

# Columbia River People's Utility District PowerSource

Issue 2.02, May/June 2005

## Customer Profile - Sherlock's Grocery

When Ken Stansbury and Randy May purchased Sherlock's Grocery last year, they wanted to give the store a new look. One of their first choices was to replace thirteen portable beverage coolers with a walk-in cooler.

Ken and Randy had done their homework, and they knew that the portable coolers were costing them too much for energy. They contacted Tim Lammers at the PUD who he helped them calculate how much energy a new cooler would save. Tim also helped them get a PUD rebate of \$2,874 and a state tax credit of \$6,974 for the upgrade.

If you are looking to make changes to your business and think there is an opportunity to use energy more efficiently, call Tim. When Ken and Randy did, they got a new look in their store, energy savings of \$1,500 a year and the reputation of the coldest beverages in town.

### Project Summary:

Installed Cost:	\$19,926
PUD Rebate:	\$ 2,874
Oregon Tax Credit:	\$ 6,974
Net Cost:	\$10,078
Annual Savings	\$1,578
Simple Payback	6.4 years

### Before and After:

*Replacing the old coolers increased floor space, reduced labor costs, and improved the appearance of the store.*



# Regional Drought Could Affect Your Energy Rates

This summer the Pacific Northwest is expected to experience the sixth below-average water year in a row, and is shaping up to be the twelfth lowest water year in the 77 years that records have been kept. Washington Governor Christine Gregoire has already declared a statewide drought emergency, and Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski has been declaring county-by-county drought emergencies.

As a region, the Northwest is unique in that it predominantly depends on hydropower for electricity. We purchase power from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), which relies on hydropower to generate 80% of the power it sells. While hydropower is clean and renewable, its availability fluctuates with the weather.

The drought increases the need to purchase expensive market power during the months when the hydropower system can't meet regional demand. It also reduces the amount of surplus electricity for sale during months that the hydropower system generates more than the northwest needs. Both of these problems put upward pressure on our costs and could result in higher rates for you.

## What You Can Do

By reducing your electric use, you can help the region and the environment while reducing your electric bills. The column at right contains several practical tips for reducing your electric use. Using less energy will lower your bills and help control power costs while the drought remains.



## Conservation Tips:

- Purchase ENERGY STAR® office equipment, including copiers, printers, computers, monitors, fax machines and scanners.
- Use occupancy sensors, which turn lights on only when people are using a room. This will save money while extending the life of your lights. Sensors can be installed on light switches or ceilings.
- Replace old fluorescent lights with new four-foot T8 lamps. T8 lamps save energy, and provide essentially the same light output with improved color qualities.
- Inspect your heating and cooling system quarterly, and regularly check and clean all filters. Routine maintenance will, reduce operating costs and extend the life of the equipment while making the office more comfortable.
- Replace failed motors with premium efficiency motors.
- Use ENERGY STAR® exit lighting. Incandescent exit signs may have a cheaper price tag but the bulbs last less than one year. One sign can save \$10 - \$15 dollars a year and the LED lights can last up to 25 years.

## PUD Conducting Commercial Market Research


Starting in May, the PUD will be gathering information about how our business customers use energy. This information is important as we plan for future distribution system improvements in our service territory. We have hired Acti-Dyne Research of Scappoose to help us collect this information and we hope to contact all our business customers.

Acti-Dyne will contact you by phone and conduct a short, 3-4 minute interview. Questions will include type of building, size, heating and cooling systems and number of employees. We will also confirm basic billing information. The information you share will remain confidential.

A random sampling of customers will also be asked to answer some additional questions, which focus on how you prefer we communicate with you, your experience with our energy efficiency programs and how you would rate our customer service. This part of the interview will take about 10 minutes.

To make this project successful, we need your help. The information you provide will help us make good investments in our distribution system as well as better match our services to your needs. We realize your time is valuable. In exchange for participating, we will provide you with a summary of the results of the survey. Look for our call.

If you would like more information about the survey, please contact Market Development & Communications Supervisor Thad Roth at [troth@crpud.org](mailto:troth@crpud.org) or (503) 366-3254.



### Lighting Incentives Temporarily Increase

For a short time, the PUD is offering an additional 10% “bonus” rebate for lighting upgrades in many commercial and industrial facilities. This rebate is in addition to the rebates offered through the PUD’s Lighting Retrofit Program and applies to projects started on or after April 1st, 2005 and completed by December 31st, 2005.

For more information or to schedule a free energy and lighting analysis for your facility, contact Tim Lammers, PUD Commercial Services Advisor, at (503) 397-8155 or [tlammers@crpud.org](mailto:tlammers@crpud.org).

You can also learn more about the PUD’s Lighting Retrofit program by visiting our website, [www.crpud.net](http://www.crpud.net).

## Efficiency Tips - Motor Maintenance

- Tighten belts and pulleys at regular intervals to prevent slippage.
- Lubricate motors and drives regularly to reduce friction.
- Replace bearings when worn.
- Keep motors clean to facilitate cooling.

## Efficiency Tips - Motor Repair or Replacement

- Create an inventory of critical motors.
- Maintain written specification for motor purchases.
- Outline repair/replace decision criteria for critical motors.
- Develop motor repair efficiency standards for service centers.
- Purchase replacement motors with the highest energy efficiency rating available.



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