



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

January 2023 Newsletter

The view from North Beach after recent snow

PUD Fiber Sign Up is OPEN!

Over 1,000 residents within grant-funded areas have signed up for fiber to their home. Check the live fiber project map to see if your home or business qualifies! Scan the QR code to sign up today.



Mikey Thomas joins Water Crew



Mikey Thomas

Thomas brings a background working in large-scale water system construction, pipelaying experience, and general

commercial construction in the Port Orchard and Poulsbo area. Raised and residing in PT, Thomas said he's loving the shorter commute and is glad his work can help support neighbors. He enjoys cruising around town with his son in his hot rod 1983 Chevy step side truck, and teaching his son the ins and outs of riding dirt bikes.

Looking Back & Looking Forward

2022 was an interesting year for the PUD. After a two-year closure, we reopened our customer service lobby to the public. During the closure, our old customer service center at 310 Four Corners was gutted and turned in extra office space. A new customer service center was added on, as was a new board room and conference room, each equipped with all the AV equipment, and screens needed for simultaneous in person and online meetings.

Hybrid meetings and a hybrid workplace is now the new normal for the PUD. And so far, it's been a welcome improvement. Less welcome was 2022's outages. January through June set records for rain and cool weather, and then in Nov we had our most damaging windstorm of all time. 70-80 mph winds cut across the center of the county and took out power to nearly every customer. Full restoration took 9 days, with almost half of our customers out for 3 three days straight. The storm cost the PUD almost \$1M in extra labor and repairs.

Another unexpected million-dollar plus repair has now come due at our Port Ludlow substation. In December, unrelated to any storm, a tree fell on a power line on Beaver Valley Rd and the ensuing fault led to the last gasp of the Ludlow substation 1960s era transformer. Because we knew its demise was imminent, our crews already had its replacement on site. We were able to swap the transformers in less than a day, still a huge undertaking, though nearly undone when a car hit a transmission pole on Beaver Valley the next night, resulting in all of Port Ludlow without power again.

The new year will be even more expensive. We expect to spend tens of millions in 2023 on multiple projects. At least \$2M on meter replacement, \$15M on our fiber buildout (which should begin in Quilcene in April), nearly a million in tree trimming, \$2M for a new water tank in Quilcene. It's our biggest budget of all time, with more work planned than ever before. We'll be adding practically a whole new utility service to the PUD with retail internet, and we are replacing big portions of our old infrastructure for our existing services.

However, 2023 is just the beginning. The working of growing our new service and replacing the old will go on over the next decade. Both the challenges and opportunities involved are huge.



Kevin Streett, GM

(360)385-5800 jeffpud.org 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

Happy New Year from PUD Commissioners



Dan Toepper
District 3

I would like to thank our employees, contractors, and customer-owners for making JPUD a stronger utility over the past year.

It was gratifying to see old friends and make new friends by welcoming the public back into our service center, participating in community events around the county, and returning to live participation with our public meetings.

Looking ahead to 2023, the PUD will be growing its workforce, undertaking capital projects for resiliency, and creating a broadband business largely funded by state and federal grants.

I encourage everyone in our service area to be engaged with the utility. Stop by our service center and meet our customer service representatives; come to a commission meeting, or drop us a line if you have questions.

My goal for 2023 is to help our customers stay informed through outreach, transparency, and public inclusion in all that we do as a utility. We will work to find efficiencies, identify infrastructure funding, and create value with a goal of softening rate impacts, while maintaining a high level of service. Have a safe and prosperous new year.



Jeff Randall
District 1

I am grateful for the hard work of our PUD employees to keep the lights on and the water flowing to our homes and businesses.

When an outage occurs, I'm grateful those responding live locally and are highly motivated to restore service as soon as possible. I also appreciate that our PUD is forward looking, always seeking to identify electrical and water improvements for reliability.

In 2022 our PUD obtained millions of dollars for high-speed broadband. In 2023 our federal and state governments are offering unprecedented funding to make electric utilities more resilient. Your PUD staff is already preparing proposals to take advantage of this once in a lifetime funding. You will hear about our ideas next year, proposals to generate local power, make our substations more resilient, and build more interconnections of our electrical system to improve our ability to move power around storm damage.

I was reminded at the PUD employee Christmas party that working at the PUD is more than just a job, it's a place where we come together as a community to provide the services we need. I wish you and your family the best this new year.



Ken Collins
District 2

As I complete my eighth year as a PUD Commissioner, I am very aware of how much has been accomplished and how much still needs to

be done.

When the PUD took over the electric utility ten years ago, it acquired an infrastructure that had a lot of deferred maintenance. Since then, tens of millions of dollars have been spent to upgrade the system, and that will need to continue over the next decade.

Regardless of how much is invested, what matters is that our customers believe they are getting good value for their dollars. Value is what customers should experience when they interact with the PUD, whether this happens when they come in to pay their bill, report an outage, seek information on the website, or call a commissioner with a problem.

Along with investing in the physical plant, the PUD must continue investing in its employees, with competitive wages and opportunities to enhance their skills and advance in the organization. Employee dedication depends on their knowing that their efforts are appreciated, something we can never take for granted.

Have a wonderful new year!

dtoepper@jeffpud.org - (360) 302-0448

jrandall@jeffpud.org - (360) 316-6694

kcollins@jeffpud.org - (360) 316-1475

\$91.08

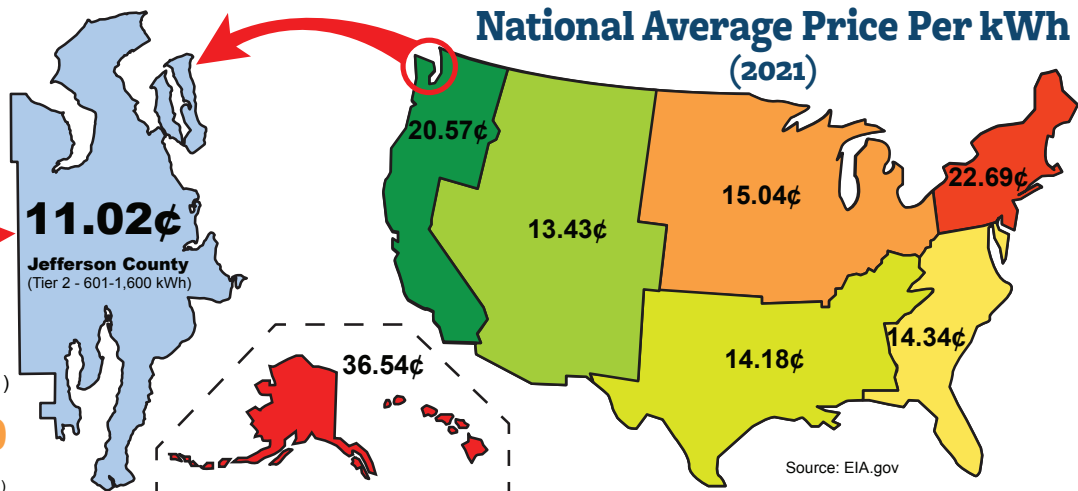
Jefferson County
Average Monthly Bill (2021)

\$121.01

U.S. National
Average Monthly Bill (2021)

\$117.90

U.S. West Coast
Average Monthly Bill (2021)



Rates and the Costs of Providing Services

In 2021, after a yearlong rate study, the PUD approved a series of rate increases over multiple years. The increases were put into place in an attempt to recover the costs to the PUD for providing each utility service. The third step of those rate increases goes into effect in 2023.

Unlike other local government agencies, PUD revenues come almost exclusively from rates, with only a small portion from taxes. Our rates have to cover the costs of providing the services. COVID, supply chain delays, labor shortages, inflation, and other international issues have increased the PUD's costs dramatically. To make sure that, like you, we can pay our bills, the PUD must pass on some of its increased costs to its customer owners in the form of increased rates.

Water and sewer rate increases went into effect on January 5th and will show up on customer bills this month. Please note, the PUD does

not provide water or sewer to the residents within Port Townsend city limits. Electric service rate increases go into effect this July. Our rate increases are staggered to coincide with low usage periods. Summer bills for water are generally highest due to extra water used for outdoor watering of lawns and gardens. In the winter, electric bills are higher because of extra power used for indoor heating, and generally more time spent indoors.

What are the costs that the PUD is trying to recover? There's lots. On the electric side, the PUD continues to service the initial loan that allowed us to enter the electric business to begin with.

