



Power Lines

A monthly newsletter from Columbia River People's Utility District

July 2009

Keep Cool for Less this Summer with These Simple Tips

Looking for relief from the summer heat? These simple tips will help you keep cool and comfortable while keeping your home energy costs to a minimum:

Things We All Should Do

- Close blinds and drapes or cover windows during daylight hours to keep the sun off of the glass.
- Keep your house closed during the day to keep heat out, and ventilate it well at night to let cool air in.
- Turn off the lights in unoccupied rooms. Turn off or unplug unnecessary electronics.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs, which use less energy and generate much less heat.

Good Habits to Adopt

- Skip the dishwasher's drying cycle. Open the dishwasher to let items air dry instead.



- Dry laundry on a clothesline.
- Set your A/C thermostat to 78.
- Use your microwave to cook. Microwave cooking is quicker, more energy efficient

and heats the food instead of your house.

- Use a fan with your room air conditioner to help move the cool air throughout the house.



Investments That Are Worth It

- Shade your air conditioner, and make sure it has good airflow on all sides.
- Good attic ventilation keeps your house cooler. Keep attic vents clear and attic fans functioning properly.
- Install awnings or plant deciduous trees or vines to shade south and east windows.
- For the most energy-efficient home heating and cooling, install a heat pump system.

For More Information:

For more energy saving tips, call our Energy Experts at (503) 366-5470 or visit www.crpud.net.



24 Hour Outage & Emergency Hot Line: (503) 397-1844 • Email: info@crpud.org
Website: www.crpud.net • Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday



Simplify life with *Always Current* Automatic Bill Payment

- Receive your statement by email
- Pay through an automatic deduction
- View your payment history online, anytime

Complete and return the enrollment form on reverse to sign up.

Get Rebates, Tax Credits For Efficiency Improvements

Thinking about making efficiency improvements to your home? This is a great time to act. There are PUD rebates and state and federal tax credits available now for a variety of upgrades including ductless heat pump systems, air-source or geothermal heat pump systems, insulation upgrades, window replacement, duct sealing, new appliances and more.



Our Energy Experts can help you decide which measures make the most sense for you. Visit www.crpud.net or call (503) 366-5470 to learn more.

Annual Report Available

The PUD's 2008 Annual Report, "According to Plan", is available online at www.crpud.net.

To request a printed copy, please call (503) 397-1844.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



**ASK ABOUT
ENERGY
STAR**

When shopping for appliances, lighting and home electronics, choose items that have earned the ENERGY STAR®. ENERGY STAR qualified products use less energy without sacrificing style, features or comfort.

Look for the ENERGY STAR on clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, room air conditioners, televisions, DVD players, & more.

To learn more or to see a list of products that carry the ENERGY STAR label, visit www.energystar.gov.

Tree Trimming Near Power Lines Prevents Outages

Many outages are caused by trees and tree limbs falling into overhead power lines. Our tree trimming crews work year-round to maintain clearance between overhead powerlines and nearby trees and shrubs. This prevents outages, helping us to maintain a safe, reliable distribution system.

Check Your Overhead Service Line

If your home is connected to our electricity distribution system by an overhead wire (called a service line), please check periodically to ensure that trees are not growing into the path of the wire.

Tree limbs that occasionally brush a service line won't damage it. But a tree limb or trunk that is pushing a service line out of its normal path should be trimmed or removed. This kind of interference can damage the electrical equipment in your home, or cause an outage for you and your neighbors.

Let us do the work!

Never trim trees that are growing near overhead power lines - doing so could put you at risk of deadly electrical shock. If you think it may be time for a trim, please call our Operations Department at (503) 397-1844. We will inspect the area and determine whether tree trimming is needed.



Two crews from Asplundh Tree Expert Company work year-round in our service area, trimming or removing trees and shrubs that are growing too close to the power lines.

Sign up for *Always Current* - Automatic payment with email billing

Complete this form and return with payment or submit to: Columbia River PUD, PO Box 1193, St. Helens, OR 97051.

****Please include a voided blank check with this form.****

Name: _____

Bank Name: _____

Address: _____

Name on Account: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Bank Routing #: _____

PUD Customer Number: _____

Bank Account #: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Account: Checking Savings

Email: _____

Choose a Password: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____



A COMMUNITY-OWNED UTILITY