

**From:** [Jenna Kay](#)  
**To:** [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Jeffrey Delapena](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thanks for this story: Large commercial buildings must meet new WA energy performance standards; Clark Public Utilities can help  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2026 1:22:36 PM

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For the record

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**From:** Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2026 11:48 AM  
**To:** Sarah Wolf <sarah.wolf@columbian.com>  
**Cc:** Rebecca Small <Rebecca.Small@cityofvancouver.us>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; Representative Doglio <Beth.Doglio@leg.wa.gov>; Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>; Peter Fels <plfels@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Thanks for this story: Large commercial buildings must meet new WA energy performance standards; Clark Public Utilities can help

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To the Columbian, Sarah Wolf  
cc players

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2026/mar/19/large-commercial-buildings-must-meet-new-wa-energy-performance-standards-clark-public-utilities-can-help/>

Hi Sarah,

Ironically, I asked Clark PUD energy conservation specialist for guidelines on how to calculate the size of furnace a new home would need. She said she did not know.

When I designed my house in 1975, the Clark County Building Permits department gave me guidelines for calculating the furnace size I'd need. They said, for the coldest day of the year you need:

- 20 watts per square foot of single pane window
- 11 w/sq ft for double pane windows
- 5 w/sq ft of uninsulated exterior wall
- 1 w/sq ft of insulated exterior wall.

I immediately reduced the size of the windows in my house by 50%.

I taught a unit this in all my science and math classes for 30 years.  
If people knew the impact of windows, they'd make buildings more  
efficient.

Don