

PUGET SOUND ENERGY
Natural Gas Tariff

SCHEDULE 129
LOW INCOME PROGRAM

AVAILABILITY/APPLICABILITY: The benefits available under this Low Income Program (“Program”) (as approved in Docket Nos. UE-011570 and UG-011571) are available to Customers of the Company meeting the criteria described herein. The charges under this schedule apply to all Customers of the Company who are billed for terms except Customers taking service under existing special contracts.

BENEFITS:

1. Benefits under this Program are available through designated agencies (herein “Agencies”) that:
 - a) meet the criteria for a “Qualifying Organization” as defined in RCW 82.16.0497, b) the Company accepts as capable of performing necessary obligations under this Program, and c) executes a contract with the Company that is: (i) consistent with this schedule, (ii) provides for periodic auditing, and (iii) provides for an annual administration evaluation. The Agencies will ascertain whether specific Customer households seeking assistance with their natural gas bills are eligible for assistance under the Program.
 - a. The Agencies will determine whether a Customer meets the federal definition for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (“LIHEAP”) qualification. (i) If the Customer is eligible, they will receive LIHEAP funds in lieu of funds under this Program unless or until LIHEAP funds are exhausted. Thereafter, the Customer will be considered for this Program. (ii) If the Customer is not eligible to receive LIHEAP funds, but meets the Company criteria, the Customer will be considered for this Program. (iii) If the Customer meets all applicable criteria, the Customer will be eligible to receive assistance under the Company’s Program.
 - b. Total Benefits for the program year (where Total Benefits is equal to benefits to eligible Customers under this Program plus the Agencies’ administrative fees and the Company’s program costs) under this Program and the Total Benefits of the Low Income Program under the Company’s electric tariff are subject to a combined Annual Cap of \$23.512 million, provided that Total Benefits not expended in one program year will be included in Total Benefits for the following program year and be allocated along with funding for the current program year. The Annual Cap for the program year is allocated into Annual Caps of \$18.811 million for electric and \$4.701 million for natural gas Low Income Programs. Total Benefits are equal to the Annual Caps plus carry-over of funds not expended in the prior year.
 - c. A qualifying Customer may receive assistance through this Program once during a program year. Customers shall be requalified annually by one of the Agencies (except where noted otherwise). Total benefits to an individual eligible Customer under this program are subject to an annual cap equal to the LIHEAP cap (currently \$1,000.00).

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By: 

Issued By Puget Sound Energy

Jon Piliaris

Title: Director, Regulatory Affairs