Article Continued on Next Page

Residential Electric	2022	2023	2024
Base Rate	\$23.50	\$26.00	\$28.50
0-600kWh	\$0.090	\$0.093	\$0.096
601-1600kWh	\$0.110	\$0.113	\$0.117
1600+kWh	\$0.125	\$0.129	\$0.133
Low Income	(\$50.18)	(\$55.51)	(\$60.85)
Monthly Bill @550kWh	\$73.00	\$74.65	\$81.30
Mnthly Bill @1000kWh	\$133.50	\$139.00	\$145.50
Monthly Bill @1601kWh	\$223.63	\$232.53	\$241.43

Residential Water	2022	2023	2024
Base Rate (5/8")	\$34.80	\$40.83	\$42.61
Capital Surcharge	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$7.00
0-5000	\$0.31	\$0.36	\$0.38
5001-10,000	\$0.43	\$0.50	\$0.52
10,001-30,000	\$0.58	\$0.68	\$0.70
30,001+	\$1.07	\$1.25	\$1.31
Low Income	(\$15.44)	(\$17.25)	(\$19.78)
Monthly Bill @ 5,000 gallons	\$55.30	\$63.83	\$66.61
Monthly Bill @ 10,000 gallons	\$82.80	\$95.83	\$101.61
Monthly Bill @ 15,000	\$126.80	\$147.83	\$154.61

How a Dollar Earned is Spent

Electric Service	\$1.00	Water Service	\$1.00
Power Production Cost	\$0.00	Power Production Cost	\$0.00
Cost of Purchased Power	\$0.03	Cost of Purchased Power	\$0.37
Transmission Expense	\$0.00	Transmission Expense	\$0.05
Distribution Expense—Operation	\$0.29	Distribution Expense—Operation	\$0.07
Distribution Expense—Maintenance	\$0.12	Distribution Expense—Maintenance	\$0.10
Customer Accounts Expense	\$0.06	Customer Accounts Expense	\$0.05
Customer Service and Info. Expense	\$0.00	Customer Service and Info. Expense	\$0.00
Administrative and General Expense	\$0.28	Administrative and General Expense	\$0.11
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	\$0.08	Depreciation & Amortization Expense	\$0.12
Tax Expense--Other	\$0.04	Tax Expense--Other	\$0.06
Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$0.04	Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$0.06
Total Cost of Service	\$0.93	Total Cost of Service	\$0.99
Operating Margins	\$0.07	Operating Margins	\$0.01

Rates and the Costs Continued...

Originally \$115M, the PUD pays, on average, around \$6M a year to the USDA to cover interest and principal. As of February 2023, we owe \$89M, meaning we've paid down \$26M to date, which as of April 2023, will be 10 years of being in the electric power business.

Besides ongoing operating expenses like labor and materials, the PUD spends millions every year in capital projects to ensure our grid is functioning and reliable. Fierce storms and aging infrastructure have put us to the test the last few winters. This past November, the PUD lost its first substation transformer to age and wear. Fortunately, another replacement transformer was onsite thanks to proper planning. Unfortunately for us, at least 4 more substation

transformers are of similar age with no backup onsite. The PUD approved the series of four year increases with this in mind, allowing us to maintain and build up reserves that would not only cover increased expenses, but future replacement of essential infrastructure.

A similar story exists for our water and sewer departments. We have a lot of aging infrastructure reaching the end of its projected useful life and much that has moved well past it. Expenses are up, and not projected to go down. While the water team has found grants and loans to cover some projects, others, like rapidly deteriorating water mains along Rhody Drive, are unlikely to qualify and must be covered by rates in order to keep serving customers.

Wastewater Service Rate Table	3/5/23	3/5/24	3/5/25	3/5/26
Standard Base Rate	\$61.99	\$72.39	\$82.78	\$84.93
Standard Low-Income Discount	(\$18.60)	(\$21.72)	(\$24.83)	(\$25.48)
Beckett Point Base Rate	\$81.53	Beckett Point rates reviewed by Commission on an annual basis		
Beckett Point Low-Income Discount	(\$24.46)			
Kala Point Base Rate	\$31.19	\$42.38	\$47.98	\$49.22
Kala Point Low-Income Discount	(\$11.04)	(\$12.71)	(\$14.39)	(\$14.77)

PUD Fiber Signup is Live!	Jeff Randall	Ken Collins	Dan Toepper	Kevin Streett
Register today on jeffpud.org/fiber-registration	jrandall@jeffpud.org (360) 316-6694	kcollins@jeffpud.org (360) 316-1475	dtoepper@jeffpud.org (360) 302-0448	kstreett@jeffpud.org (360) 385-8360



Line crews replace a regulator at the Dana Roberts substation in Port Townsend

Clean Audit for PUD

6th clean accountability audit in a row for PUD!

WA State Auditors determined the PUD complies with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies in all areas examined. The reports determined the PUD provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

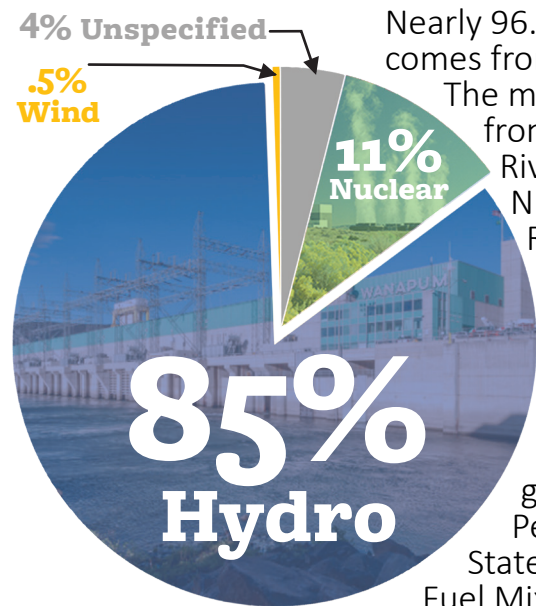
All of the PUDs financial and audit documents are available to the public on online at jeffpud.org/finances

Water System Plan: APPROVED

The WA Dept of Health has approved the PUDs 10-year water system plan for its nearly 4,500 water customers. The plan is a living document accounting for systems changes and presents key infrastructure projects for state funding opportunities.

See the full plan on jeffpud.org/water-system-planning

The Mix: 96.5% Carbon-Free Power



Nearly 96.5% of Jefferson County's electricity comes from carbon-free, renewable sources.

The majority of our power comes directly from dam facilities on the Columbia River and Energy Northwest's Columbia Nuclear Generating Station near Richland. Unspecified sources are small power purchases from various sources that WA state does not require BPA to report.

Nationally, 38.7% of energy comes from renewable sources making our power some of the cleanest and greenest in the country.

Percentages are provided by the WA State Dept. of Commerce in the annual Fuel Mix Disclosure Report.

All in a Days Work (Literally)

Work at a utility can often be summed up in one word: Variety.

Whether shifting power lines to assist the move of a giant vessel, replacing a substation regulator on Super Bowl Sunday, connecting a local radio station to fiber, or installing AMI meters across the utility, it's all in a day's work for the

Jefferson PUD team.

If you or someone you know is looking for a career opportunity with a professional, community-centered team, please visit jeffpud.org/employment to see all current employment openings and to apply today!



Making the Connection: Shine-Bywater System



The PUDs water team began work to replace water mains in the Shine area near the Hood Canal Bridge.

The Shine Plat project requires approx. 2,600 feet of water main to be installed, consisting of approximately 1,700 feet of 8-inch water main, 900 feet of 4-inch, and connection of water services to residents (typically 5/8" - 3/4" lines from meter-to-home). Three

fire hydrants will also be installed in the area. Once flow testing for the hydrants is complete, 2,700 feet of electric and fiber conduit and electric vaults will be installed.

In 2017, the PUD was petitioned by residents of the Shine Plat water system to form a Local Utility District (LUD) as the funding mechanism to finance improvements needed based upon a 2016 consolidation feasibility study.

The 27 customers on the Shine Plat system will join with the 248 active customers into the nearby Bywater Bay system.

Seton Construction, Inc. of Port Townsend was chosen as project contractor. All work is scheduled for completion in April 2023.

10 Years of Public Power **Join Us** **Tues. April 11**
11:30 - 1:00
@ 310 Four Corners Rd.
OPEN HOUSE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS LUNCH PROVIDED!

When Will I Get My PUD Fiber?

Right now, we estimate home and business fiber installations will begin later this summer in the Quilcene and Discovery Bay areas. We are not far enough along in planning to determine when specific neighborhoods or project areas might get connected, but information will be available in the coming months. We are still estimating completion of all funded project areas in 2024.

Why is construction planning taking so long? Good question! Delays have resulted from release of grant funding by the state and federal government. We couldn't begin any work, especially engineering and construction, until we had signed contracts to access funds.

Already signed up? If you are already signed up there is nothing more you need to do at this time. You are on the list to receive fiber. Not signed up?

