

Columbia River People's Utility District

# PowerSource

Issue 1.02, April 2004

## How well is your business connected?

In just a few short years, the Internet has become an invaluable tool for today's modern business enterprise. Here are just a few of the ways that being connected to the Internet can benefit your "bottom line".

**Email** – A quick and easy way to communicate with customers and other businesses without ever picking up the phone.

**Web Browsing** - Research and order products, supplies, and services to keep your business running at top speed.

Now there's an even faster type of Internet access available from crpud.net - digital subscriber line (DSL) service. With DSL, you can send and retrieve email in the blink of an eye and scroll through web pages faster than you ever thought possible. DSL connections are "always on", so you won't get busy signals when you try to connect. And, DSL uses the same telephone line you use for voice calls but doesn't interfere with them.

We offer DSL plans designed for business use that are tailored to meet your needs. Monthly pricing starts at just \$19.95 per month, or \$18 per month if you pay for a full year in advance. Additional line charges from Qwest will apply.

All DSL plans include the following features at no additional cost;

- Free set-up
- Unlimited & always on Internet connection
- Five separate 50 MB email accounts
- Web based email
- User controlled spam filtering & blocking
- Toll-free live 24/7 technical support
- One fixed IP address
- Electric & Internet on the same bill



For more information or to sign up, call us at (503) 397-0590 or email [internet@crpud.org](mailto:internet@crpud.org). Our friendly and knowledgeable staff can help you choose the plan that's just right for you.

## New lights lower electric bill, look great

Last spring, building owner Jim Dias called the PUD inquiring about possible rebates and assistance on a lighting retrofit he was considering. Jim is part owner in a number of small office buildings in St. Helens and Scappoose. The offices, mostly built in the 70's, were in need of a lighting upgrade. The recessed fixtures, typical in many offices, had older magnetic ballasts that were reaching their end of life and were beginning to fail. Some of the fixture's prismatic lenses had yellowed and become dull looking with age. A number of the four-foot fluorescent lamps had burned out and needed replacement.



Jim considered simply maintaining the existing system by continuing to replace ballasts and lamps as they burned out. But, all things considered, it just didn't seem cost effective. Plus, there was always the challenge of keeping up with failing equipment. As a building owner, Jim wanted his tenants' office environment as pleasant and professional as possible.

When Jim learned about the PUD's rebates for lighting retrofits and the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit, he gave the green light to move ahead with a retrofit project.

Jim's new electronic ballasts are warranted for five years and the new lamps are warranted for thirty months. As an average, both are expected to last much longer than that. The new ballasts are more energy efficient, generate less heat, and are quieter than the old magnetic ballasts. The new higher quality fluorescent lights offer both savings and better light. Several incandescent light bulbs were replaced with quality compact fluorescent lights and the discolored lenses were replaced with new bright ones.

Jim's contractor, Christenson Electric, installed products that met the PUD's specifications. The PUD provided the rebate and assistance with applying for the Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (a State income tax credit equaling 35% of the gross project cost). Jim and his tenants are very happy with how the project turned out.

### Project Summary

Material and Installation Cost:	\$7,280
Less PUD Rebate	\$3,158
After Rebate Cost	\$4,122
2003 Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit	\$2,548
After Tax Credit Cost	\$1,574
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Estimated Annual Energy Cost Savings	\$1,155
Payback	1.4 Years
Estimated Annual Energy Savings	17,519 kWhs

## Energy management software saves school districts money

When the local school districts were faced with funding cuts last year they aggressively pursued ways to cut costs. As a result, the Scappoose and St. Helens School Districts implemented a plan to reduce the amount of electricity used by their networked personal computers.

Together, the two districts have a total of nearly 1,150 networked personal computers. Many of these computers are housed in student computer labs. Normally, these computers and their monitors stayed on much of the time. By implementing an energy management software program via their district-wide network each district is now able to automatically turn off their computers each day at a time that they choose.

The school districts chose to utilize a software product named "Surveyor" by Verdiem. This software program is flexible and allows employees to work during off hours while the other PC's have been automatically shut off. For more information about the product check out the vender's website at [www.ezconserve.com](http://www.ezconserve.com). To inquire about the PUD's current rebate for this energy and cost savings product, contact Tim Lammers at 503-397-8155.

### Combined Project Summary

Software Cost:	\$16,100
Less PUD Rebate:	\$16,100
Net Cost	\$ 0
Estimated Annual Cost Savings	\$11,178
Estimated Annual Energy Savings	230,000 kWhs

## Office equipment energy tips

- Turn off PCs, monitors, printers and copiers nightly and on weekends. If you are unable to switch off the entire computer, turn off the monitor and the printer.
- When purchasing PCs, monitors, printers, fax machines and copiers, consider buying ENERGY STAR qualified models, which can switch to a power-saving mode when not in use.
- Consider using ink-jet printers - they consume 90% less energy than desktop computers.
- Use laptop computers where possible - they consume 90% less energy than desktop computers.
- Use email instead of sending memos and faxing documents.

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## Send us your email address!

This newsletter is distributed through both email and regular mail. In order to keep production costs down, we would like to send it via email to as many customers as possible. To request email delivery, please send your email address to Tim Lammers at [tlammers@crpud.org](mailto:tlammers@crpud.org).

# Business & community development

## Upcoming training & events

### **Oregon Small Business Development Center**

Portland, 503-978-5080, [www.bizcenter.org](http://www.bizcenter.org)

- How to expand your business thru Exporting
- Creative Marketing
- Small Business Management Series I & II
- Buying a Business
- How to write a Business Plan

### **Small Business Administration -**

Portland Branch, 503-326-2682, [www.sba.gov/or](http://www.sba.gov/or)

- Restaurant, Food Mfg., & Bar/Tavern Workshop – April 24, PSU
- SBA Loan Briefing - 11:30-12:30, the 3rd Thursday of each Month

### **St Helens / Scappoose Community Events**

- American Bass Tournament – May 8
- Dog Show – May 29
- American Bass Tournament – June 12
- River City Days Festival – June 16-20



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