



Photo by Natalie Broders

## Enter Our 2020 PUD Calendar Contest

Would you like to see one of your photos in the 2020 PUD Calendar? We are accepting entries for the 2020 Columbia River PUD Calendar Photo Contest until Sept. 5, 2019.

When considering what to submit, please remember we print our calendar in landscape format. That means photos should be horizontal, not vertical.

Be on the lookout for photos illustrating the scenic beauty of our county. We are looking for photos taken during different seasons throughout the year.

Individuals may submit up to 10 photos, and may be limited to no more than two winning entries.

We accept electronic images or printed 8x10s. Digital images should be sized to print at 9.25 inches high by 12.25 inches wide.

Submit your photos by sending high-resolution images to [kboggs@crpud.org](mailto:kboggs@crpud.org), or visit [crpud.net/calendar](http://crpud.net/calendar) to learn more.

## Upgrades Ensure Continued Safe, Reliable Service

**We are dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable electric service.**

We constantly perform maintenance and upgrades to our distribution system to ensure we meet our objectives.

Throughout the first half of this year, we have been hard at work with projects that will help us continue delivering safe and reliable electric service at the lowest practical cost. Here are just a few of the many projects we have been working on:

- **We have neared completion of the Betsy Johnson Substation.** Portland General Electric (PGE) is scheduled to install a 115-kV tapline near the end of July that will allow us to energize the substation.
- **We reconductored power lines on East Columbia Avenue in Scappoose.** The first of two steps has been completed. This allows for more capacity and improves voltage for customers at the end of the service line.
- **Our crews worked in concert with Columbia County and PGE to make improvements along Gable Road in St. Helens.** We have relocated our facilities to allow the road to be widened. While working on the project, we took the opportunity to upgrade the size of our wire in the area to increase capacity.
- **We are replacing utility poles and reconductoring overhead power lines along East Kappler Road.** The old poles have reached the end of their useful service life. The new wire will increase capacity and improve voltage for customers at the end of the service line.
- **We are replacing a piece of equipment at our St. Helens Substation.** Repairs to the preventative auto within the transformer will extend the lifetime of our substation transformer. This helps our service reliability in the St. Helens area.



Journeymen Lineman Kevin Engstrom and Apprentice Lineman Jesse Hutchins install insulators at the Betsy Johnson Substation.

## Want to Learn About Electric Vehicles? We Can Help

**Electric Vehicles (EVs) are no longer stuff of the future - they're the technology of today.** EVs are gaining popularity nationwide, and that is true here in Columbia County.

Our service area saw a 15% increase in EV adoption over the second half of 2018. According to the most recently available data from the Department of Motor Vehicles, we have 170 EVs in our service territory.

The number of EV drivers in Columbia County has grown consistently each of the last three years. We expect that trend to continue.

To accommodate the growth in this technology, we have implemented an EV program at Columbia River PUD.

CRPUD customers who install Level 2 EV chargers at their homes are eligible for a \$50 rebate. Knowing where EVs are within our service area helps us ensure our transformers will not be overloaded with the additional electric load.

The PUD rebate is in addition to state and federal rebates available that can total \$10,000 following the purchase of a new EV.

If you are in the market for a new vehicle and have thought about switching from a gasoline-powered vehicle to an EV, we have resources available on our website to help you compare models. By plugging in a few details, you can see how much it will cost to drive 10,000 miles, or how far \$50 will take you in your current vehicle compared to an EV. Test out these comparisons at [crpud.net/electric-vehicles](http://crpud.net/electric-vehicles).

Jennifer in Rainier recently bought a Chevy Volt Hybrid Electric Vehicle after previously driving a Dodge Charger. By going electric, she eliminated her \$250 monthly payments at the gas pump. Her monthly electric bill has risen about \$12.



During her 25-minute commute, her Volt uses only electricity. She only has to use gasoline during long road trips.

"It's great. I hardly ever have to go to the gas station any more," she said.

If you would like to get a closer look at EV options, we invite you to visit our Ride and Drive Event during Public Power Week in October. We have partnered with Forth Mobility of Portland to give customers the opportunity to test different models of electric vehicles.