Make sure to scan the QR code or visit **fiber.jeffpud.org** to see if your home or business is within one of our home or business fiber areas. Grant funds only pay the connection charge for the first 60% of service addresses in a project area.



Hand Joins Broadband Team

Cody Hand brings 20 years' experience as a former satellite technician and network engineer for the U.S. Army. He worked around the world from Afghanistan, Iraq, Germany, Italy, South Korea, and finally to Fort Lewis where he completed active duty. Prior to joining the PUD as our first Broadband Network Engineer, Hand worked for the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma as a Network Engineer.



Cody Hand

Hand and his wife, Amy, are avid campers and moved to the Quilcene area last September for all the Olympics has to offer. Hand will help design, build and operate our new 10Gb network.

The PUD Mailing Address has changed!

Please send all utility mail to:
310 Four Corners Rd
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Jeff Randall

jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

Ken Collins

kcollins@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-1475

Dan Toepper

dtoepper@jeffpud.org
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Kevin Streett

kstreett@jeffpud.org
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Celebrating 10 Years of Public Power



Jefferson County

**April 2023
Newsletter**

In 2008 the citizens of Jefferson County voted to allow our small PUD to get into the power business. Citizens campaigned that a publicly owned, locally controlled PUD could better provide our county with reliable and affordable power than a for-profit corporation. The campaign, with the slogan “local jobs, local power, and local control” was victorious despite being outspent by a factor of 6:1.

This was the first challenge of many. It took years of negotiations and many long commission meetings before the PUD was able to complete the purchase of the electric system and begin providing 96% carbon-free electricity to the citizens of Jefferson County on April 1st, 2013.

Unsurprisingly, transforming a small utility with 8 employees into a power utility with more than 50 employees came with growing pains. Billing software designed for water utilities proved incompatible with the rigorous reporting federal agency requirements leading to several years of failed financial audits.

Changes at the commissioner level and changes

in management at the staff level have transformed the PUD to where we are today.

The organization is more professional and more capable. We routinely pass our financial audits and our decision-making, as well as our budget process, is open and transparent. And the PUD has been successful in bringing millions of dollars in state and federal funds to invest in local broadband, water, and electric infrastructure.

Our PUD has grown and transformed dramatically in the past 10 years. We are tackling tough infrastructure challenges such as sewer for the tri-area and high-speed broadband for the whole county.

I look forward to the next 10 years and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



Jeff Randall
District 1
jrandall@jeffpud.org

Publicly Owned and Powered by the Sun!

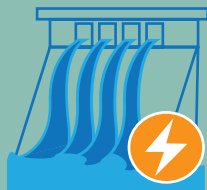
Like so many of our customers, the PUD is going solar. In time for our 10th anniversary of being in the power business, our first ever large scale panel installation is underway at our operations and customer service center at 310 Four Corners Road.

The 100kW solar array was funded in part by a \$100K grant from WA state, and was installed by PT-based Cascadia Solar. It is expected to provide up to 63% of our headquarter's electricity needs on an annual basis.



A HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY PUD

1931-RCW 54 went into effect allowing creation of publicly owned utilities.



1937-Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) was formed to market & distribute Columbia River power generation.



1941-Jefferson County residents voted to form a water utility service. Formation sat "idle" for more than 40 years.

1981-Gardiner LUD 1 began active water service. Limited Utility Districts can be for water, sewer or fiber services.

2008-Approval to seek PSE grid purchase made the ballot.



2010-Agreement between JPUD & PSE transferring ownership of local electric grid for \$113M. First private-to-public transfer in WA in 60 years.



April 1, 2013-Jefferson PUD No.1 begins active electrical service.

2019-Kevin Streett named GM.

2020-Expansion of the Four Corners headquarter facility.

2023-Become retail broadband provider.



The biggest challenge that the PUD has faced since 2013 is bringing an aging electrical infrastructure up to contemporary standards.

To achieve this goal, the PUD has been building a fiber optic network to electronically link remote switching apparatus called "reclosers", back to the PUD. This kind of configuration is called a "SCADA" system, meaning Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. This allows the PUD to

The advantage of the money staying in Jefferson County is enormous for the community at large.

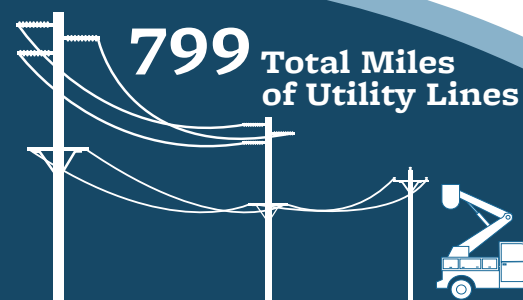
-Ken Collins

use a computer at the office to cut power and isolate problem areas rather than sending a crew out to cut

the power and limit the number of customers affected by fallen branches or other problems.

Another component of system modernization is replacement of our aging electrical meters with AMI meters. An AMI system enables the PUD to remotely cut or restore power instantly, again avoiding the cost of sending out a truck and technician, while providing customers with precise information about how much power is being used at any particular time. Making the system more efficient and resilient requires millions of dollars but in the long run will reduce outages and save money.

We have seen big changes to the PUD over the years and, moving forward, the community will continue to benefit from the utility decisions happening today.



Workforce & Customer Owners are Key

Dan Toepper
District 3
dtoepper@jeffpud.org



As JPUD marks the first 10 years of supplying energy to Jefferson County as a customer owned utility, we turn our focus to ensuring that the next ten years of accomplishments exceed those first 10 years.

Today's economic landscape of shortages, inflation, rising interest rates and possible recessionary trends will test our attempts at success.

Within the utility we must determine how we can cut costs, identify efficiencies and plan prudently to offer superior

The #1 thing about being locally owned is that the public has a direct access right to the organization."

-Dan Toepper

services while striving to deliver them at a reasonable cost.

The costs and availability of procuring a talented workforce and retaining experienced workers will be as challenging and expensive as obtaining the materials and equipment that it will require to keep our electric grid, water/wastewater systems and broadband network dependable, affordable, and sustainable.

The employees within the utility will be our greatest resources and key to the future success of our PUD. We also rely on the collaboration of local businesses and the backing of our customer owners in the community to support and utilize the services we provide.

Together, we can make the next decade a success for JPUD and our community.

From the Beginning

Journeyman Linemen Dylan Brackney and Line Crew Foreman Eric Tharaldsen have been with the PUD since the day PSE handed over the keys 10 years ago. In fact, only 2 days separate their decade of work together.

"At this point, I think we've had a hand in every part of the district," Brackney said as he takes a step back from the idling line truck and glances down the road. "What do you think, Eric?"

Tharaldsen secures a pneumatic compactor to the truck bed and steps around, nodding his approval. "I wouldn't doubt it!"

Tharaldsen came to the PUD from Port Angeles, where he'd worked for Clallam County PUD for 24 years. He liked the idea of being a part of getting the new utility off the ground. He was promoted to Line Crew Foreman in 2014.

"Those early days were pretty wild," Brackney said, recalling line trucks stuffed with roll upon roll of paper electrical schematics left to the fledgling line crew. Finding a simple underground line meant deciphering decades old hand-drawn plans, often in the dark. Each outage call often turned once familiar territory into a new challenge.

Brackney grew up in Quilcene. He graduated from Quilcene High in 2010. Despite his age, he'd been paying attention to the news about the PUD's efforts to purchase the local power system and bring

See Beginning on back page

10,861
Total Pole Count

20,606
Total Customers



Beginning continued...

back the line crew and customer service jobs that had been outsourced before.

He decided to enroll in a year-long line school to gain a foundation for work in the electrical field. Upon completion, he returned home and soon joined the PUD as a line helper.

"The coursework gives you a good base, but it's the hands-on, day-to-day work experience with the crew that gets you up to speed, fast," he said.

"Nothing can really prepare you for work on those larger outages, honestly," he laughed. "Caffeine and the crew keep you motivated on those long days and nights." Line by line, hour by hour line crews press on until every customer is re-energized.

Brackney became a Journeyman in 2017. The journey has provided a new perspective on the place he'd grown up, he said.

"It really is rewarding supporting the community, making a good living and working with a great team," he said.



Journeyman Lineman Dylan Brackney (left) and Line Crew Foreman, Eric Tharaldsen.

Mission & Growth

OUR MISSION

Connecting our Community.

To better the lives of our community through the delivery of water, sewer, electric, and broadband services each and every day.

OUR VISION

Provide outstanding value and leadership within our community.

