Puget Sound Energy Foundation increases matching gift benefits from $600 a year to $1,000

When you donate your time or money to your favorite organization, do you take advantage of the Employee Matching Program? If you haven't been, here's a little extra incentive.

On June 14, the Puget Sound Energy Foundation board approved an increase in employee and retiree matching benefits for both monetary gifts and volunteer time to qualified 501(c)3 organizations. The new total benefit eligible per employee or retiree is $1,000 annually. The Employee Matching Program is designed to encourage and recognize charitable giving by employees, board members and retirees.

"Our employees and retirees have been extremely generous in donating their time and money to their favorite organizations," says Andy Wappler, chairman and president of the Puget Sound Energy Foundation. "By increasing the match amounts, the foundation wants to recognize these contributions to our communities and encourage more employees and retirees to get involved."

Here's a side-by-side comparison of the benefits:

	Previous match	**New match**
Monetary gifts	Gifts of $25 or more were matched 50 cents for every dollar donated up to $300 per year.	Gifts of $25 or more are matched 50 cents for every dollar donated up to $500 per year.
Volunteer time	Donations of at least 10 hours of volunteer time per organization were matched at $10 per volunteer hour, up to 30 hours per year, or $300 total	Donations of at least 8 hours of volunteer time per organization will be matched at $12.50 per volunteer hour, up to 40 hours per year, or $500 total.

These new match rates were made effective immediately and are retroactive to Jan. 1 of this year. This means that any match requests made this year will be matched at the new rates.

You can submit an online application from home or work by visiting the foundation's matching program page. From work, click on the PSE Foundation link on the PSEWeb home page under Quick Clicks and select Employee Matching.

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