



## Cut Your Water Heating Costs

Lower your water heating costs by up to 60% by upgrading to an energy-efficient heat pump water heater.

Heat pump water heaters save energy by moving heat from the surrounding air into the water tank. They also have easy to operate control panels, allowing you to lower the temperature to maximize efficiency.

We offer rebates of \$150 to \$300 for the installation of qualifying heat pump water heaters. They can be installed by the homeowner or by a participating installer.

Learn more about our rebate program and the benefits of heat pump water heaters at [crpud.net/hpwh](http://crpud.net/hpwh).

## Board Adopts 2019 Operating Budget

The PUD Board of Directors unanimously approved a \$40.37 million Operating and Capital Budget for 2019. The 2019 Budget highlights the PUD's ongoing commitment to investing in its infrastructure.

"The budget reflects a really good thought process. Great, great work by the staff," said PUD Board Member Rob Mathers.

Electric rates will remain stable at least through September 2019, but may change in October 2019, when new wholesale power prices take effect. The PUD will conduct a Cost of Service Analysis in 2019 to determine whether rate changes will be implemented.

The St. Helens Substation will receive \$1.3 million in upgrades, including the replacement of a 55-year-old transformer. The new transformer will have greater capacity, allowing the PUD to accommodate future load growth in St. Helens.

Other projects to improve the reliability of the PUD's electric distribution system include three projects to convert overhead power lines to underground lines in Scappoose, and the upgrade of overhead power lines in Rainier, St. Helens, and Scappoose.

"I'm very proud of the work we have done for next year's budget. We will continue our efforts to be fiscally responsible and to improve safety, security, and reliability of service to our customers," said General Manager John Nguyen.

To see the budget in its entirety, visit [crpud.net/2019budget](http://crpud.net/2019budget).

## 5 Tips to Keep Your Winter Heating Bills Down



You can save 2% on your heating bill for every degree your thermostat is turned down.



Open curtains during the day to let heat in. Close them at night to keep cold air out.



If you spend most of your time in one room, use a portable heater for that space and lower your central thermostat.



Use your fireplace wisely. Close the damper when it's not in use - just be sure to wait a few hours after the fire dies.



Seal air leaks around doors and windows to keep chilly drafts from entering your home.



For more tips on lowering your winter power bills, visit [crpud.net/heating](http://crpud.net/heating).

## Apply for Funds for Your Nonprofit Group

**Are you looking for ways to raise money for a local nonprofit organization?**

We launched two programs in 2018 designed to help such groups.

### Economic Development Grant Program

This program is designed to promote investment in long-term economic development and growth of business and industry in our service area for the benefit of the local community. It is available to nonprofit organizations for projects meeting certain considerations and requirements.

In 2018, we awarded grants totaling \$6,773.50 to SHEDCO for its Business Development Competition and to the St. Helens Senior Center to expand the sales floor at Top Notch Thrift Store.

Find more information, including how to apply, at [crpud.net/grant](http://crpud.net/grant).

### Vehicle Wash Program

Local nonprofit groups seeking to raise money are invited to apply to wash our vehicles, including bucket trucks, service trucks, passenger cars, and sport utility vehicles.

In exchange for washing approximately 10 vehicles, the group will receive \$300. Two groups will be selected to wash vehicles each month from March through October.

In 2018, we paid a total of \$4,200 to 14 different nonprofit groups.

Details and application materials are available at [crpud.net/wash](http://crpud.net/wash).



## Our Pay Station Locations Have Changed

**Effective January 1, Inroads Credit Union (formerly St. Helens Community Credit Union) will no longer provide pay station services for PUD customers.**

Bank of the West in St. Helens will continue to provide pay station services. In addition, we have installed drop boxes at Rainier City Hall, St. Helens City Hall, and Scappoose City Hall.

Please note these are drop boxes, so you will need to pay by check. Do not make cash payments through our drop boxes.

If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Accounts Department at **(503) 397-0590** or [info@crpud.org](mailto:info@crpud.org).



## Annual Audit is Underway

Each year an independent auditor reviews our accounting records. For the past several years, we have received an unmodified opinion - the best possible result.

This ensures we are conducting business in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and that controls are in place to safeguard the PUD's assets. As part of this audit, customer records and billing activity are reviewed.

If you have questions about how your bill is calculated, individual line items on your bill, your billing history, or your energy usage, please contact our Customer Accounts and Billing Department at **(503) 397-0590** or [info@crpud.org](mailto:info@crpud.org).

If you feel that your bill was calculated incorrectly or that your account balance is not correct, please write to our auditors and describe the error. Please include a copy of your billing statement, if available.

Send your letter to:

**Kenneth Kuhns & Co.**  
570 Liberty St. SE, Suite 210  
Salem, OR 97301

## PUD Employees Raise \$8,500 for United Way

The PUD's employees once again showed their generous spirit this holiday season, donating \$8,513 to United Way of Columbia County.

**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](https://www.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