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REPORT NAME: NW Natural's 2019 Smart Energy Program Annual Report

COMPANY NAME: NW Natural

DOES REPORT CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION? No Yes

If yes, please submit only the cover letter electronically. Submit confidential information as directed in OAR 860-001-0070 or the terms of an applicable protective order.

If known, please select designation: RE (Electric) RG (Gas) RW (Water) RO (Other)

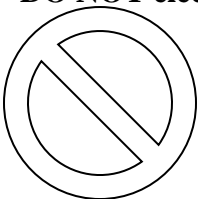
Report is required by: OAR Enter rule number  
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Other Required by Tariff Schedule 400

Is this report associated with a specific docket/case? No Yes

If yes, enter docket number: RG 2

List applicable Key Words for this report to facilitate electronic search:  
NW Natural 2019 Smart Energy Program Report, Offset, Schedule 400, Carbon

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- Accident reports required by ORS 654.715

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March 24, 2020

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Public Utility Commission of Oregon  
Attention: Filing Center  
201 High Street SE, Suite 100  
Post Office Box 1088  
Salem, Oregon 97308-1088

**Re: RG 2 - NW Natural's 2019 Smart Energy™ Annual Report**

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural (Company), files herewith its 2019 Smart Energy™ Annual Report in compliance with the terms established in Schedule 400, "Smart Energy™ Program."

In addition, below is the link to the Smart Energy™ Customer Report landing page on NW Natural's website; the 2019 Annual Report will be uploaded to the website on or before April 1, 2020.

<https://www.smartenergyNW.com/>

Please address any correspondence on this matter to me with copies to the following:

eFiling  
Rates & Regulatory Affairs  
NW Natural  
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Sincerely,

*/s/ Rebecca T. Brown*

Rebecca T. Brown  
Regulatory Consultant  
503-610-7326

Enclosure:

RG 2-NWNs-2019-Smart-Energy-Annual-Report-03.24.2020

## INTRODUCTION

NW Natural's Smart Energy™ program offers customers an opportunity to offset their natural gas usage by purchasing high-quality greenhouse gas offsets. The money collected through Smart Energy™ customer charges are invested in local renewable energy projects — generally regional biogas projects — that will generate carbon offsets.

In its effort to provide high quality carbon offsets, the Company has contracted with The Climate Trust, a nationally recognized leader in the carbon market. The Climate Trust identifies projects and contracts for offsets, then verifies, and retires each Smart Energy™ offset.

According to the terms and conditions of Oregon Schedule 400 and Washington Schedule U, NW Natural herein provides the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC) and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) with an annual report detailing the program's participation, funds collected, program costs, and The Climate Trust's offset expenditures for the calendar year 2019.

## TOTAL ACTIVE ENROLLMENTS

As of December 31, 2019, over 57,000 customers were enrolled in the program, increasing enrollment by nearly 19 percent from the previous year. Of the 57,592 active residential customers enrolled, 39,330 or 68 percent have selected the Climate Neutral option.

Tables 1a and 1b demonstrate active enrollments as of December 31, 2019 and enrollment changes since December 31, 2018.

**TABLE 1A – ACTIVE ENROLLMENT**

System Total	Actual			
	# of Customers	% of Customers	Enrollments	Enrollment % change from prior year
Residential	692,012	8.32%	57,592	18.89%
Commercial/Industrial	70,872	0.44%	312	-1.58%
	762,884		57,904	18.76%

**Table 1b – Active Enrollment by State**

Oregon	Actual			
	# of Customers	% of Customers	Enrollments	Enrollment % change from prior year
Residential	611,896	9.14%	55,947	19.03%
Commercial/Industrial	63,484	0.48%	302	-1.63%
	675,380		56,249	18.90%
Washington	Actual			
	# of Customers	% of Customers	Enrollments	Enrollment % change from prior year
Residential	80,116	2.05%	1,645	14.32%
Commercial/Industrial	7,388	0.14%	10	0.00%
	87,504		1,655	14.22%

## ANALYSIS OF PARTICIPANT FUNDS COLLECTED AND PROGRAM SPENDING

The Company transfers 70 percent of net funds collected from participants to The Climate Trust, which reflects the projected split of program marketing and administrative costs and funds for offset purchases. Net collections are transferred on a two-month lag. Table 2 presents collections for the year ended December 31, 2019 net of an uncollectible allowance and amounts designated for marketing and administration during the year.

