

February 2016 Newsletter

Utility Engineering Internship Applications Now Available

Our Utility Engineering Internship Program offers engineering students a chance to learn about utility careers through direct work experience. This year, we plan to hire one summer intern in our engineering department.

You may apply if you live in our service area and you are a high school senior or college student majoring in engineering.

If you're interested in applying, visit www.crpud.net/internship for an application packet. Applications are due by 5:00 PM on March 4, 2016.

How Much Does the Weather Affect Your Electricity Bill?

Cold weather can raise your heating bills, especially if your house isn't weatherized.

When the temperature drops your heating system has to work harder, even if you don't turn the thermostat up.

We have tips to help you keep your bills low when the temperature drops. Visit www.crpud.net/coldweather or call (503) 366-5470 to learn more.



Photo by Josh Riggs

Enter Our Calendar Photo Contest

You are invited to enter the 2017 PUD calendar photo contest. The calendar features scenic photographs that are taken in Columbia County, and anyone may enter the contest. Entry forms and contest details are available online at www.crpud.net/calendar.

Pay Stations Changing

The PUD's pay stations in St. Helens are changing.

Semlings Pharmacy has closed, and US Bank will stop taking payments as of March 31, 2016. The PUD's pay stations at **Bank of the West** and **St. Helens Community Federal Credit Union** remain open for customers who prefer this payment method. In addition, we accept payments at our office, by mail, **on our website**, or by calling (503) 397-0590.

We encourage you to take advantage of our **Auto Pay** option which will automatically deduct the amount due from your checking or savings account, saving you time and postage.

If you have questions or would like assistance choosing a new payment option, please contact Customer Accounts at custsvc@crpud.org or (503) 397-0590.

Fall in Love with Lower Water Heating Costs

What if we told you that you could save up to 67% on your water heating costs? Heat pump water heaters are twice as efficient as standard electric water heaters.

Conventional electric water heaters use electric resistance elements to heat the water. Heat pump water heaters move heat from the surrounding air into the water in the tank. Moving heat instead of creating it is more efficient, and that means lower energy bills for you.

We offer a rebate of up to \$500 on qualifying models of heat pump water heaters; the state of Oregon offers a tax credit of up to \$600.

If you're ready for a better relationship with your water heater, visit www.crpud.net/hpwh to learn more, or contact our Energy Experts at (503) 366-5470.



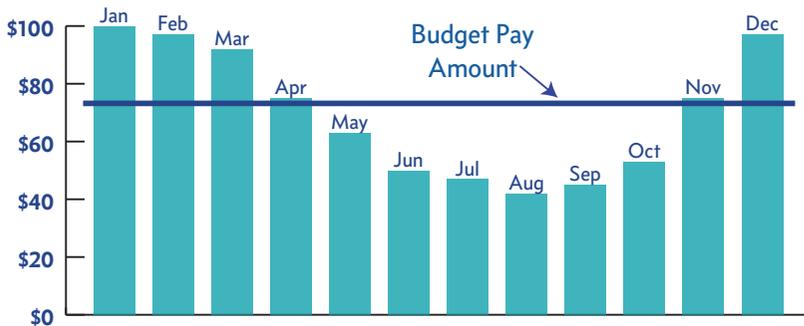
Use a GenerLink Transfer Switch to Operate Your Generator Safely

Standby generators are helpful during outages, but if connected improperly they can send electricity onto the power lines, seriously injuring or killing our linemen who are working to restore your power.

A GenerLink Transfer Switch keeps your generator from energizing the power lines and makes using a generator more convenient, allowing you to operate lighting and appliances much like when the power is on.

We offer GenerLink Service to customers with compatible standby generators. Beginning March 1, new GenerLink installations will be charged \$11 a month. Customers with existing GenerLink service or pending GenerLink applications will continue to pay \$7.95 a month for 30-amp or \$9.95 a month for 40-amp service. A GenerLink can be installed by our serviceman in about an hour.

Visit www.crpud.net/generlink or call (503) 366-5470 to learn more.



Get Equal Monthly Payments: Sign up for our Budget Pay Plan

Would you like to take the guesswork out of your PUD payment? Sign up for Budget Pay and you'll pay the same amount each month, year-round. To switch to the Budget Pay plan you need a \$0 balance on your account and at least 12 months of account history. New Budget Pay plans are set up in March only, so if you'd like to switch give Customer Accounts a call at (503) 397-0590 or email custsvc@crpud.org today.

To learn more, visit www.crpud.net/budgetpay.

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

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