



## Check for Savings Before Your Next Home Project

If you have any home improvement projects coming up, check with our Energy Experts before you start. We have several rebates available for customers. Some of our rebate programs include:

- Heat pumps
- Ductless heat pumps
- Window replacements
- Adding insulation
- Heat pump water heaters
- Duct sealing
- Smart thermostats
- ENERGY STAR® appliance purchases

You can find details about these incentives at [crpud.net/rebates](http://crpud.net/rebates).

## Two Local Organizations Receive PUD Grants

Our Board of Directors recently awarded two Economic Development Grants totaling **\$15,000**. These grants were awarded to the Rainier Drainage Improvement Company and to the Friends of the Columbia County Fair.

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.

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.

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).



*PUD Board Member Harry Price presents a check to Rainier Drainage Improvement Company secretary Terry Deaton.*

## Contractor Testing Utility Poles in Rainier

**Pacific Pole Inspection is inspecting, testing, and treating utility poles in the Rainier area.** We have contracted with Pacific Pole Inspection to determine if the poles are in good condition or in need of replacement.

This is part of our maintenance program. It helps ensure that our distribution system is safe and reliable. We test around 2,000 poles in our service area each year.

“This program is a cost-effective way for us to extend the life of poles, reduce costs, and to identify the poles that need to be replaced before they become a safety hazard,” said Engineering Supervisor Branden Staehely.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to verify the identity of a PUD contractor, please call our office at **(503) 397-1844**.



## Please Don't Hang Things on Utility Poles

**We know it is tempting to hang garage sale signs, missing pet notices, and other items on utility poles.** Please don't.

Attachments endanger our employees who climb poles. A tiny puncture in a worker's gloves can expose him to electric shock, causing serious injury or death.

Attachments damage poles. When poles are punctured, moisture and insects creep in. This damage shortens the life of the pole, which increases our maintenance costs.

The National Electrical Safety Code prohibits these types of attachments, putting us at risk for fines from the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

Thank you helping us maintain a safe, reliable electricity distribution system.



## Plant Trees Safely Near Power Lines

**We work hard to provide you reliable electric service. Trees that are too close to power lines can cause interruptions in service and can even put people in danger.**

**You can help by following these simple guidelines for managing trees on your property:**

- **When planting near power lines, choose trees that will grow no taller than 25 feet.**
- **Plant larger trees more than 30 feet away from power lines.**

**Find more tips about planting trees safely at [crpud.net/plant](http://crpud.net/plant).**

## Keep Yourself Safe from Scam Attempts

**Posing as a utility employee is a common scam.** It often occurs over the phone, but can also happen by email, text, or in person. We urge you to follow these tips to help avoid falling victim to scams:

- Don't trust caller ID or recordings.
- Ask the caller for verification.
- If you have any doubt that the call is legitimate, hang up and call our Customer Accounts Department at **(503) 397-0590**.
- Do not provide any sensitive personal data like your banking or PUD account information until you are certain that the call is legitimate.



Find more ways to help you stay safe from scammers at [crpud.net/scams](http://crpud.net/scams).

## Save Money by Cutting Your Wasted Energy

**Your home may be wasting energy in ways you haven't noticed.** Weatherizing your home and upgrading your windows can reduce the amount of power - and money - that is wasted each month.

We have rebates available for insulation and window upgrades in homes heated primarily with electricity. Learn more about our weatherization program at [crpud.net/insulation](http://crpud.net/insulation).

## Call Before You Dig

**If you plan to do any digging, Oregon law requires you to contact the utility locating service 48 hours before you dig. Call 8-1-1 to request a locate or visit [crpud.net/dig](http://crpud.net/dig).**

**Office:** 64001 Columbia River Hwy, Deer Island, OR 97054

**Mailing:** PO Box 1193, St. Helens, OR 97051 • (503) 397-1844

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

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