

February 2018 Newsletter



Apply for Our Utility Engineering Internship

We are now accepting applications for our Utility Engineering Internship Program. This 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.

The internship program is open to high school seniors or college students majoring in engineering who live in our service area.

Visit crpud.net/internship for application materials. Applications are due by 5:30 p.m. on March 1, 2018. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

We also offer half-day job shadows to high school and college students who live in our service area and are considering careers in the electric utility industry.

To request a job shadow, contact our Human Resources Department at jobs@crpud.org or (503) 397-1844.

How Cold Weather Affects Power Bills

The biggest contributor to high bills in the winter is the cold weather. When it's colder outside, it takes more power to heat your home – even if you don't raise the thermostat.

"The colder it is outside, the harder your heating system will have to work to maintain the temperature inside," says PUD Energy Expert Cyrus Collins.

This is especially true for homes without proper insulation. Adding insulation and sealing air leaks are good ways to reduce your heating load.

Portable heaters are big energy users too. A plug-in space heater uses about 1,500 watts.

"This can cause a sharp increase in your bill, even if you're only using one," Collins says.

Find tips for reducing your winter bills at crpud.net/coldweather.



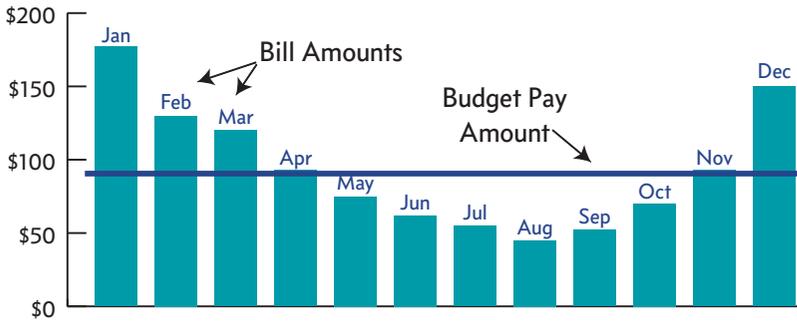
Photo by Tammy Long

Enter the 2019 Calendar Photo Contest

You are invited to enter the PUD's 2019 Calendar Photo Contest. The calendar features scenic photos of Columbia County.

Anyone may enter the contest. Find contest rules and details for how to enter at crpud.net/calendar.

Pay the Same Amount Year-Round



Want to avoid surprises with your monthly power bill? Sign up for Budget Pay and you'll pay the same amount, year-round.

"The Budget Pay program is great. I use it because there are no surprises for one year, from February to February. It makes it much easier to budget that way," says Diana in St. Helens.

New Budget Pay plans are set up only in March. If you'd like to enroll, contact Customer Accounts today at **(503) 397-0590** or info@crpud.org.

To enroll, you need at least 12 months of account history and must have a \$0 balance. Learn more at crpud.net/budgetpay.



Go Ductless to Cut Energy Costs

When her furnace quit working, Toni decided to install a new system that would heat and cool her Scappoose home. She had heard that ductless heat pumps were more efficient, and would cost less in electric usage.

Two years later, she's found that's true.

"It does what it's supposed to do. The bill isn't as high any more," Toni says.

She's saving about 40% on her heating costs since switching from her electric furnace to a ductless heat pump.

The savings are on top of the rebate we offer for ductless heat pump installations. Rebates range from \$400 to \$1,200, depending on your current heating system.

Receiving the rebate was a snap for Toni. "It was easy," she said.

To learn more about our rebates or to see if a ductless heat pump is right for you, visit crpud.net/ductless.

Let Us Trim Trees Near Power Lines

If you see trees growing into the overhead wires that deliver power to your house, please let us know. We will inspect your service line. If trees or limbs are growing too close, we will trim or remove them.



Tree limbs that occasionally brush against a service line won't damage it. But a limb or trunk that is pushing a service line out of its normal path should be trimmed or removed.

Never trim trees or branches near your service line. Doing so puts you at risk for deadly shock.

To request an inspection, call us at **(503) 397-1844**, or visit us at crpud.net/trees to learn more.

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Hours: Monday - Thursday, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Friday, closed

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