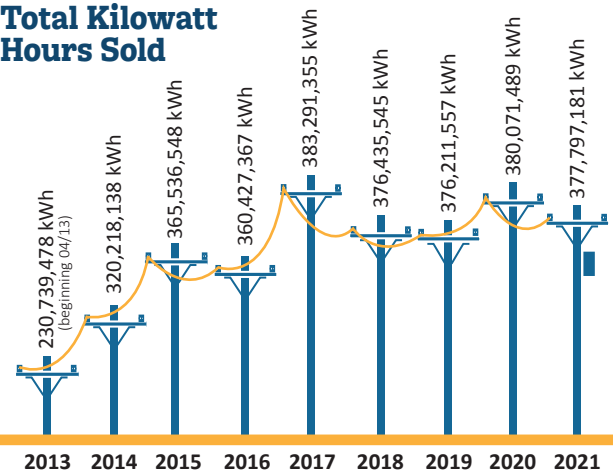
Rebate Savings
*2015-21 **\$3,351,110**

Wages Paid
*2015-21 **\$26,454,203**

New Customers
1,349 New Services
since 2013

Infrastructure Investments
*2015-21 **\$27,363,185**

Total Kilowatt Hours Sold



Remembering Wayne King

In late-February, longtime former District 3 Commissioner Wayne King passed away at the age of 81 after a battle with cancer.

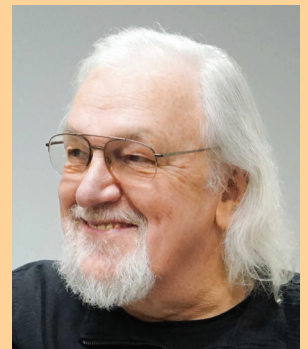
King served for 18 years, beginning in 2000, and was a key figure in the PUD's expansion and growth. He was on the commission during the PUD's acquisition of the Quimper Water System, the extension of water service to Marrowstone Island, and the heroic push to become a public power provider.

As a commissioner, King worked for modernization of the PUDs aging infrastructure

with efforts to begin advanced meter buildout. His efforts help lay the groundwork for PUD broadband with the goal of expanding fiber internet service to rural residents.

"Wayne was a big driver in getting us to where we are today," said Kevin Streett, PUD General Manager, "he will be deeply missed."

King is survived by his wife and two daughters.



Wayne King

*Celebrating
10 Years
of Public Power*

**May 2023
Newsletter**

The Other Outage Season—Underground Faults

Unlike in winter, spring outages can occur when skies are clear and hardly a breeze is blowing. In fact, that's usually when they occur, because they're caused by moisture rising out of warming soil and moving past 30-year-old electric lines buried directly in the ground. A pinhole-sized nick is all it takes to lose power to a neighborhood.

Today most of the PUD's underground wire is placed in conduit. Not so in many neighborhoods built in the 80s or before, like Kala Point or Port Ludlow where trenches were dug, and lines were placed.

An underground fault occurs when the outer sheath of a line wears through to the copper within that acts

as the ground. This is known as a "phase-to-ground", causing the outage which is detected by the PUD's outage management system.

Line crews can quickly identify the region via mapping, but defining an exact location requires a mix of experience and a specialized device called a "thumper". A thumper connects to the isolated line section, sending a high voltage pulse that, above ground, can be heard by the line crew. The line crew must walk the length of the isolated line to locate the sound emitted when the voltage exits the fault. The thumper allows crews to step-up voltage until the

[see Season on next page](#)

Know Before You Grow—Vegetation Policy

Keep vegetation away from utility equipment to reduce outages.

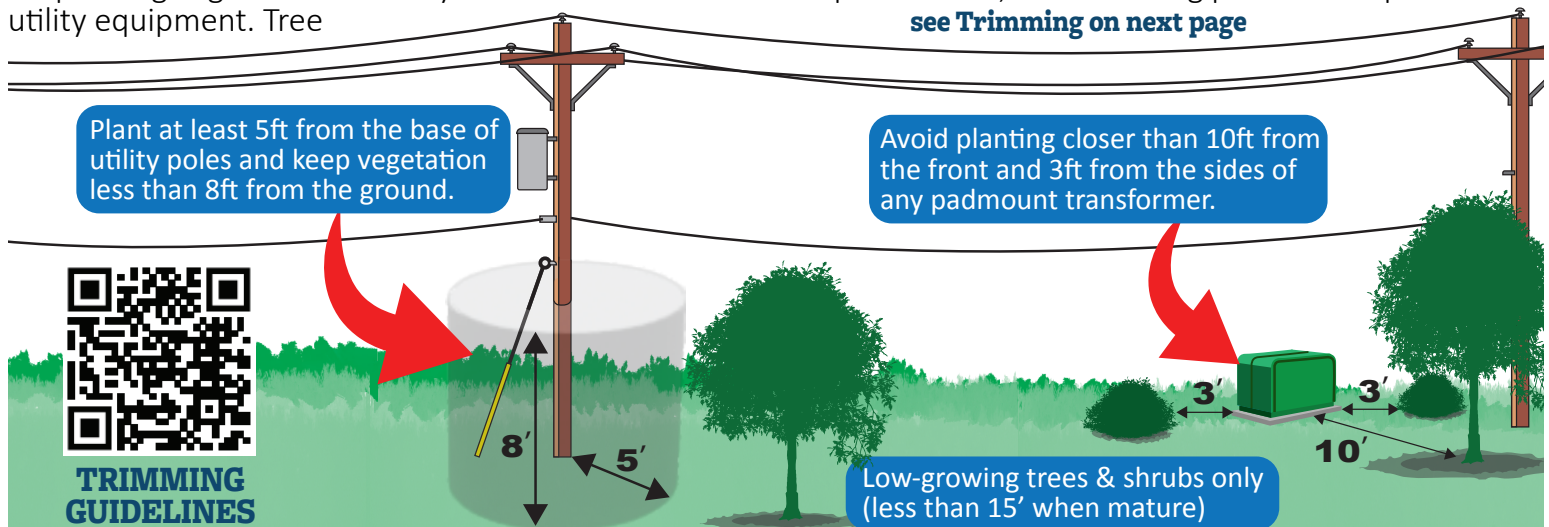
The PUD commission approved an updated vegetation management policy to help better define utility rights of way, easements, and line clearance expectations for safe access by line crews.

The policy addresses current and future concerns for planting vegetation that may interfere with utility equipment. Tree

and vegetation contact is the number one cause of outages in Jefferson County.

Homeowners who are considering planting near a utility right-of-way should consult the updated policy to better understand required clearances, customer responsibilities, and trimming policies and practices

[see Trimming on next page](#)



Meter Installations Now County Wide

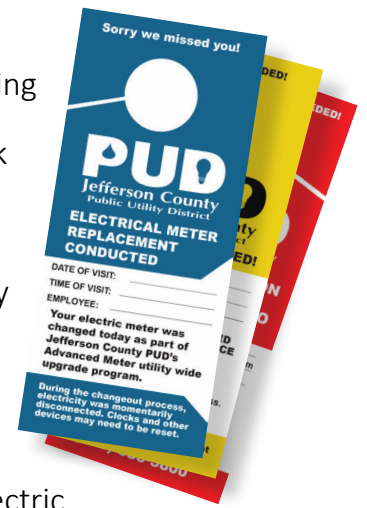
After going neighborhood by neighborhood between the U-Haul dealer and Port Hadlock, PUD crews are now installing meters district wide.

The PUD's goal is to replace all of its 21,000 electric meters (some of which are over 50 years old) with new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) by the end of 2023. AMI meters report reads to the PUD over the air instead of requiring drive up or drive-by reads. They also allow for remote disconnect and reconnect and better incorporate EV charging and renewables like solar or wind.

Please ensure that our crews can access meters on your property. Be sure to remove any clutter or barriers that might get in the way. The meter is owned by the PUD and providing safe access to it

is a requirement of receiving electric service.

Meter readers will knock on your door prior to installation to alert you to a very short power outage. After the visit they will leave a color-coded door hanger indicating either successful replacement, repairs needed, obstructions to the meter, or potential electric hazards. Learn more on our website: jeffpud.org/meterprogram.



Season cont...

fault is found. Dirt work contractors then begin to dig. Crews carefully navigate underground faults to avoid other utilities in the area by using specialized vacuum digging devices and digging by-hand.

Once the fault is located, line crew replace the segment and carefully backfill around the line. Further work compacting the soil or applying asphalt may be required as well.

Underground lines require significantly more time to repair compared to overhead lines.



Section of underground line removed during repairs in Kala Point.

Construction of a new underground line is typically 3-5x the cost of overhead.

Overhead line sections prone to repeat outages are considered for undergrounding to save on outage response long-term.

Trimming cont...

