



## Apply for Our 2019 Utility Engineering Internship

Local students are invited to apply for our 2019 Utility Engineering Internship Program. This program offers engineering students a chance to learn about utility careers through direct work experience.

This year, we plan to hire one summer intern in our Engineering Department.

The internship is open to high school seniors or college students majoring in engineering who live within our service area.

Visit [crpud.net/internship](http://crpud.net/internship) for application materials. Applications are due by 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 28. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

We offer half-day job shadows to high school and college students who live within our service area and are considering careers in the electric utility industry. Request a job shadow by emailing [jobs@crpud.org](mailto:jobs@crpud.org) or calling (503) 397-1844.

## How Cold Weather Affects Your Power Bill

The biggest contributor to high bills in the winter months is cold weather. When it's colder outside, it takes more power to heat your home – even if you don't raise your thermostat. Your heating system has to work longer to maintain the same temperature inside.



*Add insulation to help combat high winter bills.*

This is especially true for homes that don't have enough insulation. Homes with single-pane windows and homes with leaks around windows or doors also will use more energy. Add insulation and seal air leaks to reduce your heating load.

Portable heaters use a lot of energy, too. A plug-in space heater uses about 1,500 watts per hour. So even if you're only using one, it can cause a big increase in your energy use.

You can find more ways to reduce your winter bills at [crpud.net/coldweather](http://crpud.net/coldweather).

## Let Us Trim Trees Near Power Lines

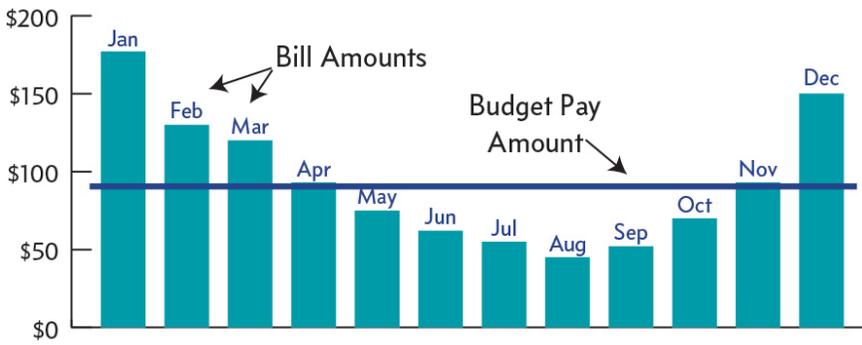
**If you see trees growing near power lines, please let us know.** We will inspect your service line and remove limbs or trees if they are growing too close.

Limbs that occasionally brush against a service line won't damage it. But a trunk or large limb that is pushing the line out of its normal path should be trimmed or removed.

Never trim trees or branches near power lines. Doing so puts you at risk for deadly shock. Let our crews do it.

If there are trees near your home that need trimming, please call us at **(503) 397-1844** to request an inspection. You may also request an inspection online at [crpud.net/trees](http://crpud.net/trees).





## Keep Your Power Bill Even All Year Long

**Want to avoid surprises with your monthly power bill?** Sign up for our Budget Pay program and you'll pay the same amount every month, all year long.

"The Budget Pay program is great," says Diana in St. Helens. "I use it because there are no surprises for one year, from March to February. It makes it much easier to budget that way."

New Budget Pay plans are set up only in March. If you would like to enroll, please call our Customer Accounts Department at **(503) 397-0590** or email [info@crpud.org](mailto:info@crpud.org).

To join the program, you'll need to have at least 12 months of account history and a \$0 balance at the time of enrollment.



## Cut Energy Costs, Switch to Ductless

One day a few years ago, Toni's furnace stopped working. Rather than simply replacing it, she decided to make a change.

"We just 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 any more."

Since switching from her electric furnace to a ductless heat pump, she's saved about 40% on her winter heating costs.

On top of that, PUD rebates are available for qualified installations of ductless systems. Rebates range from \$400 to \$1,200, depending on your current heating system.

To learn more about our rebates, visit [crpud.net/ductless](http://crpud.net/ductless).

Ductless systems also provide cooling during the warmer summer months.



Photo by Jerry Vanderwerf

## Enter the 2020 PUD Calendar Photo Contest

**It's never too early to submit your photos for our annual PUD Calendar Photo Contest.** You may now send us your entries for the 2020 contest.

The calendar features scenic photos of Columbia County. When selecting your photos, keep in mind that we like to include photos representing each season throughout the year.

Anyone may enter the contest, and you may submit up to 10 photos. You can find tips and rules for the contest online at [crpud.net/calendar](http://crpud.net/calendar).

**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

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