



Enroll in Our Budget Pay Plan this Month

If you would like to take the guesswork out of your electric bill, sign up for our Budget Pay program. With Budget Pay, you pay the same amount every month, all year long.

New Budget Pay plans are set up only in March. To enroll, please call our Customer Accounts Department at (503) 397-0590, or visit crpud.net/budgetpay.

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.

Budget Pay Amounts Recalculated This Month

If you are currently enrolled in the Budget Pay program, you may see a change in your bill this month.

Every 12 months, we review your usage over the past year to set your monthly average for the coming year. We do this in March.

Electric Vehicle Level 2 Charger Rebate Doubles

Our Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate has doubled! As of September 30, Columbia County was home to 249 electric vehicles (EVs), according to the latest available data from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Of these EVs, 217 are registered in our service territory.

To assist our customers in fueling their EVs, we are offering a \$100 rebate for the installation of a new Level 2 (240-volt) EV charger. The charger must be installed at the address of a current Columbia River PUD customer.

To learn more about the \$100 rebate or EVs in general, please visit crpud.net/electric-vehicles, or contact Energy Services & Facilities Manager Tim Lammers at tlammers@crpud.org or (503) 397-8155.

Contractor Testing Utility Poles in Our Area

Pacific Pole Inspection is inspecting, testing, and treating utility poles in the Rainier and Deer Island areas. We have contracted with Pacific Pole Inspection to determine if the poles are in good condition or in need of replacement.

This is part of our maintenance program. It helps ensure that our distribution system is safe and reliable. We test around 2,000 poles in our service area each year.

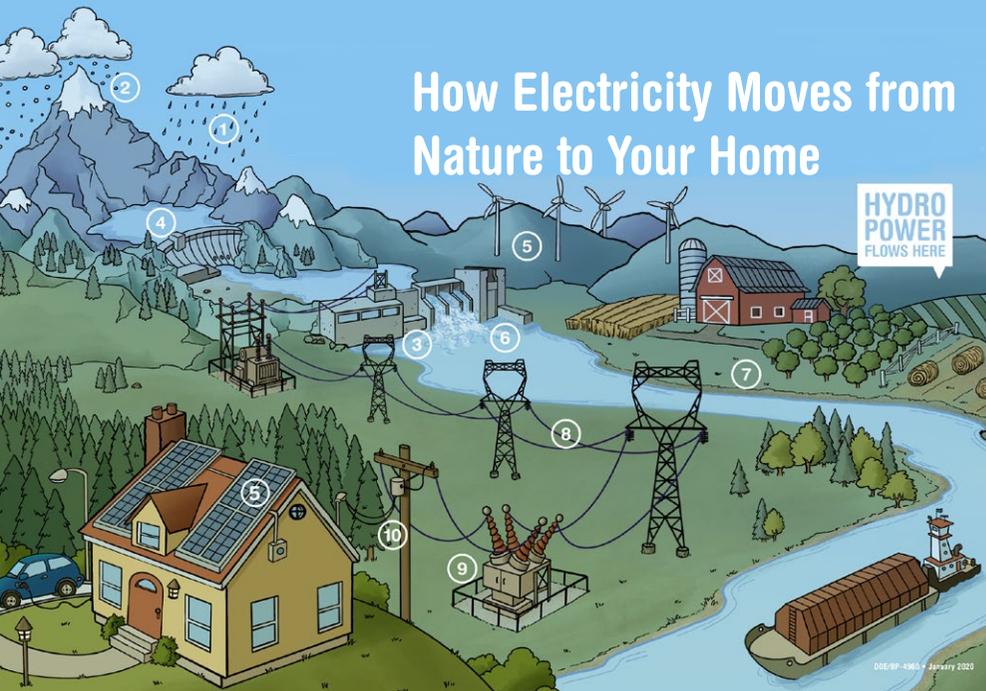
"This program is a cost-effective way for us to extend the life of poles, reduce costs, and to identify the poles that need to be replaced before they become a safety hazard," said Engineering Manager Branden Staehely.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to verify the identity of a PUD contractor, please call our office at (503) 397-1844.



How Electricity Moves from Nature to Your Home

HYDRO
POWER
FLOWS HERE



Hydropower is renewable energy made by water. The water cycle replenishes hydropower's fuel source in the form of ① precipitation. Melting mountain ② snowpack feeds rivers in the spring and summer.

The flowing river spins turbines at ③ hydroelectric dams, creating low-cost, carbon-free electricity. Dams also protect downstream communities by preventing flooding.

Some dams hold back the river in ④ reservoirs so the water can be used later. Reservoirs also support recreation activities.

The river provides flexible, reliable power that helps balance the variability of ⑤ wind and solar energy.

⑥ Navigation locks alongside dams enable boat navigation. River water is used to ⑦ irrigate farms.

High voltage ⑧ transmission lines carry electricity to ⑨ substations, where its voltage is reduced. Smaller ⑩ power lines carry electricity to communities. Read more about the benefits of hydropower at crpud.net/hydropower.

See Us at the 2020 Home & Garden Show

Stop by our booth at the 2020 Chronicle Home and Garden Show on April 18-19 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds. You can get tips on how to use electricity more efficiently, which can help lower your power bill.

Tickets are free and can be picked up at The Chronicle office in St. Helens, Don's Rental, Clatskanie PUD, and all InRoads Credit Union locations. They're also available at the door for \$3 apiece.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Call 8-1-1 Before Digging Projects

Please remember to call 8-1-1 before any digging projects. Oregon law requires you to contact the utility locating service before you dig anywhere on public or private property.

You should request locates at least three working days before beginning any excavation. This will help prevent injuries, service interruptions and damage to underground facilities.

If you damage any utility facilities, you will be responsible for repair costs.

This service is free and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Calling 8-1-1 is the law. Play it safe and call before you dig.

For more information, visit crpud.net/dig.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



Our low rates have saved residential customers more than \$117 million since we began serving customers in 1984 (when compared to PGE rates).

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