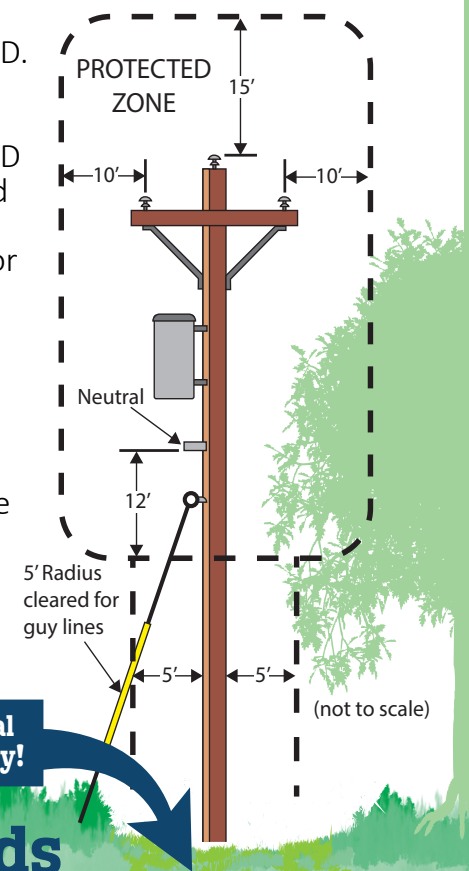
employed by the PUD.

During standard tree removal, crews employed by the PUD cut and leave behind 18-inch-long rounds in the right of way for use by the general public.

Policy updates outline emergency falling of trees and the necessity to leave a tree once the situation is made safe.

Learn more on jeffpud.org/report-tree-problem

Noxious weed removal helps service reliability!



Getting at the Roots: Noxious Weeds

The PUD is partnering with the Jefferson County Noxious Weed Control Board and AmeriCorps staff to control noxious weeds along transmission line corridors. The PUD needs to keep transmission corridors clear to access lines in case of needed repair.

Crews will remove noxious scotch broom,

poison hemlock, spotted knapweed, and common teasel from line corridors between the Paper Mill and Anderson Lake Rd on June 20-29 and July 18-21.

Questions about the program? Contact the Noxious Weed Coordinator, Sophie DeGroot at sdegroot@co.jefferson.wa.us or (360)316-9332.

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Started June 1, 2022

What to Recycle

Glass



Clean
bottles
and jars
ONLY

Labels OK

NO lids
NO blue glass
NO other glass
NO dirty containers!



Plastic and Cans



ONLY bottles & jugs
NO lids
NO other plastics!

*see back page for more info



Metal cans
NO loose lids

NO used plastic
bottles for motor oil,
antifreeze, weed
killer, etc.

Recycling **MUST** BE rinsed thoroughly, empty, and loose in the bins—not bagged!

Corrugated Cardboard



Look for the
wavy lines

CLEAN CORRUGATED CARDBOARD
NO food, wax or plastic coating

Curbside service: bundle & tie
For all: flatten



Mixed Paper



Boxes, paper bags, newspaper,
magazines, office paper, junk mail

If it's not on this list, we can't recycle it! No "wish cycling" please!

Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste drop-off locations

Jefferson County Recycling Center (Skookum Contract Services)	301 County Landfill Road, off Jacob Miller Road just outside of Port Townsend. Open Tuesday - Saturday from 9 am to 4:30 pm, except County holidays. Skookum also offers household and commercial paper shredding and electronics recycling services. 360-385-7678.
Quilcene Drop Box Facility	295312 Highway 101, south of the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station. Open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9-Noon and 12:30-4:30pm. Closed County holidays.
Port Hadlock	202 Elkins Road. Open 24 hours/7 days a week.
Kala Point	20 Village Drive. Open at the discretion of the Village Association.
Port Ludlow Village Center	40 Village Way. Open 24 hours/7 days a week.
Household Hazardous Waste Program	Collection events will be held throughout Jefferson County. Refer to www.jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com for the next event.

Secure your load!
It's the law.

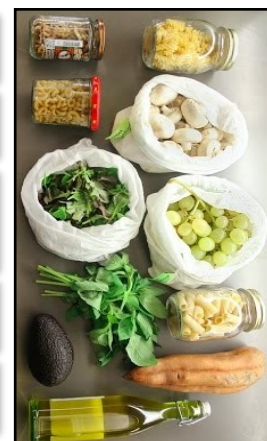
If an item is not on our list, it's not recyclable in Jefferson County!

Separating our recycling ensures it is recyclable and reduces contamination.

Want to make a difference? Try this inverted waste pyramid:



Zero Waste Shopping



Recycle plastics by TYPE, not by NUMBER

Numbers are outdated and misleading. They were not created to tell whether something is recyclable. They stand for which resin is the primary ingredient in the plastic. Any plastic besides bottles and jugs **contaminates** the load!

- Prescription pill bottles are **NOT** recyclable.
- Empty plastic bottles that contain hazardous materials like motor oil, antifreeze, weed killer, etc. go in the trash. Bottles containing these products can be brought to HHW collection events.



Compact fluorescent bulbs and tubes

They can be dropped off locally at the Jefferson County Recycling Center and the Quilcene Dropbox Facility. **DO NOT** put them in glass recycling. Due to their mercury content, **they are hazardous waste!**



Batteries

- Lithium, button, and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at the Jefferson County Recycling Center and the Quilcene Dropbox Facility. These are **FIRE HAZARDS** in the landfill!



- Alkaline batteries are considered safe to put in the trash. They are **NOT** recyclable.



Department of Public Works
Jefferson County, Washington



Questions? www.jeffersoncountysolidwaste.com



**Jefferson County
Public Utility District**

*Celebrating 10 Years
of Public Power*

A Lot at Stake

**June 2023
Newsletter**

PUD Staking Engineer, Russell Miller, stands beside a service for new construction.



It's a bright, beautiful day on the Toandos Peninsula along Thorndyke Drive, and PUD Staking Engineer, Russell Miller stands in the shade of a massive western red cedar tree. Beside him the property owner, Mike, poses questions about the electric connection to his future home build.

Each site presents new challenges: Distance to existing PUD equipment, rough terrain, utility easements—even Mike's favorite giant cedar tree. Everything must be accounted for when deciding a route for power to the home.

"I really like working with landowner-builders because they ask great questions and it's fun to see their enthusiasm," said Miller.

Whether a PUD capital project like the undergrounding of downtown PT power lines or a homeowner building their dream home, staking engineers like Miller ensure wires, transformers, meters, and much more are sized properly and placed for best use.

The staking engineer role covers all corners of the county and provides a pulse on the growth of the region. Miller has averaged 200 staking jobs per year, with that number trending downward slightly as the building market cools.

Jefferson PUD's electrical engineering team act as a resource for PUD customers to navigate the process of connecting to the grid.

"Two-thirds of my week is spent combing over maps, talking to customers, and working up material schedules," Miller said. The rest is spent in the field meeting with homeowners and project leads.

Miller describes this early step as the "ground truth". In the case of

Mike's property this involves plotting likely avenues for the 32-inch-deep trench needed for undergrounding the conduit and wire for the future home.

Miller returns to the office and begins to connect the dots. Utilizing mapping software, he provides the best lowest-cost solution for bringing power to the site. Finer details, such as installation standards and project timelines, are discussed with the customer prior to submitting for a county permit.

see Stake on next page

Per PUD policy, all new electric services are undergrounded to minimize outage potential.

Account Security is our Policy

Safety and security are top priorities at the PUD. This extends to account information as well as electric or water service. At the PUD, your billing history, mail and service addresses, email, phone number and meter data are all considered Personal Identifiable Information (PII). The PUD will never sell your PII to marketing agencies or give it to someone not listed on the account.* If you need to add an additional contact on your account to access and manage your PII, contact customer service ASAP. If you get a call

**From Jean Hall,
Customer Service Director**

from someone demanding your PII and threatening to shut off your power, it's *not* the PUD and is likely a scam.

