Frequently Asked Questions

Heat Pump Clothes Dryers

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance is collaborating with more than 140 Northwest utilities to bring more energy-efficient dryers to the market. Over the last two years, we have worked with manufacturers to support developing, testing and introducing new heat pump dryers that have the potential to save the Northwest enough energy to power 130,000 homes each year. We continue to work with the region and national manufacturers to develop and test heat pump products that will deliver even more energy savings for the Northwest.

Q. What is a heat pump clothes dryer?

A. Conventional clothes dryers use electricity or gas to generate heat, and then vent hot air out of the appliance. A heat pump clothes dryer captures that hot air, removes the moisture from it, then reuses the already-hot air to dry more clothing. Some heat pump dryer models do not require venting, eliminating the need to clear out dryer vents and keeping heated air inside your home. ***Heat pump dryers use 30 to 50 percent less energy compared to the average electric dryer.****

Q. What are the differences between heat pump clothes dryers and conventional clothes dryers?

A. Because heat pump dryers typically use lower drying temperatures you will likely see less shrinkage, wear and wrinkling to your clothing. Heat pump dryers are more interactive than a conventional electric dryer, allowing you more control over your clothes drying options. In their most-efficient mode, heat pump dryers keep temperatures low and energy savings high, but also extend the clothes-drying cycle length. A heat pump dryer requires lint removal from two filters and a hose installed to your washer drainage pipe to drain water that is removed from clothes.

Q. How much electric energy can I save with a heat pump clothes dryer?

A. Dryers are the largest energy-consuming standard appliance in most U.S. homes. A heat pump dryer uses 30 to 50 percent less energy compared to the average electric dryer.* By installing a heat pump dryer, you can save more than the total electricity use of an average new clothes washer and refrigerator combined.**

Q. Where can I install a heat pump clothes dryer?

A. A heat pump dryer's footprint is the same as a conventional clothes dryer, and can be installed locations similar to conventional dryers. Unvented models should not be installed in small, enclosed laundry closets.

Q. I already have an energy-efficient clothes washer. Why should I purchase a heat pump clothes dryer?

A. Pairing a heat pump dryer with an ENERGY STAR® certified washer cuts your total laundry energy use by more than 50 percent.*** Efficient clothes washers incorporate advanced technology and functionality to get significantly more water out of your clothes in its final spin cycle than a conventional model. This makes it easier for clothing to dry and reduces drying time.

Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
421 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97204
503.688.5400 | Fax 503.688.5447
neea.org | CRiegler@neea.org

Q. How much does a heat pump clothes dryer cost?

A. The purchase price for a heat pump dryer is typically $500 to $600 higher than comparable electric dryers, but you will reduce clothes drying energy use. NEEA continues to work with the region and national manufacturers to develop and test heat pump products that will deliver even more energy savings for the Northwest at a lower cost to consumers.

Q. Where can I purchase a heat pump clothes dryer?

A. As of March 1, 2015, the following heat pump clothes dryers are available in the Northwest:

- **Whirlpool HybridCare™ Duet Dryer with Heat Pump Technology**, available at more than 400 participating retailers in the Northwest, including Albert Lee Appliance, Fred's Appliance, Judd & Black, Lowe's, Sears Hometown, Standard TV & Appliance and The Home Depot.
- **LG EcoHybrid™ Heat Pump Clothes Dryer**, available at multiple retail locations.

Both products have been recognized with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award in 2014

Q. Where can I find more information on heat pump clothes dryer technology?

A. For more information about this technology visit NEEA.org/clothesdryers

Q. Who is NEEA?

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) is an alliance of more than 140 utilities and energy efficiency organizations working on behalf of more than 13 million energy consumers. NEEA is dedicated to accelerating both electric and gas energy efficiency, leveraging its regional partnerships to advance the adoption of energy-efficient products, services and practices.

Since 1997, NEEA and its partners have saved enough energy to power more than 700,000 homes each year. As the second-largest resource in the Northwest, energy efficiency can offset most of our new demand for energy, saving money and keeping the Northwest a healthy and vibrant place to live. www.neea.org

* *Based on utility (NEEA) field study that found conventional electric dryers in homes today use more than 900 kWh per year*
** *Based on energy usage and savings statistics from the Regional Technical Forum and the U.S. Department of Energy*
*** *Confirmed by utility (NEEA) preliminary 2015 heat pump clothes dryers field test results*