



August 2023 Newsletter

THE NEW METER READER ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN



receiver from tower.

The PUD has installed its highest meter reading device atop a 2,100foot mountain on the eastern face of the Olympics. The device, which is also known as a collector, was mounted 109 feet in the air at the Maynard Peak Radio Site located west of Discovery Bay. Tower climbers from Seattlebased Harrington Aerial removed a 50-pound defunct point-to-point radio from the site and replaced it with the new, much smaller reader.

This is just one of the 20 meter reading collectors positioned throughout the county. Elevation is key for the best signal, so this reader was placed on an existing radio tower. Similar readers are also being placed upon existing water towers and utility poles to achieve the same effect.

The collectors use LoRaWAN (Long Range Wide Area Network) technology to read meters from a long distance rather than viewing them individually and in person. This new collector can pick up meter signals from as far away as the base of Mt. Walker, though it will primarily be used to read meters down Hwy 101 and across the bay to Cape George.

The new meter reading collectors read the meters less frequently, but still maintain a high degree of accuracy. Reads are sent every 15 minutes (up to 96 per day), compared to every 5 minutes with the older meters being replaced.

9 Tips To Keep Landscapes Healthy w/ Less Water

Care for existing plants: Weeding and pruning will allow water to get to plants you want.

Water in the mornings or evenings: Watering at these times allows for the water to stay in the ground instead of evaporating.

Allow water to soak into roots: This allows you to be sure the water is doing the best for the plant.

Cut down on grasses Grass requires four times the amount of water as other plants.

Check hoses for leaks: Leaks account for over 10K gallons of water wasted per year per household.

Improving soil structure: Adding organic materials like peat moss will allow the soil to better retain water.

Aerate lawns once a year: Aerating allows for better water flow and for additional nutrients to reach the plant.

Effective usage of mulch: A layer of 3-4 inches of mulch placed before spring and fall rains will reduce watering needs.

Plant native plants: Native plants are able to survive from rainfall alone in this climate, without extra watering.

VOLTS, AMPS, WATTS: How Electricity is Measured

Electricity can be thought of as a flow of charges, or current, through a wire. There are more than one way to quantify electrical current, just as there are many ways to measure a rivers flow.

Three of the most common units of measurement are volts, amps, and watts. In simple terms, voltage is what "pushes" the electricity to flow and can be thought of like pressure. The more voltage or pressure, the faster the speed of the electricity moving through the wires. Distribution wires (those running down roadways throughout the county) often carry higher voltages of 7,200 volts (or even 12,470 volts)-now that's a lot of pressure!

Amperage, or "amps" for short, measure the volume or amount of electricity flowing through a circuit (like a water pipe). The larger the pipe or wire, the more amps can move through.



Lastly, watts. Watts can be thought of as a measure of the overall electrical power or demand of an object or area. Watts are derived from multiplying the voltage and the amperage of a given system together. All these units are very important for building and talking about electrical systems, as they determine if and how electricity can be delivered to a home.

This month's newsletter was brought to you by our summer interns Leona Lee



Leona Lee graduated from Port Townsend High in June. She completed her AA through Running Start at Peninsula College and will attend the University of Washington's Foster School of Business this

September. She has spent most of her time at the PUD assisting the efforts of Broadband and Communications team.

Halie Jones graduated from Port Townsend High in June. She completed her AA through Running

Start at Peninsula College and will enter the University of Washington as a Junior in the Engineering program this September. She's working with the PUD's Electrical Engineering team this summer.



Chloe Bailey graduated from Port Townsend High in June. She is currently exploring options to study veterinary medicine. She has assisted the **Customer Service department** and the Water Department during her time at the PUD.



PUD interns have access to Energy Northwest's Internship program for amazing training & networking opportunities in our ever-growing utility field!

Annual Budget Hearing: <u>Monday, Oct 2nd</u> 5pm.

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