

Energy Education In Our Schools

In the 2015-16 school year, we began offering free classroom presentations to all fifth-grade teachers within our service territory. We completed 22 presentations on these topics: The science of electricity, renewable hydropower, and using electricity safely and wisely.

Science of Electricity

Students learn what electricity is, where it comes from, and how it travels to us. They're put into teams to construct simple circuits using batteries and light bulbs, and learn which materials are conductors and insulators.

Renewable Hydropower

Students learn about atoms and their relationship to electricity. They're given an explanation of how hydropower is produced at dams and why it is a valuable renewable resource. Students build small turbines, then test them by pouring water over them to see which is most effective in producing electricity.

Using Electricity Wisely and Safely

Students learn about the many uses of electricity, and how to conserve and use it wisely. A large focus is on how to stay safe around electricity.

Find our energy education request form at www.crpud.net/schools.



"The presenters kept the students engaged with questions and they loved the safety demonstration."

Energy Efficiency Saves Money

We offer a wide range of rebates to encourage energy efficiency in our service area. So far in 2016, the PUD has paid out \$191,891 to our customers in rebates.

Through these programs, we have saved 990,034 kilowatt hours – enough energy to power 75 homes for an entire year. When thinking about your next home improvement project, keep these rebate programs in mind:

- **Duct sealing:** We offer rebates of \$200-\$250 for work completed by a PTCS Technician.
- **Ductless heat pumps:** We offer rebates of \$800-\$1,000 for qualifying installations.
- **Air-source heat pumps:** We offer rebates of \$500-\$1,000 for qualifying systems.
 - **Energy-efficient electronic thermostats:** If you have zonal electric heat, you can earn a rebate of \$20 per thermostat if you upgrade.
 - **Heat pump water heaters:** We offer rebates ranging from \$300-\$500.
 - **Insulation:** Rebates rates for new insulation range from \$0.10 per square foot to \$0.65 per square foot.
 - **Windows:** Rebate rates for replacement windows range from \$3-\$4 per square foot.
 - **Appliances:** Qualifying washers and dryers are eligible for rebates from \$25-\$50.

Learn more about these programs at www.crpud.net/rebates.

Low-Income Seniors Can Save

In October of 2015, we launched a new discount program for our low-income seniors. To date, 389 customers have enrolled.

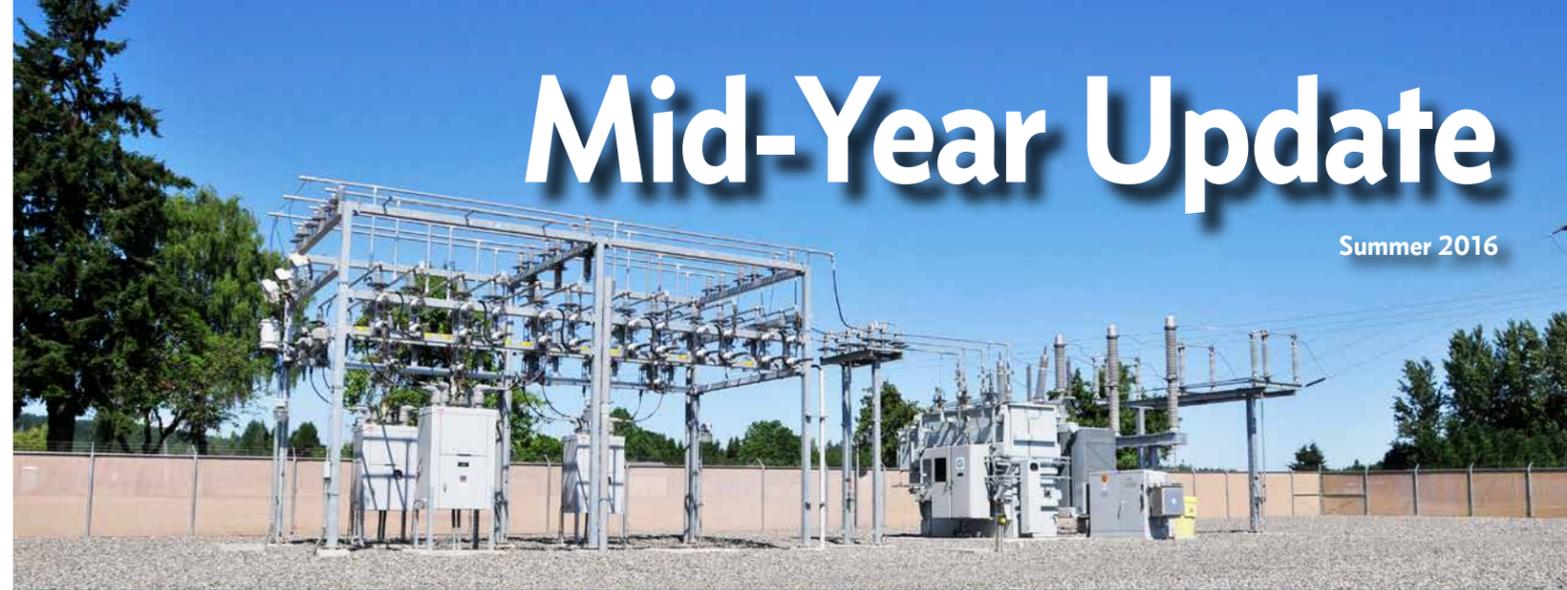
Qualifying customers age 62 and older receive an \$8 discount on their customer charge, which reduces it to \$2 per month. In addition, they receive a 10% discount on their energy charge every month.