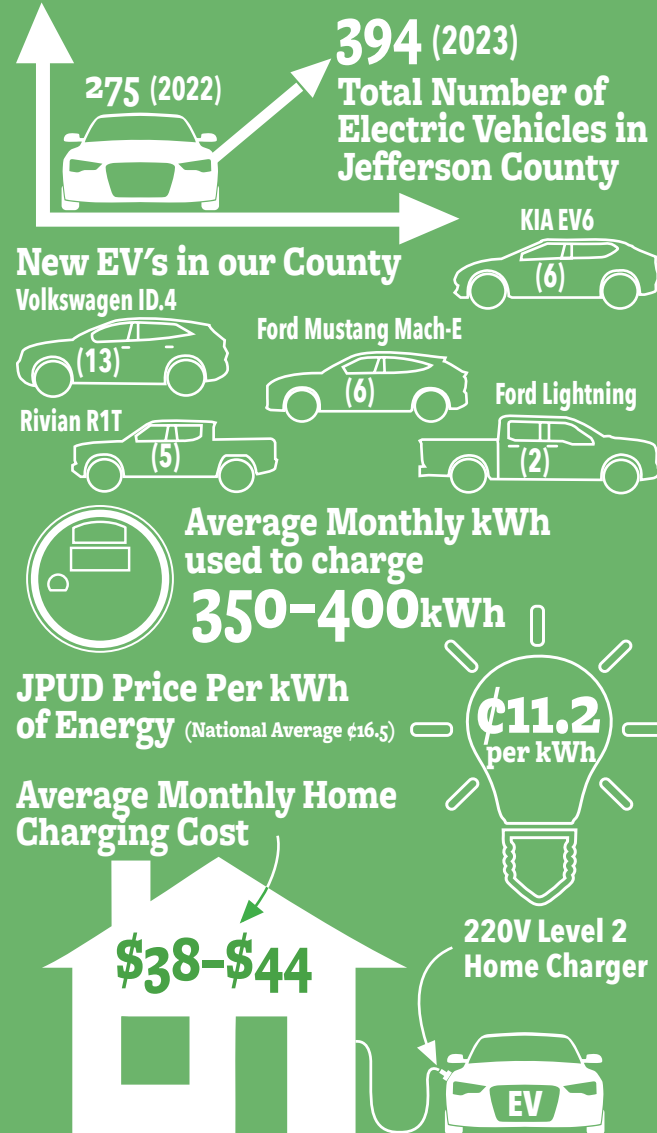
Learn more about how the PUD protects your information in our Data Privacy Policy on the Policies & Agreements page of our website: jeffpud.org.



*per our Data Privacy Policy, some PII is necessarily shared with partners and contractors who provide services (like heat pump rebates or bill printing) to the PUD.

(360)385-5800 jeffpud.org 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

EV Growth & Our Grid



Electrical Engineering Manager, Jimmy Scarborough (right), verifies conduit placement for Jefferson Transits EV bus charging infrastructure.



Staking cont...

The staking process takes time, often longer than 6 weeks start to finish. Walking customers through the steps needed for service is vital to understanding the timeline and what is required by the customer for installation. Trenching and conduit placement are customer responsibilities.

Staking engineers work closely with multiple departments within the PUD to ensure service is delivered to the customer. They coordinate with customer service for establishing a new service, warehousing for materials needed and purchasing, accounting for billing of services, and line crews to make the final connection. The PUD engineering team is led by electrical engineering manager, Jimmy Scarborough and includes Miller, staking engineer Lori Rae, and GIS mapping specialist, Alex Gerrish.

There's a lot at stake when a PUD staking engineer hits the field, but the time it takes to design utilities ensures greater reliability for the future.

FIBER CONSTRUCTION BEGINS THIS MONTH IN QUILCENE AND DISCOVERY BAY

The PUD line crew is slated to begin work stringing fiber optic cable in June. The fiber will extend out from our Quilcene and Discovery Bay substations onto power poles running along Hwy 101 and other major roadways. This is the first stage of fiber construction, bringing the fiber across the bulk of the project area before it begins branching onto side streets and heading to homes later this fall.

If you live between Mt. Walker and Discovery Bay and have been on the fence about signing

up for PUD fiber, now is the time!

There is no charge to have fiber installed to the first 60% of eligible homes in the project area. After 60%, the homeowner will have to pay a portion of the construction cost. Scan the QR with your smart phone to learn more and sign up today or visit: fiber.jeffpud.org



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Jefferson County
Public Utility District

July 2023 Newsletter

*Celebrating
10 Years
of Public Power*

FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS AND FIVE HUNDRED MILES OF FIBER INTERNET FOR RURAL JEFFERSON COUNTY

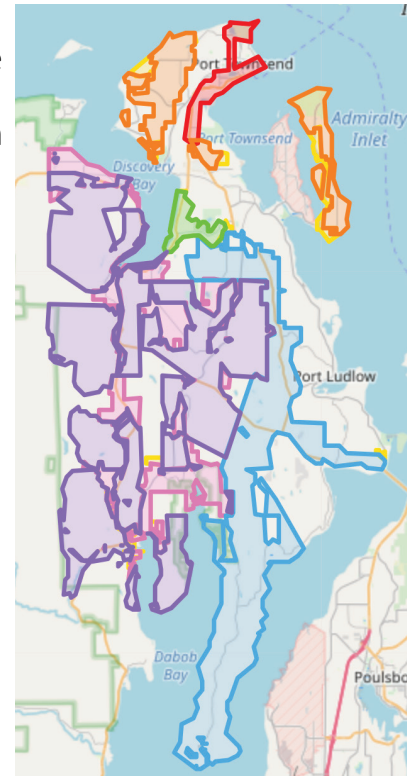
To date, the PUD has obtained more than \$51M in funding to build 540 miles of fiber in rural Jefferson County. We've won every grant we've applied for and will now be able to build fiber to just about every home or business in our electric service territory lacking access to broadband internet and stuck with outdated DSL, expensive satellite, spotty cellular, or in some cases, no internet at all.

The downside, of course, is that it's a huge task and a lot of work. Due to funding deadlines, we are installing fiber to all of Quilcene, Discovery Bay, Gardiner, and bit of Chimacum first (see PURPLE and PINK areas on the map). Work is underway now on the Bolton Peninsula. Residents in the area are urged to sign up for installation ASAP on our website

under the Broadband tab. In fact, residents and businesses in all of the colored areas are urged to register ASAP. There is no cost for installation for the first ~60% of signups. After that threshold has been met, a \$750 connection fee may apply.

Our smallest area, in GREEN, has already passed its sign-up threshold. Construction is expected to start in spring of 2024. The ORANGE area is at 42% and will see fiber installation begin in the second half of 2024. The BLUE area is our most recently funded project, thanks to the USDA and State of WA. Work begins in 2025. The RED area is for businesses only. There is no threshold and work will be ongoing starting this winter.

More info about service levels and our open access policy can be found at: fiber.jeffpud.org



PUD fiber buildout areas.

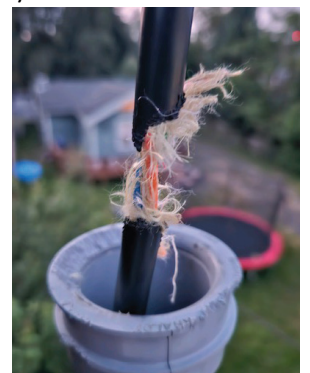
SUMMER MONTHS MEAN SQUIRREL OUTAGES

May through October are the peak months for outages caused by small animals (sometimes birds but usually squirrels). Small animals accounted for approx. 8% of JPUD outages in 2022. Outages declared "unknown" (12% of total) are often animal contact as well. In 2022, the number of hours customers went without power because of small animals totaled 1,148. Only non-snow related trees and branches account for more outages incidents (35.2%) and total customer hours out (436K) in Jefferson County.

Critter high wire acts don't always lead to outages. The unfortunate animal must contact both a "hot" line and a nearby ground, but the moment contact is made—*ZAP!*—The

resulting outage can be localized or broad in scale depending upon where in the system the fault occurred. Substations and larger transmission poles can also be impacted by wildlife, leading to larger outages. Birds can quickly build nests atop high voltage equipment, causing a similar fault to occur, but on a far larger scale.

Wildlife contact with utility equipment is expensive and, unfortunately, not going away any time soon.



Fiber cable chewed by squirrel.

(360)385-5800 jeffpud.org 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

Pre-Scheduled Electric Rate Increase Begins July 5

The third of four rate increases approved by the PUD Board of Commissioners in 2021 goes into effect on July 5th. The rate increases were instituted gradually by the commission to reduce short term impacts on ratepayers while helping to cover long term capital expenses needed to provide safe and reliable service that improve quality of life. In 2023 the PUD replaced one 50+ year-old substation transformer and put out a bid to replace a second transformer that just turned 60. In the coming years, up to 3 additional transformers need replacement, as do multiple other large and expensive components in our substations. Also needing replacement are many

Effective Date:	July 5, 2021	July 5, 2022	July 5, 2023	July 5, 2024
Basic Charge:				
Single Phase	\$ 21.00	\$ 23.50	\$ 26.00	\$28.50
Three Phase	30.65	34.30	37.95	41.59
Low Income Credit:	(44.84)	(50.18)	(55.51)	(60.85)
Energy Charge per kWh:				
Tier 1 (0 – 600)	\$ 0.0882	\$ 0.0908	\$ 0.0936	\$ 0.0966
Tier 2 (601 – 1,600)	0.1070	0.1102	0.1136	0.1172
Tier 3 (Greater than 1,600)	0.1218	0.1254	0.1293	0.1334

30+ year old direct-buried cables. As mentioned below, the PUD is midway through a \$4M meter replacement project. In all the PUD anticipates nearly \$35M in capital improvements by 2030, including upgrades to meet increased demand and clean energy standards. Inflation, supply chain and labor shortages, and rising wages also add to the cost of providing power.