**TABLE 2 – FUNDS COLLECTED AND TRANSFERS DUE**

Collections, net of uncollectible allowance	\$3,163,710.33
Less: 30% for marketing and administration	\$949,113.10
Total due to The Climate Trust for offset purchases	\$2,214,597.23

Due to the lag between bills issued and funds transferred, the November and December 2019 billings, \$520,147.71, will be transferred to The Climate Trust within the first two months of 2020. NW Natural spent approximately \$1,169,007.48 for the year on marketing and

administrative costs which was derived from the \$949,113.10 of 2019 collections (see Table 2) and \$220,000 from funds re-allocated from The Climate Trust to marketing<sup>1</sup>.

## REPORT ON THE CLIMATE TRUST

### Carbon Reduction

The commitment of total carbon reductions for the reporting period is approximately 176,499 tons.

The Climate Trust received \$2,090,096.49<sup>2</sup> for offset purchases for program participants during the reporting period.

### Offset Funds

Program revenues from inception to December 31, 2019, received by The Climate Trust totaled \$11,653,348.08 for the purchasing and managing of offset project contracts.

### Funding Obligation Commitment

As of December 31, 2019, The Climate Trust has obligated program funds for 1,039,103 short tons of offsets, fully meeting the requirement through 2019. The status of obligating funds for terms of demand is reflected as short tons in table 3.

TABLE 3 - COMMITMENT STATUS AS OF 12/31/19

Year	Demand Short Tons	Short Tons Obligated	Obligation Deadline <sup>3</sup>	Status (% met)
2007	1,454	1,454	1/1/2010	100%
2008	15,360	15,360	1/1/2010	100%
2009	28,019	28,019	1/1/2011	100%
2010	37,020	37,020	1/1/2012	100%
2011	48,195	48,195	1/1/2013	100%
2012	54,989	54,989	1/1/2014	100%
2013	69,979	69,979	1/1/2015	100%
2014	80,773	80,773	1/1/2016	100%
2015	85,699	85,699	1/1/2017	100%
2016	101,153	101,153	1/1/2018	100%
2017	131,243	131,243	1/1/2019	100%
2018	141,324	141,324	1/1/2020	100%
2019	176,499	176,499	1/1/2021	100%
	971,707	971,707		100%

## CARBON OFFSET PROJECTS

The Smart Energy™ program obligated funds or acquired offsets in 2019 from the projects listed in table 4.

TABLE 4 – 2019 PROJECT OBLIGATIONS AND RETIREMENTS

Bear Creek Watershed
Bettencourt Dairy
Davis Landfill
Farm Power Misty Meadow
Farm Power Rexville
Farm Power Tillamook
J.R. Simplot Moses Lake 2
Maas Energy Works Van Warmerdam

<sup>1</sup> If offsets are purchased at a cost that is less than The Climate Trust's price cap, the difference is placed into the risk mitigation fund which is used for three purposes: 1) Purchase additional offsets to meet future Smart Energy demand when preferred projects are available, but current customer demand is less than the opportunity and program funds cannot cover the obligation; 2) Cover potential cost differential between contracted price and replacement price, should a project underperform; and 3) Fund additional program activity. The Company consults with The Climate Trust before it determines the appropriate use of risk mitigation funds.

<sup>2</sup> This amount is different from the \$2,214,597.23 stated in Table 2 for 2019 net collections because of the two-month lag for transfers. It includes November and December 2018 net collections transferred in 2019 and excludes November and December 2019 net collections due to be transferred in 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 400 in Oregon and Schedule U in Washington, NW Natural must obligate funds for offsets within 24 months of issuing a bill.