligibility criteria shall be based on the annual household income, which shall not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or 80% of the Area Median Income, whichever is greater, as established by the US Department of Health and Human Services and updated each year by the Federal Census Bureau.
- c.** A qualifying household will be established by means of an application made to the Utility Billing Clerk, which shall be updated annually in June, and all applicants must be the utility bill account holder.
- d.** Proof of adjusted gross income for the prior year shall be used as criteria to establish eligibility.

(2) Senior Electric Discount Program

- a.** The Senior Electric Discount Program shall be available to all persons age 62 or older, and the allowable discount shall be 5% of the monthly electric charges.
- b.** Eligibility criteria shall be based on the applying persons age being 62 years or older, and the annual household income, which shall not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or 80% of the Area Median Income, whichever is greater, as established by the US

Department of Health and Human Services and updated each year by the Federal Census Bureau.

c. A qualifying person will be established by means of an application made to the Utility Billing Clerk, which shall be updated annually in June, and all applicants must be the utility bill account holder.

d. Proof of current age and adjusted gross income for the prior year shall be used as criteria to establish eligibility.

(3) Electric Bill Donation Recipient Program

a. Donations received by the City of Sumas, for the purpose of reducing electric bills, shall be held in a donation fund, by the City, until December of each year. In December all funds will be disbursed equally to all qualifying households.

b. Eligibility criteria shall be based on the annual household income, which shall not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or 80% of the Area Median Income, whichever is greater, as established by the US Department of Health and Human Services and updated each year by the Federal Census Bureau.

c. A qualifying household will be established by means of an application made to the Utility Billing Clerk, which shall be updated annually in June, and all applicants must be the utility bill account holder.

d. Proof of adjusted gross income for the prior year shall be used as criteria to establish eligibility.

SECTION 2. Should any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstances be held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance or the application of provisions to other persons or circumstances are not affected.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect from and after the 5th date after the date of its publication.

PASSED by the City Council and approved by the Mayor of the City of Sumas, Washington, this ____ day of _____, _____.

CITY OF SUMAS, WASHINGTON

Bruce Bosch, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to form:

Michelle Quinn, City Clerk

Jim Wright, City Attorney