House Bill 1329: Extreme Heat & Service Disconnects

In April of 2023, Gov. Jay Inslee signed into law ESHB1329 prohibiting utilities from disconnecting water and electric customers for non-payment should the National Weather Service (NWS) issue an excessive heat watch, warning, or advisory for Jefferson County.

A **warning** means the heat index value is expected to reach or exceed 105 degrees within 12 to 24 hours.

A **watch** is issued when the heat index value has the potential to reach or exceed 105 degrees within the next 24 to 48 hours.

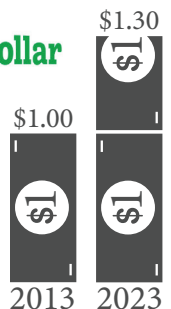
An **advisory** means the heat index value is expected to reach 100 to 104 degrees within the next 12 to 24 hours.

Customer-owners who have already been disconnected for non-payment have the right to request reconnection of services for the duration of a heat event. If reconnected, the customer is required to enter into a repayment plan to not exceed 6% of the customer's monthly income. The state law takes effect July 23, 2023.

The Decreased Power of a Dollar

In the 10 years the PUD has been an electric utility, costs have increased roughly 30%. Comparing costs, today we have to spend \$1.30 to purchase the amount of what a dollar purchased in 2013.

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics.



CLEARING UP CONFUSION ????? ???? ABOUT OPT-OUT METERS

In 2019, the commissioners approved a policy allowing customers to request a non-transmitting mechanical or digital meter. In order to receive the "opt-out meter," customers must pay an additional \$5/month and allow PUD staff unobstructed access to their property to read the meter. This last part is where the confusion comes in. Unobstructed access means that a PUD meter reader can walk across your property unannounced to read the meter that is likely attached to your house once every month. ***If access to the property is locked or gated, you will need to provide the meter reader a code or key.***

PUD meter readers have many duties and very full schedules. They do not read meters by appointment. If you do not want meter readers accessing your property randomly and unannounced, an "opt-out" meter is not a good choice. On the upside, both our old and new meters are read remotely, meaning no one has to walk up to the property, and no extra monthly charges apply.

The PUD is owned by the citizens of Jefferson County

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Safer Alternatives to household hazardous waste

IN YOUR HOME

Ant Control 	<p>Ant bait: Mix 1/2 C sugar, 1.5 Tablespoon Borax, and 1.5 C warm water. Soak some cotton balls in the mixture, and put them out near the ants. The sugar attracts the ants, and they'll take the Borax with it back to their home. Eating the Borax kills the ants!</p> <p>Ant deterrent: spread diatomaceous earth around the home's foundation.</p>
Bathroom Cleaner	<p>1 cup of baking soda is mixed with 1/4 cup of castile soap to make a thick paste that brightens, deodorizes, and lifts dirt, grease, and bacteria from surfaces. Simply take out a little scoop and scrub it into your sink, tub, or tile grout, then rinse with water.</p>
Coffee Cup Stains	<p>Rub with moist salt or baking soda</p> 
Disinfectant	<p>Mix 1/2 cup Borax with 1 gallon boiling water or undiluted white vinegar.</p>
Grout and Stain Cleaners	<p>Make a paste of baking soda and water and spread on stains. Let sit for 10 minutes, then scrub with a toothbrush. Mix equal parts of vinegar and water and put in a spray bottle. Spray the paste. After the foaming stops, rinse with water.</p>
Oven & Drain Cleaners 	<p>Oven cleaner: Make a paste out of 3 parts baking soda and 1 part water. Spread the paste on your oven. Wait 15 min. and wipe off.</p> <p>Drain cleaner: 1) Pour 4 c. boiling water down the drain 2) Pour 1/2 c. baking soda into the drain 3) Pour 1/2 c. vinegar into the drain 4) Wait 10 minutes 5) Pour 2 cups of boiling water down the drain.</p>
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	<p>Combine 1 c. white vinegar and 1/2 tsp. tea tree essential oil in a small spray bottle. Spray the vinegar mixture inside the bowl, and on the seat, lid, and handle. Let sit for several minutes. Sprinkle baking soda inside the toilet bowl and scrub the bowl with a toilet brush. Use a clean, dry cloth to wipe the vinegar solution off the seat, lid, and handle.</p>
Linoleum Floor Cleaner	<p>Mix 1 cup of white vinegar into 2 gallons of water.</p> 



Safer Alternatives to household hazardous waste

IN YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

Car Battery Corrosion	Mix baking soda and water to make a paste. Use a toothbrush to scrub the terminals. Wear gloves. Corrosion can cause burns on the skin.
Car Wash Soap	Put the following into a 2-gallon bucket: 1/4 cup baking soda (Some prefer white vinegar). 1/4 cup Earth-friendly dishwashing soap (Some prefer baby shampoo). Fill the bucket with warm or cold water. Wash the car on a grassy area. DO NOT allow the soapy water to go down the storm drain as even biodegradable soap is toxic to young fish!
Slug Bait	Use inexpensive or flat beer in a trap! Bury shallow plastic tubs in your garden with 2-3" of beer in them. The yeast smell attracts the slugs. Replace the beer every 2-3 days. Rain will also dilute the beer. Cover the tub with a lid and cut holes in the top of the tub to allow the slugs access and prevent evaporation or dilution from rain.
Chemical Fertilizers	<div> <p>Lots of options!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish emulsion • Bone meal • Compost: homemade or store bought • Manure: from vegetarian animals such as horses, cows, llamas, rabbits, hamsters, mice, and gerbils. • Grass clippings: leave them on your lawn to compost into fertilizer </div> 
Heavy-duty Hand Cleaner	Ingredients: 1 c. soap flakes / 1 c. pumice powder / 1 Tbs. melted shea butter / 1 cup coarse ground oats or cornmeal / 25-30 drops orange essential oil. Mix everything together in a wide-mouth container. Scoop a tablespoon or so into your palm. Add water to make a paste. Rub on hands, back and front. Leave on or scrub for a full minute. Rinse well.
Window Cleaner	Mix 1/2 cup white vinegar in 1 quart of water. Apply with a rag or spray bottle and wipe dry. Try washing windows on cloudy days as direct sunlight can cause streaking.
Weed Killer	Pour 1 gallon of white vinegar into a bucket. Add 1 cup of table salt. Stir the solution with a long-handled spoon until all the salt dissolves completely. Stir in 1 tablespoon of liquid dishwashing soap. The soap helps the vinegar and salt solution coat and adhere to the weeds. Blend thoroughly and then funnel the weed killer into a plastic spray bottle.



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

*Celebrating 10 Years
of Public Power*

August 2023 Newsletter

THE NEW METER READER ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN



Climber removes old receiver from tower.

The PUD has installed its highest meter reading device atop a 2,100-foot 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 Seattle-based 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.

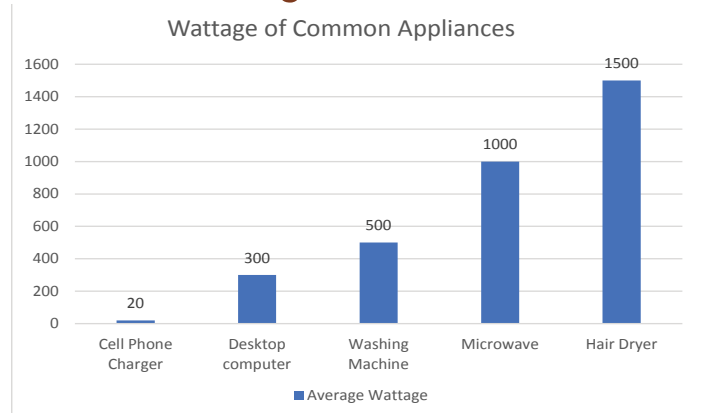
Plant native plants: Native plants are able to survive from rainfall alone in this climate, without extra watering.

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



Halie Jones

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.



Leona Lee

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

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:
Monday, Oct 2nd
5pm.

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Contractors place a fiber optic internet hut beside the Quilcene substation.