Because Forth does not sell vehicles, there will be no pressure to buy. It is strictly an opportunity for you to learn about the pros and cons of different types of EVs.

Our website also shows a map of charging stations. The map displays charging stations nationwide, including one at Fred Meyer in Scappoose and one at The Berry Patch in Westport.

We are in the process of installing a public charger in our parking lot. It will have Level 2 and fast-charging capabilities. The fast charger can deliver an 80% battery charge to some EVs in 20-30 minutes, while Level 2 chargers can provide a full charge in 4-6 hours.

## Powering Your Life with Clean, Renewable Hydropower

**Because we live in the Pacific Northwest, we reap the benefits of clean, renewable hydropower.** Hydropower is the electricity made using the flow of water. About 84% of the electricity you use as a CRPUD customer comes from this source. An additional 12% comes from clean energy sources with the remaining 4% purchased on the spot market.

**Hydropower is clean and renewable.** Every time rain or snow falls, the power supply is replenished. It is the nation's most abundant source of renewable energy. Hydropower does not produce emissions, gases, or waste products that contribute to air pollution.

**Hydropower is efficient.** Hydroelectric dams convert about 90% of the energy in falling water into electrical energy. By comparison, fossil-fueled plants lose more than half of the energy content of their fuel as wasted heat and gases.

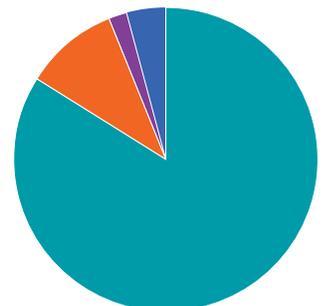
**Hydropower is flexible.** By adjusting the amount of water

flowing through the dams, hydropower can be increased or decreased quickly to meet changes in demand for power. This meets a fundamental requirement of the electrical grid, which is that power supply must meet power demand at all times. It also makes hydropower the perfect complement to other renewable resources like wind and solar power. When the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing, hydropower can be ramped up to meet demand.

### Our Fuel Mix

*Five-year average*

Hydropower - 84%  
Nuclear - 10%  
Other Renewables - 2%  
Other Resources - 4%



## Proud to be a Part of the Public Power Community

**During a December 2015 storm, four out of every five CRPUD customers experienced a power outage.** Thanks to the quick response of our Public Power partners, power was restored to all of our customers within five days.

Earlier this year, we were able to return the favor to one of the eight utilities that came to our aid in 2015. We sent eight linemen to Eugene to assist Emerald PUD with a massive restoration effort following a late-February snowstorm.

“We’ve been there and they came and helped us,” Operations Supervisor Eli Crape said after the crews had returned. “They were up here helping us, so it was nice to return the favor.”

### About Public Power

We are one of 35 public power utilities operating in Oregon.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, public power utilities do not operate for profit. Our rates are cost-based. We raise rates only when necessary to provide safe and reliable service to our customers.

Investor-owned utilities, on the other hand, build a profit margin for shareholders into their rates. This is part of the reason that 24 out of the 25 lowest-cost utilities in Oregon are public.

Community-owned utilities like us are governed by locally-elected boards. This gives the local community a voice in how its utility operates. Investor-owned utilities are governed by private boards of directors who are elected by shareholders.



*Journeymen Lineman Travis Weber replaces a pole while assisting Emerald PUD earlier this year.*

## Three Local Groups Benefit from PUD's Economic Development Grant

**Our Board of Directors has awarded three Economic Development Grants so far in 2019.** These grants, totaling \$20,500, were awarded to the Rainier Drainage Improvement Company, the Friends of the Columbia County Fair, and LEAD Columbia County.

Rainier Drainage Improvement Company was awarded \$7,500 to recertify the Rainier levee. Certification of the levee keeps insurance costs down for several current and prospective businesses inside the district by preventing it from being remapped into a flood zone.

“I am wholeheartedly in support of this. That’s a big part of Rainier’s economic development,” said PUD Board Member Craig Melton.

