



Owner's Manual

Celebrating Public Power

Northern Wasco County PUD celebrates Public Power Week, October 6 through 10.

More than 2,000 customer-owned utilities throughout the country serve over 43 million people or about 14 percent of the nation's electricity consumers.

In the Northwest, about half the population is served by one of the more than 100 publically-owned utilities.

As the region and the nation grapple with issues of global climate change and plan for our energy future, public power utilities are working to continue to provide their customers with reliable energy at an affordable price.

There are three types of public power utilities: PUDs (People's Utility Districts formed by a vote of the people they serve), municipal systems (which are governed by the cities they serve), and cooperatives (private, non-profit corporations governed by their members).

What is so special about a public utility?

- **Local Control**

Because public utilities are owned or governed by the people they serve, their customers have more of a say in how they do business.

At NWCPUD, a five-member board of directors is elected by customers in each of the five PUD subdivisions. These individuals live in the community they serve.

The board of directors sets electric rates and policies and hires a general manager who manages the utility according to the policies they set.

The NWCPUD board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00

p.m. These meetings are open to the public and the press. All decisions are made in open sessions and local citizens have the opportunity to participate.

PUD customers can also vote to authorize debt (bond sales) to finance the purchase or modification of the district's facilities.

- **Operate for the Benefit of the Customer**

The PUD power supply is provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) at rates that are less than any of Oregon's private utility rates. The PUD passes these lower rates on to its customers.

As a public utility, NWCPUD has control over special programs like energy conservation and rate relief for senior or disabled low-income customers.

- **Focus on Service**

NWCPUD is committed to Wasco County. When you call our office, you are greeted by a real person who lives right here in our community who knows the lines in Rowena, The Dalles, Dufur, Tygh Valley and Wamic. We are your friends and

neighbors and we care about your call and value your time.

NWCPUD to Host Annual Meeting of Oregon PUDs

NWCPUD will host the Oregon PUD Association (OPUDA) annual meeting in The Dalles, October 9-10. The conference theme is "Smart Choices = Bright Futures".

The conference will feature several experts including Theresa Pugh, director of environmental services for the American Public Power Association, former state climatologist George Taylor and energy economist Dr. Sam Van Vactor.

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, state Sen. Ted Ferrioli and state Rep. John Huffman will discuss energy issues at the state and national level.

The Oregon PUD Association (OPUDA) is an alliance of Oregon People's Utility Districts devoted to serving its customers and others interested in consumer ownership of their utility. Among other advocacy roles, OPUDA represents the six

NWCPUD's 6 Core Values

- **Public ownership and local control**
- **Integrity**
- **Keeping power rates as low as possible**
- **Providing quality essential services**
- **Quality customer service**
- **Community involvement**

Oregon PUDs in legislative and related matters.

NWCPUD board member Howard Gonser is serving as the current OPUDA president.

Check the Heater Before it Gets Cold

Although the autumn skies are still clear in Wasco County, we have already had some cool evenings. There is a good chance we will soon see the last of the days when outdoor temperatures equal indoor thermostat settings.

A few minutes of preventative maintenance on your heating system this month can ensure you will have a warm home when you need it most.

Start by checking furnace filters

During the summer, when your heating unit is not in use, it is easy to forget regular maintenance.

October is a good month to check your furnace filters. If they are able to be cleaned, do so. If they are replaceable, replace them.

Stock up on enough filters to last the winter.

Filters should be cleaned or replaced every month if you have children, pets or live in a dusty or smoky environment.

Even if you do not have any of these conditions in your home, check the filter every 30 days for a few months to see how dirty they get over time.

Set up your own replacement schedule and write it on the calendar.

Inspect registers and ductwork

Check to be sure that your registers are uncovered before starting your heating system. Clean any ductwork that attaches to the floor.

Test your heating unit

Finally, turn on your unit. If it is not working, call and schedule repairs so you will have heat when you need it.

Heat pump rebates available

Thinking of updating your present heating system? Before you make a purchase, call the energy experts at the PUD and ask about our heat pump rebate program and list of approved contractors.

This program is available to all NWCPUD residential customers with permanently installed electric heat, for as long as funding is available.

PUD customers can earn \$1,200 when they install a new air-to-air heat pump system and electric furnace in their home or when an existing heat pump is replaced completely with a new all-electric heat pump. The system must be the primary heating and cooling source for the building.

Homes with existing gas or oil furnaces that are replaced with an electric furnace and heat pump system will qualify for a rebate of \$600.

The rebate does not cover repairs for existing heat pumps.

Customers must use an approved heating contractor and install approved equipment.

An inspection by a PUD representative is required.

Customer must also provide copies of electrical and mechanical permits, and a copy of the itemized bills with model numbers and brand of equipment installed.

Rebates can be paid as a check or credited to your PUD electric account.

For information, please call our office at 296-2226 and speak with either Steve Holmes or Patrick Urain. Information and an application are also available on our website at www.nwawco.com.

Community Calendar

OCTOBER

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The NoteCrackers Sweet plays live music (danceable tunes from the '20s to the '60s) for a social dance, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Mid-Columbia Senior Center. Listeners welcome. Free admission, donations accepted. Call 296-4788 for details.

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Candidates Forum
Meet local candidates and listen as they discuss their positions on important community issues, 6:30 p.m. at The Dalles Civic Auditorium. Call 296-2231 for more information.

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The Fort Dalles Riders Spaghetti Feed fundraiser, 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Dalles Riders Clubhouse, 1023 Irvine Street. Funds help to send local cowboy Lance Monagon to Kansas City, Missouri to compete in the National Extreme Cowboy Competition.

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Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting, 6 p.m., 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

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Downtown Trick or Treat, Historic Downtown The Dalles. Businesses open to trick or treaters. Call 296-2231 for details.