



Power Lines

A monthly newsletter from Columbia River People's Utility District

December 2009

PUD Employees Raise Over \$20,000 for United Way!

Columbia River PUD employees rocked the house during this year's United Way campaign. They raised \$20,207 for the local chapter - a 23% increase over last year's total.

"Our employees are always very generous during our United Way campaigns. They really are rock stars when it comes to supporting the community."

- Campaign Chair Sherry Welter

Fifteen people, nearly one third of the PUD's 48 employees, earned a spot on the Forest Leadership Giving honor roll, having donated \$500 or more. According to Columbia County United Way Executive Director Kathy Beck, that percentage of leadership givers is unequalled in the county.

PUD employees also gave the largest average gift of any local company during three of the past four campaigns. This year's average gift of \$421 per employee is likely to garner the same recognition, said Beck.



PUD Campaign Co-Chairs Sherry Welter, left, and Libby Calnon, right, accept a "Grahammy Award" from United Way Executive Director Kathy Beck.

Go Green with Wind Power!

Buying wind power helps reduce greenhouse gasses from carbon-based generation resources and supports the development of renewable energy. Through our Choice Energy program, you can buy wind power for all or part of the electricity you use.

Our wind power plans start at \$2 additional per month. Use the sign-up form on the back of this newsletter, or call (503) 397-0590 to enroll.

If You Have a Life Support Patient in Your Home...

If someone in your home is on life support, it is very important that you plan ahead to prepare for storms, outages and other emergencies.

Your backup plan should include an alternate source of power, such as a standby generator, or transportation to another location. In an emergency, call 9-1-1.



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

No Power? Here's What to Do:

1. Check your electric meter. If there are numbers in the display, you have power and you should check your circuit breaker box or fuse panel for tripped breakers or blown fuses.
2. If there are no numbers on them meter's display, your power is out. Call our Outage Hotline to report the outage: **(503) 397-1844**
3. Turn on a front porch light. This helps our crews determine when power is restored.
4. During cold weather outages, please turn off all electric heaters, water heaters and cooking equipment at the breaker or fuse panel. When power is restored, you can turn these back on one at a time, in 15-minute intervals. This step helps prevent overloading of the electric system when power is restored, which can cause more outages.
5. Unplug sensitive electronic equipment such as computers, TVs & stereos to prevent damage from voltage surges or spikes when power is restored.



Numbers in display - Power is on



Blank display - Power is out

Stay Away From Downed Power Lines!



Power lines are dangerous! If you see a downed line, follow these important safety tips to avoid injury:

- Call us at (503) 397-1844 to report downed lines.
- Never touch a downed power line. Always assume the power line is energized and dangerous.
- Always keep at least 50 feet away from any downed line. The ground around a power line may be energized as well, making it very dangerous.
- Never touch trees or limbs that are touching power lines.
- Never drive over a downed power line, or under a line that is sagging over the roadway.
- Don't touch cars, debris or fallen branches that are near downed lines. Anything touching a power line is just as dangerous as the power line itself.
- If a power line falls on your car, stay inside and wait for emergency personnel. Only exit the car if it is on fire or in danger of catching fire. Open the door and without touching the ground, jump away from the car. To avoid electrical shock, do not touch the car and the ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle away from the car.



PUD Pays \$387,573 in Property Taxes for 2009

Did you pay a property tax bill last month? The PUD did! We paid \$387,573 in property taxes to Columbia and Multnomah Counties for 2009. The amount is based on assessed value for our distribution system and headquarters facility of \$30.1 million.

As a special district, the PUD is a not-for-profit public agency, similar to a school district or a fire district. However, unlike those organizations, we pay for our operations through our electric rates, not with property tax revenues. And we pay property taxes just like other local businesses and residents. Those taxes help fund schools, fire districts, emergency response and other city and county services. The PUD's 2009 property tax bill will be divided as follows:

- Schools: \$191,338
- Fire Districts: \$78,368
- County: \$51,155
- Cities: \$22,576
- 911 C-Com: \$16,082
- Other Taxing Districts: \$28,054

The allocation for schools represents a 10.9% increase over the 2008 payment; the fire district allocation is 11.8% higher than last year. These changes are due to levies that were passed by area voters.

Of the total, \$382,029 was paid to Columbia County and \$5,544 was paid to Multnomah County. The majority of our payment goes to Columbia County because that is where the majority of our facilities are located. The PUD is one of the top ten property tax contributors in Columbia County.

Sign Up for Choice Energy Wind Power

To sign up for Choice Energy, fill out and return this form, call us at (503) 397-0590 or visit www.crpud.net. Your purchase will be added to your electric bill beginning with your next monthly statement.

Charges for Choice Energy Wind Power are in addition to your regular electric charges .

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

PUD Customer Number: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Choice Energy Program Options:

- Columbia Waves Plan - I want to purchase blocks of wind power.
_____ Number of 100 kWh blocks x \$2 each = \$_____ additional per month.
- Chinook Breeze Plan - I want to purchase all my electricity from wind farms for an additional 1.5¢ per kilowatt-hour of electricity I use.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