Friends of the Columbia County Fair received \$7,500 for the final phase of a restoration project at the Fairgrounds. They are upgrading infrastructure at the rodeo arena so the venue is available for use by many different organizations throughout the year.

“I don’t think any of us have raised kids that haven’t been to the fair. My daughter enjoyed it. She still enjoys the rodeo. It’s money well spent,” said PUD Board Member Debbie Reed.

LEAD Columbia County received a \$5,500 grant for upgrades to the South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce building. The building has undergone a renovation to add a visitors center and a business center.

“This is a great cause,” said PUD Board President Jake Carter.

The PUD’s Economic Development Grant is designed to promote investment in long-term economic development and growth of business and industry within the CRPUD service area for the benefit of the community and CRPUD customers. It is available to nonprofit corporations for projects meeting certain requirements. Learn more at [crpud.net/grant](http://crpud.net/grant).

We are still accepting grant applications for 2019.



*South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Simon Date accepts a check from Columbia River PUD Board President Jake Carter.*



Line crew members Jesse Hutchins, Patrick Hart, Chuck Long, Eli Crape, Kevin Engstrom, Jake Feakin, Casey Rea, and Travis Weber helped earn a first-place NWPPA Safety Award.

## CRPUD Wins NWPPA Safety Award

**We are honored to have received a first-place Safety Award from the Northwest Public Power Association.** The award was based on our safety performance in 2018 in terms of incident exposure, and total injury and illness rate from January 1 through December 31.

In 2018, we had 78,736 employee hours without a reportable incident. We had no lost time accidents, nor any OSHA violations.

## Rate Change is Expected in October

**We anticipate our rates will change on October 1.** The primary reason for the change is that our wholesale power provider, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), expects to increase transmission rates by 2.4%. BPA may also assess a 2% Financial Reserves Policy surcharge toward CRPUD's power costs if its Power Reserves fall below \$300 million.

BPA will announce its final decision for the 2019-2021 rate period on July 25. Power purchased from BPA accounts for roughly 60% of our annual expenses.

We are holding rate advisory committee meetings to determine our course of action. The committee includes 12 PUD customers and our Board of Directors.

"The CRPUD with John (Nguyen, General Manager) in the leadership position has not only provided reliable and affordable electricity, but they really do try to control the costs within the organization very, very carefully. It's very well managed," said CRPUD Board Member Rob Mathers during the first committee meeting on June 25.

The next meeting will be on August 6, at 5:30 p.m. in our Community Room. This meeting is open to the public.

A public rate hearing is tentatively scheduled for our regular Board Meeting on August 20, 2019, at 6 p.m. in our Community Room. This meeting is also open to the public.

## Pay Station Locations Have Changed

Our pay station locations have changed in 2019. Neither InRoads Credit Union (formerly St. Helens Community Credit Union) nor Bank of the West in St. Helens is providing pay station services for PUD customers.

For the convenience of our customers, we have installed payment drop boxes in Scappoose, St. Helens, and Rainier. They are located at the following locations:

- Rainier City Hall  
106 W B St.
- Scappoose City Hall  
33568 E. Columbia Ave.
- St. Helens City Hall – Utilities Department  
265 Strand St.

Drop boxes will be located inside of each building. We also have a drop box at our office in Deer Island.

Customers facing disconnection will need to call us at (503) 397-1844 to report their payment, pay online at [crpud.net](http://crpud.net), or pay in our office.

## Independent Audit Returns Clean Result

We received a clean, unmodified opinion on our 2018 Audit Report from independent auditor Kenneth Kuhns and Co. This is the best opinion that an entity can earn.

This opinion indicates that there were no weaknesses in our internal controls and our financial statements were free from material misstatement due to error or fraud. We have achieved this result for 34 consecutive years.

The complete report is available to view at [crpud.net/2018audit](http://crpud.net/2018audit).

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[www.crpud.net](http://www.crpud.net)  [facebook.com/crpud](https://facebook.com/crpud)  [twitter.com/crpudUtility](https://twitter.com/crpudUtility)

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

**COLUMBIA RIVER**  
**PUD**  
A COMMUNITY-OWNED UTILITY