



Owner's Manual

Budget Pay Customers 'Catch Up' in April

If you are a current Budget Pay customer, April is "catch up month," as it compares your electricity use during the last year to calculate your budget payment for the new year.

Customers using more power than their budget payment allowed in 2007 will be required to pay the balance to qualify for the program this year. If your actual payments were less than your budget payments, you will have a credit going into the new budget payment cycle.

Budget Pay

The Budget Payment Plan is one of two NWCPUD programs that make budgeting for and paying electric bills easier.

The program helps customers to avoid large power bills in the winter and summer by spreading the cost of electric service evenly throughout the year.

When you sign up for Budget Pay, your monthly payment is calculated by dividing the last 12 months' (May to April) cost of energy by 11.

If you use more power during the year than your budget payment allows, simply pay the balance the following April. If you use less, you receive a credit.

To qualify, you must have been a NWCPUD customer for at least 12 months at the same address and have

an account with a zero balance. Billing for the new cycle begins in May.

E-Z Pay

After signing up for Budget Pay, make those predictable electric bills even easier to pay by having the amount deducted from your checking account each month. With our E-Z Pay plan, your bill will be taken care of automatically.

Whether you have a checking account at a bank, savings and loan or credit union, simply fill out an application and your bill can be paid electronically from your account.

You will still receive a PUD bill each month showing your electrical use and the amount that was automatically deducted from your checking account.

There is no charge for this service. Customers must have a PUD account paid in full to qualify.

To sign up for the Budget Payment or E-Z Pay plans, please contact our office at 296-2226.

Power Poles and Posters Don't Mix

With spring, comes yard sales, car washes and community fund-raisers. Please look for creative ways to publicize your event rather than hanging flyers on utility poles.

NWCPUD line personnel climb and work around these poles day and night, and during all types of weather.

Sharp or protruding objects such as nails, tacks, or wire can make the

pole difficult to climb and can seriously injure an employee should a climbing hook be deflected and cause a fall.

Sharp objects can also damage safety equipment such as rubber gloves, leaving line personnel vulnerable to electrocution.

We at NWCPUD want to keep our personnel safe while they are providing quality service to our customers. If you see someone using a utility pole as a bulletin board, please report it to us immediately by calling 296-2226.

Help for Military Families

NWCPUD has a military assistance fund available to help local military families pay their electric bills.

To qualify, a family must be a current NWCPUD customer and be dependent upon a primary wage earner serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The fund is part of the Neighbor to Neighbor program and was created with donations from customers, employees, individuals and civic organizations in our community. It is administered by the local Mid-Columbia Community Action Program (MCCAP).

We do not want our local military families struggling to pay their electric bills.

If you know someone who might qualify for this program, please contact the MCCAP office at 298-5131.

Have questions? Find answers at:

www.nwasco.com

Economic Grant Applications Available



Northern Wasco County PUD is offering \$30,000 in grants to fund economic development projects in the year 2008.

To be eligible for consideration, grant requests

must be for development or improvement of infrastructure within the PUD service territory and have an expected life of at least five years. A maximum of \$12,000 will be awarded per project.

Last year's economic grants included funds to improve universal access at the Dufur Historical Society Living History Museum, to renovate office and meeting space for the Mid-Columbia Economic

Development District, to build a concessions stand for The Dalles Softball Association at Sorosis Park and to purchase a touchpad timing/starting system for The Dalles Swim Team to use during their meets at the Ted Walker swimming pool.

Applications for the 2008 grants are available at the NWCPUD office, 2345 River Road, The Dalles. They must be submitted before 5 p.m. on May 9.

Grants will be awarded at the NWCPUD board meeting, May 27.

Private, for-profit ventures or projects that have received PUD economic development grant funding twice in a five-year period are not eligible.

For more information, please contact Linda Wilson at 298-3302.

Community Calendar

APRIL

3,17

Acoustic Concert Series,
April 3: Claudia Schmidt & Freebo,
April 17: Kelly Joe Phelps,
7:00 p.m. at The Dalles Civic Auditorium. Tickets \$10 at Klindts Book Sellers and Columbia River Music.

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Kids for CASA: Art with Heart Art show and sale featuring work by local children to benefit Columbia Gorge Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m., music & wine tasting 8:00-10:00 p.m., at Riverenza Court, 401 E10th.

12

Spring Wine Festival, silent auction & "People's Choice Awards", 6:00 p.m. at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Tickets \$50 at the Discovery Center and Klindts Book Sellers. For details, call 296-8600.

12-13

Gorge Artists Open Studios, \$15 guide/map admits two people to 35 studios in the Gorge. On sale at Klindts Book Sellers. For details, call 296-5134.

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

Call 811 Before You Dig in the Dirt

When planting new shrubs or trees, building a deck or installing a new mailbox, make sure the first step in your outdoor home improvement project is identifying the location of underground utility lines.

It is easier than ever with the new federally-mandated national Call Before You Dig phone number, 811.

Dial 811 a few days before you plan to begin digging. Your call will be forwarded to the local One Call Center. An operator will record the location of your dig and notify NWCPUD of your plans. Within a few days, our crews will mark the approximate location of your lines for free.

Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer or a professional contractor, call 811

to protect yourself from injury and prevent damages to power lines that can disrupt service and result in fines or repair costs.

Every project requires a call, even if you have called recently about a similar job.

The national 811 number does not replace the state Call Before You Dig line (800-332-2344). Either phone number will connect you with the One Call Center.

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

