



## Cut Energy Costs, Switch to Ductless

One day a few years ago, Toni's electric 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."

Switching from an electric furnace to a ductless heat pump saved her about 40% on her winter heating costs.

On top of those savings, PUD rebates are available for qualified installations of ductless systems. We offer a \$500 rebate for qualified installations in new site-built homes, and an \$800 rebate for qualified installations in existing homes with electric heat.

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

## Heating Systems Work Harder in the Cold

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

This is especially true for homes that are not properly insulated. Homes with single-pane windows and homes with air leaks around windows or doors will also use more energy. Seal air leaks and add insulation to help reduce your heating costs.



Portable heaters may use a lot of energy, too. A plug-in space heater can use up to 1,750 watts per hour. So even if you're using only one, it can cause a big increase in your energy use. Running one 1,750-watt space heater 8 hours a day for 30 days will add \$30.20 to your monthly electric bill.

See other ways you can reduce your winter bills at [crlud.net/coldweather](http://crlud.net/coldweather).

## Let Us Trim Trees Growing Near Power Lines

Trees are one of the leading causes of power outages in our service area. If you see trees growing near power lines, please let us know.

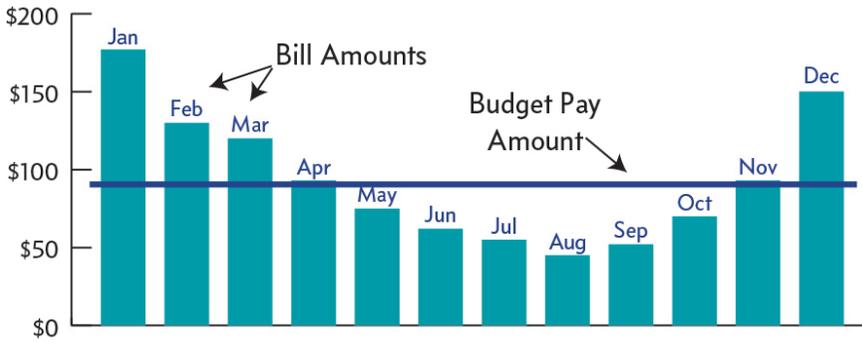
Limbs that occasionally brush a service line won't cause damage. But a tree limb or trunk that is pushing the line out of its normal path should be trimmed or removed.



Identifying these hazards early helps prevent power outages. Please request a tree inspection from us if you have trees that are encroaching on the electrical system, or if you have dead or diseased trees within 10 feet of overhead power lines.

Please do not trim these trees yourself. Trimming branches that are growing near overhead power lines puts you at risk for deadly electric shock.

Please call us at (503) 397-1844 or visit [crlud.net/tree](http://crlud.net/tree) to report a hazardous tree.



## 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 at your current location and a \$0 balance at the time of enrollment.



Photo by Larry Jackson

## Enter the 2021 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 2021 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 upload photos and find rules for the contest at [crpud.net/calendar](http://crpud.net/calendar).



## Study Finds Dam Removal to be Costly

Removing four lower Snake River dams would cost the United States \$4 billion over the next 30 years, according to a study by the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

**Significant additional effects due to the loss of hydropower, irrigation, and other authorized uses would also occur but are not captured in this report.**

**Dam removal would lead to significant additional carbon emissions. It would also jeopardize health, safety, and livelihoods in the Pacific Northwest. Breaching these dams would cause diesel fuel consumption to increase by nearly 5 million gallons per year, as barges would be replaced by truck-to-rail shipment. This would require an additional 201 unit trains and 23.8 million miles in additional trucking activity annually.**

Read the full report online at [pnwa.net/energy-salmon](http://pnwa.net/energy-salmon).

## Did You Know?



**Our Energy Efficiency efforts saved customers 2.97 million kilowatt hours in 2019 – enough to power 230 average Columbia County homes for a year.**

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

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