



Lineman Kevin Engstrom makes repairs during a power outage this fall.

Be Ready for Storms and Power Outages

Winter storms sometimes lead to power outages. Here are some suggestions to help keep you safe and comfortable if the power goes out at your house.

- Report your outage by calling (503) 397-1844. This helps us determine the extent and location of the outage.
- Turn on a front porch light switch. This helps let our crews know when power is restored.
- Always stay away from downed power lines.

We prioritize our restoration efforts to protect public safety and restore power to the largest number of customers as quickly as possible.

While we are not able to provide estimates on restoration times, we post updates on our website and social media pages during major outages.

Find more tips for what to do during a power outage at crpud.net/outage.

5 Ways to Keep Your Bill Down this Winter

If you heat your home with electricity, cold weather means higher bills. When it's colder outside, it takes more energy to heat your home – even if you don't adjust your thermostat.

We have come up with some suggestions that can help lower the amount of energy you use this winter, which will help save you money.



1. Lower your thermostat and dress a little warmer.

You can save 2% on your heating costs for every degree you lower your thermostat. We recommend setting it no lower than 55 degrees.

2. **If you have zonal heat, only heat the rooms you actively use.** Heating the entire house is a waste of valuable energy if there are rooms in your home that you don't use. Close the doors to those rooms.
3. **Clean or replace your furnace filters regularly.** Clogged filters make furnaces work a lot harder to distribute heat, increasing heating costs and shortening the life of your equipment.
4. **Don't block heaters.** Keep furniture, decorations, window coverings, and other items away from heating registers.
5. **Use space heaters wisely.** If you have central heat, consider lowering your thermostat and using a space heater in your bedroom at night. A space heater typically uses 1,500 watts of energy and an electric furnace can use more than 10 times that much.

We have more tips available at crpud.net/heating.

LEDs Provide Great Light at a Low Cost

Switching from incandescent light bulbs to LEDs is a simple way to lower your electric bill. LED light bulbs use about two-thirds less energy than old-fashioned incandescent lights.

LEDs also last much longer than incandescent bulbs.

Learn more about lighting your home efficiently by visiting crpud.net/led.



Cut Heating Costs with a Ductless Heat Pump

If you heat your home with electric baseboard and wall heaters, you can lower your heating costs by switching to a ductless heat pump.

Ductless systems heat your home efficiently. They can also provide cooling in the summer months.

Toni in Scappoose recently installed a ductless system after her furnace went out.

“We thought a ductless heat pump would be a better way to go, rather than paying all that money for a new furnace and air conditioner,” Toni said. “The bill isn’t as high anymore.”

Since making the switch, her winter heating costs have dropped about 40 percent.

We offer rebates for qualifying installations of ductless systems. For existing homes with electric heat, the rebate is \$800 for approved installations. The rebate for approved installations in new site-built homes is \$500.

Find out more about ductless heat pumps at crpud.net/ductless.



Rebate for Electric Vehicle Chargers

PUD customers considering installing a charging station for electric vehicles may be eligible for a rebate.

We are offering a \$50 rebate for customers who install a Level 2 EV charger. The charger must be 240V or higher, and it must be installed at the address of a current Columbia River PUD customer.

More information about the rebate is available at crpud.net/electric-vehicles, or by contacting Energy Services Supervisor Tim Lammers at tlammers@crpud.org or (503) 397-8155.



PUD Pays 2019-20 Property Taxes

The PUD paid \$544,011 in property taxes to Columbia and Multnomah Counties for the 2019-20 tax year. That is based on a total assessed property value of \$43.3 million.

Our 2019-20 property taxes will be divided as follows:

- Schools \$269,675
- Fire Districts \$113,678
- County \$55,954
- Cities \$28,567
- 9-1-1 Comm \$21,871
- Other \$54,266

Columbia County received \$537,043; the remaining \$6,968 was paid to Multnomah County.

The majority of our service area is in Columbia County. We serve about 350 customers in northern Multnomah County, near Scappoose.

We are among the largest property tax payers in Columbia County.

Happy Holidays!

The Columbia River PUD Board of Directors and staff would like to wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Our office will be closed on December 25 and January 1 to observe Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Crews will be on standby. If your power goes out, please call our 24-hour outage and emergency line, (503) 397-1844.

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

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

www.crpud.net  facebook.com/crpud  twitter.com/crpudUtility

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

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