



P.O.Box 11527
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A quarterly newsletter for Habitat for Humanity Portland Region homeowners.

Building Connections

Winter 2024/2025

In this issue

- Homeowner Leadership Council
- Winter Weather Preparation
- Utility Bill Discounts: Are You Signed Up?
- Home Repair
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Contact us

Our eastside office is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Appointments are encouraged but not required.



Payment questions

Loretta Kelly
Lending & Compliance Manager
loretta.kelly@habitatportlandregion.org
503-287-9529 ext. 1320



Warranty questions

Homeowners in their first year of homeownership can submit requests at bit.ly/habitatwarranty



General questions

homeownership@habitatportlandregion.org
503-287-9529



The **Habitat Homeowner Leadership Council** officially launched this fall! The 12-member council is made up of Habitat homeowners from a variety of communities in our region, some who have been in their homes for many years and some whose homeownership journeys are just beginning. This group will use their leadership skills and diverse lived experiences to support Habitat communities and homeowners by sharing resources and building community. To learn more, reach out to our Community Development Manager, Annette Pronk at Annette.Pronk@habitatportlandregion.org.

Council pictured from left: Sandra, Ellen, Deloris, Lizet, Lei, Salome, Annette, Alex, Angie, Jennie, Heather

New classes & partnerships

We were so happy to have recently hosted classes with Portland Community College, the city of Portland’s Government Transition team, Resolutions Northwest and Portland’s Bureau of Emergency Management. Thanks to everyone who attended! The new year brings even more new education opportunities with new partners who are committed to supporting you on your homeownership journey. Here is a preview of upcoming offerings in 2025:

Homeowner Associations (HOAs) 101: Taught by a longtime community management company expert. Sign up to attend the online class on Tuesday, January 21 from 6–7 PM.

Banking 101: Taught by the experts at OnPoint Community Credit Union. Sign up to attend the online class on Thursday, February 6 from 6–7:30 PM.

Tax 101: Taught in partnership with Metropolitan Family Services (MFS) and CASH Oregon. Sign up to attend the online class on Thursday, March 13 from 6–7:30 PM.



For upcoming classes, scan the QR code to visit bit.ly/habitatclasses

Winter weather preparation

Winter is a great time to make sure you are prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws at us. Here are some simple things you can do to ensure a healthy and safe winter no matter the weather.

Traveling safely: Ever wonder what shape the roads are in before heading out? Get your answer on the live traffic cams at tripcheck.com/.

Weather and winter storm info: We all have a weather app on our phones, but don’t forget to explore local news sources for more information. The Portland branch of the National Weather Service gives updates at weather.gov/pqr/ and is often active on X (Twitter) during weather events through their profile @NWSPortland.

Utility bill discounts: With furnaces working extra hard in the winter, costs inevitably go up. Make every penny count by making sure you are taking advantage of the income-based utility discounts with all the major providers. Signing up is easy! See the Utility Bill Discount section for more.

Power outages: If the power goes out, have a plan and a first aid kit that is stocked and ready. Make sure you have a working flashlight and extra blankets if you lose heat. Having simple, ready-to-eat meals on hand will go a long way if you can’t turn on your stovetop or oven. Pass time and save your device’s battery for emergencies with some simple games or activities available that the whole family can participate in. Remember, in a large-scale emergency a friendly neighbor is the person most likely to help you out. If you are able, be that neighbor for someone in need or reach out to your community.

Utility bill discount programs

Colder weather plus rate increases in the past few years equals higher monthly bills. Take advantage of utility bill discount programs to save money. Each utility provider offers discounts based on the household size and income on the chart to the right.

Signing up is easy if you qualify!
For direct links to the programs offered by Portland General Electric (PGE), NW Natural and Pacific Power, and other valuable resources, visit bit.ly/m/habitatsupport

Behind on your utility bills?
Oregon Energy Fund can help provide emergency funding to prevent shutoffs and they serve an even wider range of incomes. Find available resources in your county at oregonenergyfund.org/energy-assistance

Chart notes: Families sharing a home must apply as one household.
For each additional family member beyond 12 people, add \$2,123 annually or \$177 monthly. Effective October 1, 2024.

Income Eligibility for Utility Bill Discounts		
Total household income cannot exceed the amounts shown.		
Household Size	Household Gross Annual Income	Household Gross Monthly Income
1	\$36,811	\$3,068
2	\$48,138	\$4,012
3	\$59,464	\$4,955
4	\$70,790	\$5,899
5	\$82,117	\$6,843
6	\$93,443	\$7,787
7	\$95,567	\$7,964
8	\$97,690	\$8,141
9	\$99,814	\$8,318
10	\$101,938	\$8,495
11	\$104,062	\$8,672
12	\$106,185	\$8,849



Home Repair team update

Due to an overwhelming number of inquiries, our Home Repair Program has reached capacity and applications are now closed for the season. **Applications will reopen in late spring 2025.**

If you have an urgent home repair need, call 2-1-1 Information for local home repair resources (toll-free: 866-698-6155). Or visit Portland.gov for guidance on hiring a licensed contractor.

Applications will be processed in the order they are received once they reopen in late spring 2025. If you have an application, you may still submit it. Due to limited capacity, we encourage you to submit your completed application and all supporting documents as soon as possible to be considered.

To inquire about a submitted application, please allow up to 10 business days for a response. Our small team is handling a high volume of calls and messages. Rest assured, your call is important to us, and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience!



Stay informed on all things Habitat for Humanity Portland Region. Join our email list at habitatportlandregion.org. (Scroll to the bottom to sign up).