To find out if you qualify, contact Customer Accounts at (503) 397-0590 or email custsvc@crpud.org.



Mid-Year Update

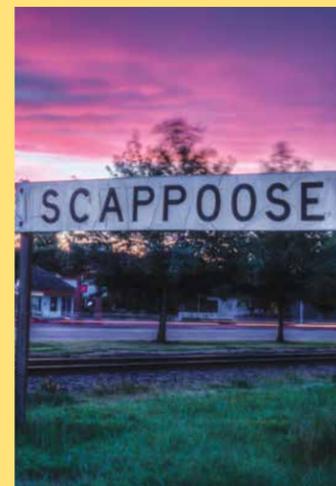
Summer 2016



Enter the 2017 Calendar Photo Contest

Each year we send our customers a calendar filled with scenic photos taken in Columbia County. Photos for the 2017 calendar will be selected through a contest that ends September 9th. Entry forms and complete contest details are available at www.crpud.net/calendar.

Photo by Matt Hoffman



A Message From the Interim General Manager

We have reached the halfway point of 2016. It has been a busy and productive year to this point. Much of what we have done so far this year – and will continue to do – is focused on continuing to provide great service to our customers. We do this in several ways: ensuring safe and reliable electric service, helping customers lower their electric bills, teaching the next generation about energy, keeping our budgets on track, and more.

In this newsletter, you will find a quick overview of some of the highlights from the first half of 2016.

Our capital projects help ensure our service is safe and reliable. Our rebate programs and energy efficiency tips keep bills low for our customers. Our team has been in classrooms educating youth about energy. Because of diligent budget management,



John Nguyen

our rates will remain stable through 2016 and into 2017.

We have accomplished much this year. We still have much left to do and I am confident we will continue moving in the right direction. These pages are a glimpse of what we've done so far in 2016.

Keeping Our Budget On the Right Track

Our team at the PUD has worked very hard to ensure that we keep our budget on track. We are projected to spend less than we budgeted for 2016 while accomplishing all of the capital work planned.

We recently received news that our FEMA reimbursement is coming. Our staff worked very hard with the Columbia County Emergency Management office to

make the FEMA reimbursement possible. The reimbursement is for costs incurred in our outage restoration effort following a severe winter storm in December of 2015. Our cost for the restoration was about \$550,000. We expect to receive a check for \$379,600 in Public Assistance funding from FEMA. This will help us stay on track with our budgeting for 2016.

www.facebook.com/crpud • www.crpud.net • (503) 397-1844

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Continuing to Provide Safe, Reliable Service to Our Customers

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our reliable service to Columbia River PUD customers. To accomplish that goal, we have undertaken a few major projects thus far in 2016.

