



Jefferson County  
Public Utility District

# ENERGY SAVING TIPS

November 2023 Newsletter

'Tis the season for cooling weather and increased electricity use. Here are some energy saving tips for your home this season.

Preparing your home now can help ward off the chill of the fall and winter season plus, you can save on bills thanks to rebate incentives for home upgrades from the Bonneville Power Administration through the PUD.

Reducing your utility bill can be as easy as opening curtains on south-facing windows during the day to let sunlight in. When you pull the curtains shut in the evening, make sure they are a tight-fitting, insulated type to keep out the cold.

Insulation matters! Gaps in your home insulation, both overhead and underfoot, provides easy access for the cold. Insulation rebates are available for site-built homes, manufactured homes, and multifamily buildings where R-value is needed! Incentives can cover up to \$2/sqft depending upon the amount of insulation added to the existing R-value of the wall, ceiling, or floor.

Inefficient windows can account for up to 25% of home energy loss. The PUD offers incentive rebates from \$6–\$8/sqft of windows replaced, for qualified homes. Basic sealing of leaks around a window frame trim can reduce heat loss and save your homes heating system a lot of work.

The Dept. of Energy recommends cleaning your heating systems filters monthly and replacing them regularly. Upgrading home heating to a ducted air-source heat pump or ductless heat pump system can reduce power consumption by 25–50% compared to electric resistance heating.

ENERGY continued on next page

## FIREPLACE

An open damper is like a wide open window in winter—warm air goes right out the chimney. Inspect annually for air leaks.

## INSULATION

25%–30% of home heat escapes through the roof! Ensure insulation is continuous throughout the attic and subfloor.

## WINDOWS

New windows can help lower monthly utility bills on average 12%.

## HEATING/COOLING

Schedule routine service for your home heating system.

## VENTS

Cover foundation vents to help reduce heat loss & protect pipes from freezing.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Use LED holiday light strings to reduce electricity cost.

## HEAT LEAKS

Under the home, leaky HVAC vents and uncovered water pipes can increase electric usage.

On average, approximately 25% of the heated/cooled air from your HVAC system leaks into unconditioned spaces due to uninsulated or damaged ductwork. Ensure ducting is leak-free and exterior foundation vents are capped during colder months to help save on energy bills. Remove vent covers in the spring for ventilation.



# A MARATHON & A SPRINT: Broadband Updates



Hanging main line fiber near Quilcene.

Fiber broadband buildout is underway in the Quilcene area. PUD line crews continue installing a mile of fiber a day, with more than 30 miles of aerial main line hung to date.

PUD staff have completed construction of a pair of redundant data centers making up the core of our 10 Gig network. Amazing internet from the PUD is now a reality.

Despite these achievements, connections to the home have been delayed due to federal funding availability and the difficulty of engineering nearly 200 miles of fiber optic cable around the shorelines, islands, farmland, and foothills of the Olympic Mountains. The majority of fiber connections to the home will not begin until after the New Year.

For the latest updates, visit [fiber.jeffpud.org](https://fiber.jeffpud.org).

## Board Approves 2024 PUD Budget

On Oct. 2nd the Jefferson County PUD board of commissioners unanimously approved a \$70.2M annual budget for 2024. This is the second largest budget in the PUD's 11 years of providing electric service.

Expenses include \$15.1M toward rural broadband buildout, \$6.5M for electrical system capital improvements including transformer and regulator replacements, and \$1.5M for water infrastructure improvements.

The 2024 budget accounts for a 4.5% rise in operating expenses which covers fleet growth and

maintenance, increases to the tree trimming budget, and staff growth. The 2024 budget is an overall 8.6% decrease from the 2023 budget due to completion of large infrastructure projects.

2024 marks the end of a 4-year cycle of rate increases with electric customers seeing the final rate increase of \$2.50 per month beginning July 5, 2024. Water customers will see a rate increase of \$2.61 per month beginning January 5, 2024. Increases are based upon a 2021 rate study with recommendations approved by the board in 2022.

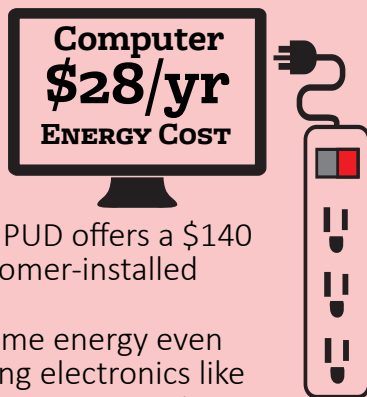
Budget available on: [jeffpud.org/budget](https://jeffpud.org/budget)

### ENERGY continued

Upgrading to a programmable "Smart" thermostat is simple, cost effective, and can save an estimated 10% per year on heating. The PUD offers a \$140 rebate for approved customer-installed smart thermostat.

Home electronics consume energy even on standby mode. Plugging electronics like printers, a desktop computer, TV, gaming console, or DVD player into a surge protector makes it easier to disconnect them, plus help protect sensitive electronics in the case of an outage.

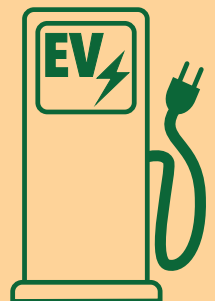
To learn more about PUD efficiency rebates please visit: [jeffpud.org/rebates](https://jeffpud.org/rebates)



## EV Carsharing in PT

The City of PT, Chamber and OlyCAP partnered with non-profit Zero-Emission Vehicle Cooperative (ZEV Co-op) to provide the first low-income EV carshare program in Jefferson County.

Funding for two charging stations and two Chevy Bolt EUV's was provided by a WSDOT ZAP grant. ZAP grants were awarded for zero-emission carshare programs in underserved communities where access to public transportation is less available. Carshare sites include the OlyCAP 7th Haven building and the Chamber building. Each site will receive an additional EV in 2024.



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