Housing Sustainability Index

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Executive Summary

We propose to create an online system that allows renters in Bellingham to check a dwelling's water, gas, and electricity usage as well as a Sustainability Score (S-Score). We want to teach people how they might be able to decrease their energy and gas usage as well as water consumption.
Why is it Needed?

- Saves energy (gas, electricity and water)
- Provides two sustainability scores
- Informs renters
- Saves money
- Makes Bellingham as a whole more sustainable
- Teaches renters sustainable actions
How It Works

- Online database and user input
- Users can access the database to see past utility info
- Landlords & Rental Companies participate
- Example: Rent Rocket
524 North Indiana Avenue
3 Bed / 3 Occupants • 1 Bath • 875 sq ft house

Costs

- Current Rent: $1031.00
- Electricity: $55.00 (Separate)
- Natural Gas: $57.00 (Separate)
- Total: $1143.00 ($381.00 per BR)

- Scores: Total 1479.65, Electrical 8072 kwh, Heating 592 therms, Cooling 88 kwh

Smart Living Features
- Recycling: Yes

Amenities
- A/C: No
- Laundry: No
- Parking: Offstreet

Contact
- Agent: Parker Management
- Phone
- Email
- Website: http://parkermgt.com/?s=524+n+indiana&search=Go
Sustainability Score

- Utility Score (based off consumption)
- Community Score
Bellingham Energy Prize

- Increase energy efficiency in Bellingham to earn $5 million grant
- Bellingham is currently in 5th place out of 50 cities
- The Bellingham Energy Prize Wattzon website automatically collects electricity information
Link My Utilities

Do you receive a utility bill for natural gas?

- Yes
- No

Select your electricity utility

- Puget Sound Energy Inc

- Other or I don't know

Link Your Utility Account

Puget Sound Energy Inc

- JohnDoe

Utility password

Forgot your Puget Sound Energy Inc username or password? Please visit the Puget Sound Energy Inc website.

Skip this step

Summary

- Natural gas bill: No
- Electricity utility: Puget Sound Energy Inc

Confirm and save
Incentives for Landlords

- Competitive Advantage
- Good Marketing
- Transparency
- Shows Company Integrity
Campus Community

- Students who live on campus are better informed about their options when they move off campus.
- Faculty and staff know about the program
- Links on campus and off campus community
- Enables students to live sustainably off campus
Measuring Success

- How many landlords and renters are participating in the program?
- How many units are providing data?
- What data is each unit providing?
Budget

- **Creation of interface**
  - WWU Computer Science Capstone Project
- **Website maintenance fees**
  - ~ $50/year
- **Incentives for participants**
  - Gift cards & donations from local vendors
  - Drawing every 3 months ($60/year)
- **Use web advertisement to generate income**
  - $30/month
- **Total Annual Profit ~$250**
Conclusion

- Allows Bellingham to be more sustainable
- Informs renters
- Saves renters money
- Gives competitive advantage to landlords/rental companies
- Bring Bellingham rental companies into the digital age