In April, we replaced a 54-year-old transformer at the Rosehill Substation in St. Helens. Customers can expect long-standing, continued reliability from this substation. The entirety of the project cost approximately \$750,000.

The entire process of ordering a new transformer took about a year, with the final few weeks spent installing it, taking the old one offline, and testing the new transformer. The Rosehill Substation serves approximately 2,500 people in the Columbia City and St. Helens areas.

In June, crews installed a feeder tie from our Fairgrounds Substation to the St. Helens Substation. This provides us with more flexibility for system maintenance and allows for faster response during outages.

This feeder tie allows us to accommodate anticipated growth in the St. Helens area. Currently the St. Helens Substation serves around 3,000 people. We will move 400 customers from the St. Helens Substation to the Fairgrounds Substation.

Our crews have performed regular five-year maintenance, testing, and inspection at two of our substations: Tarbell and St. Helens. This diligent work ensures substation transformers will perform as expected for their full service life, possibly longer.

We have taken on a number of other capital projects so far this year. These include:

- **Replacing overhead lines along Columbia Boulevard from 1st Street to 15th Street with new, bigger wire.** These lines had reached the end of their service life.
- **Making upgrades to Brooks Road, Ogan Lane, Leafy Lane, and Canaan Road.** Underground primary cables at two of these locations had reached the end of their service life and were replaced with new cables in conduit. We moved power lines that were crossing over a house to the road. These upgrades will improve public safety and reduce future restoration costs.
- **Entering the final phase of a multi-year project near Trojan Park.** We moved overhead distribution lines underground to improve reliability. We partnered with CenturyLink and Cascade Networks for the trenching, which kept project costs down.
- **Replacing transformers that had reached the end of their service life at three marinas.** These were located at Casselman's Wharf and Pirate's Cove marinas in Scappoose, and Dillard's Moorage in St. Helens. The existing transformers had rusted containment units that were at risk of leakage. The new units have fiberglass cases to reduce that risk.



Crews work on replacing overhead lines on Columbia Boulevard in St. Helens this spring.

Photo by Todd Cathers



We moved lines underground along Highway 30 near Goble. A partnership with other agencies kept costs down.

Photo by Mike Arend

Rebate Program Reduces Energy Spending At No Cost to Customer

Ruth and Gene G. purchased their home in Scappoose in the 1950s. Until recently, the 1890s farm house had no insulation, single pane wood windows, and an electric furnace with an air conditioner. In early 2015, the couple participated in the PUD's Low Income Pilot Project for energy upgrades.

By participating in our Pilot Project, the couple received a \$3,800 rebate for a ductless heat pump installation. That has helped control the air temperature throughout the house rather than in targeted areas.

"I'm happy with the machine. It does circulate through the house pretty dang good," Gene said. With new insulation, that heat stays in the house as well.

Ruth and Gene received a 100% rebate for their insulation costs. Since the upgrades, the couple has seen a drastic drop in monthly power bills. In January of both 2014 and 2015, they paid \$300 or more. After the improvements, their January 2016 bill was \$182 – a savings of 40%.

"We're saving a heck of a lot because we put insulation in," Gene said.

Visit www.crpud.net/ways-to-save to see if your home is eligible for any of our energy-efficiency savings rebate programs.



Introducing New Members to the Columbia River PUD Team

We have recently welcomed several new faces to the PUD. Five new employees have joined the Columbia River PUD team in 2016. They are:

Josh Tallman is our new GIS Analyst/AMR Specialist II.

Rachel Swanson is our new Accountant I.

Mikka Mullican is our new Customer Accounts Supervisor.

Kyle Boggs is our new Community & Public Relations Coordinator.

Daniel Avrit is our new Systems Support Specialist I.



Now You Can "Like" Columbia River PUD on Facebook

In response to last December's major power outage following severe winter storms, the PUD created a Facebook page to keep customers up to speed. "Like" us at [facebook.com/crpud](https://www.facebook.com/crpud) for updates on what's happening with your local utility.

