

Rebates for Weatherization Have Increased

Our rebate amounts for insulation and window upgrades have increased. If your home is heated with electricity, you can now receive up to \$2 per square foot of insulation installed and up to \$8 per square foot of window replaced.

In order to receive a rebate, you must have an Energy Evaluation performed prior to beginning your project. You may schedule one by calling Efficiency Services Group at (888) 883-9879 or emailing rebates@esgrouppllc.com.

Learn how upgrading your windows and insulation can help you save on your energy costs by visiting crpud.net/insulation.



Board Adopts Operating and Capital Budget

The PUD Board of Directors unanimously approved a \$42.5 million Operating and Capital Budget for 2020. The 2020 Budget does not include a rate increase for customers.

The budget includes paying off the remainder of our outstanding debt. We have budgeted \$859,000 to pay off the balance of a commercial loan that was refinanced in 2015 to pay off debts initially incurred in the 2000 acquisition of electric service from PGE for the cities of St. Helens, Scappoose, and Columbia City. Since 2000, our residential customers have saved approximately \$106.7 million compared to PGE rates.

We will continue our practice of paying cash for improvements to our electric system. The 2020 Budget includes \$5.4 million in capital projects. The primary reason for these projects is to improve reliability of service throughout our territory and to increase electrical capacity.

Major repairs are planned inside the St. Helens Substation. We also plan to begin construction of a new substation in Deer Island to allow for system load growth, and to increase reliability and redundancy for customers in the northern part of our service area.

Other system improvements are planned elsewhere. We plan to move overhead power lines underground on Apple Valley Road, Armstrong Road, and Siercks Road in Scappoose to reduce tree-caused outages. Upgrades are planned for overhead lines on Callahan Road in Scappoose, and on Parkdale Road and Pellham Hill Road in Rainier.

To view the budget in its entirety, please visit crpud.net/2020budget.

Funds Available for Nonprofit Organizations

We distributed more than \$40,000 to local nonprofit organizations in 2019, and we are accepting applications for fundraising opportunities for 2020.

Economic Development Grant

We contributed \$35,500 in Economic Development Grants to local nonprofit organizations in 2019. Our Board of Directors approved the fifth and final grant request of 2019 during their December meeting, awarding Columbia County Economic Team \$7,500.

Throughout the year, grants were also awarded to Columbia County Habitat for Humanity, LEAD of Columbia County, Friends of the Columbia County Fair, and the Rainier Drainage Improvement Company.

The Economic Development Grant is designed to promote long-term economic development and growth of business and industry in our service area for the benefit of the local community.

We accept applications on an ongoing basis. Application materials are available at crpud.net/grant. Grant amounts are limited to \$7,500 or one-half of the total project cost.

Vehicle Wash Program

We provided \$4,800 in funding to 16 different local nonprofit groups with our Vehicle Wash Program in 2019.

Local nonprofit groups seeking to raise funds are invited to apply to wash our vehicles. In exchange for washing approximately 10 vehicles – including bucket trucks, service trucks, passenger cars, and sport utility vehicles – the group will receive \$300.

Two groups will be selected to wash vehicles at our Deer Island office each month from March through October.

Details and application materials are available at crpud.net/wash.

Warming Tree Collects More than 800 Items

Thanks to generous donations from our customers, staff, and Board members, we were able to collect 864 items for our Warming Tree. These blankets, gloves, coats, hats, and other warming items were all donated to SAFE of Columbia County.

Thank you all for your generous donations to help members of our community in need this holiday season!



Apply to be Our Engineering Intern

Local students are invited to apply for our 2020 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 in our service area.

Visit crpud.net/internship for application materials. Applications are due by 5:30 p.m. on February 20. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

We also offer job shadows to interested high school and college students in our service area. Call us at (503) 397-1844 to learn more.

Did You Know?



About 85% of the power you receive from us comes from clean, renewable hydropower.

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