2024 BUDGET FOUNDATIONS

2024 PLANNED PROJECTS

Tree trimming budget increased to \$1M

Coyle Waterline Replacement

Electric Vehicles and EV Chargers Ordered

New Substation Transformer for Quilcene

Hastings Substation Improvements

13 New or Open Staff Positions

Broadband Buildout

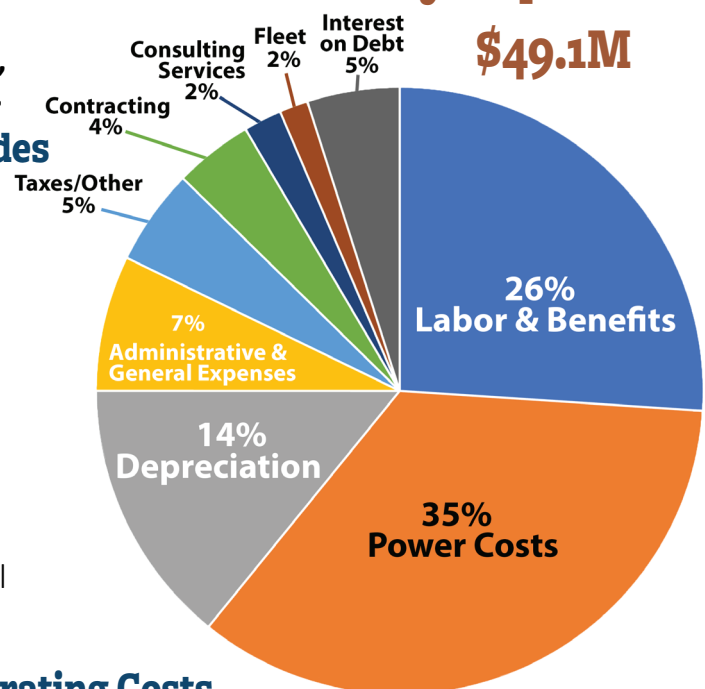
The PUD's annual budget is built upon revenue and expense forecasting for electric, water, wastewater, and broadband operations.

Infrastructure Upgrades

Infrastructure upgrades command a large portion of the budget. A variety of projects are planned for 2024, including broadband construction, substation transformer and regulator purchases, and water system projects totalling \$23.4M. 72% of budgeted infrastructure costs will be covered by State and federal grants.

Combined Utility Expenses

\$49.1M

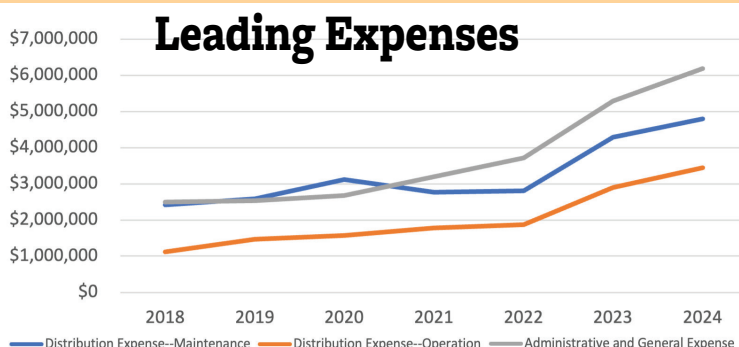


Expenses - Utility Operating Costs

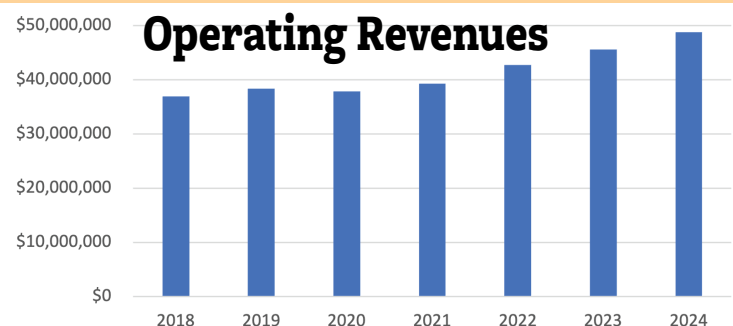
2024 budget assumptions are projected to decrease expenses 3.5% (adjusted for the value of the dollar) from operating expenses in 2023. 2024 expenses include increasing the tree trimming budget from \$800K to \$1M annually, and funding for 13 new or open staff positions at the PUD.

A 5-Year Look-Back - Then & Now

Leading Expenses



Operating Revenues



Helping Others Afford Essential Services

Not everyone can afford the extra costs of keeping their home heated during the cold winter months.

PUD Customer Service Program Specialist Drew McKnight helps customers navigate a variety of payment assistance plans such as the PUD's Rainy Day Fund, Low-Income Programs, and by partnering with organizations like St. Vincent de Paul and Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCAP).

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Rainy Day Fund, which is primarily funded by customers, provides utility bill support to those in need. Customers can give a one-time donation or round-up to the nearest dollar on their monthly utility statement. In 2022, the Fund raised \$30K for distribution by our partners, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and OlyCAP. Customers have donated more than \$18K in 2023 and with fall and winter cold on its way it's easy to help support your neighbors through the Fund. Simply check the box on your bill or online via your SmartHub account to round-up today.

Low-Income Assistance through the PUD

McKnight also works to place low-income households with a qualifying bill credit program from the PUD. In 2022, the PUD provided \$411,327 in billing assistance to qualified low-income households making

less than 150% of federal poverty level and qualified low-income seniors (62 years or older making less than \$32,610 annually).

McKnight pairs households with available internal programs, or externally through OlyCAP.

Help Beyond our Utility

OlyCAP manages federal funding for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) providing one-time hardship grants for qualified households with past-due utility bills. Kathy Sculley, OlyCAP Energy Assistance Program Manager, oversees the team assisting households across Jefferson and Clallam Counties. "So far in 2023 we've been able to help 1,900 households in our service area," Sculley said. Qualification for LIHEAP assistance requires an appointment with OlyCAP staff, and enrollment season begins in October.

Customers are encouraged to visit jeffpud.org for more information about available programs.



PUD Program Specialist, Drew McKnight and Kathy Sculley, OlyCAP Energy Assistance Program Manager

\$2.22M

Total PUD-provided power, water, and sewer bill credits since 2017

Checking Water Levels by Well Sounding

Groundwater sources throughout much of eastern Jefferson County are "recharged" by fall and winter rains. Larger primary source wells are monitored to determine the static water level and pumping level. When seeking water rights, a pump test—think of it as an aquifer stress test—is required to determine how much water a well can sustainably pump without impacting pre-existing water rights or reducing discharge to streams affecting salmon.

Pump tests help define the properties of the aquifer. Full recovery can vary from several hours to a full day or

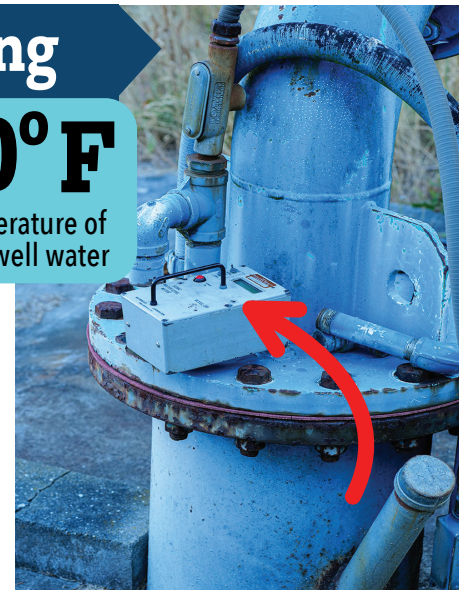
more depending on the well capacity.

The PUD "sounds" well water levels monthly for signs of high usage and to gauge aquifer recharge. Soundings are reported annually to the Washington State Dept of Health.

An ultrasonic sounder, which emits a signal measuring the distance (in feet) to the water surface, is inserted into the top of the wellhead. The distance is recorded and helps PUD staff determine water levels and whether water usage advisories are warranted.

50° F

Temperature of local well water



An ultrasonic sounder (shown on the Sparling Well wellhead) is used to monitor aquifer levels.

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PUD fleet and facility manager, Kenny Yingling, latches the heated storage compartment on the side of the line truck. Inside, climbing harnesses rattle on hooks.

"Line trucks are basically a mobile office—our line crew has to have everything needed to fix an outage," Yingling said, noting the weight does wear on vehicles and parts, but it's essential for fast service.

"These are a different kind of dinosaur altogether," Yingling said, while continuing inspection of the full-size, 8-ton vehicle. The term "dinosaur" is apt considering the sheer size of the vehicle and its extendable 55' hydraulic arm with line crew bucket at the end.

"There is really nothing 'routine' about maintaining our fleet," Yingling said, adding that he enjoys the variety his job offers. Yingling, who was born and raised in Port Townsend, is a veteran of fleet maintenance, joining the PUD in 2019 after 10 years

with Jefferson Transit.

The PUD has 11 line vehicles: 4 full-size bucket trucks, 3 digger derricks (designed with a boring attachment for pole placement), and 4 smaller single-person truck-mounted buckets. Yingling handles maintenance for the entire line fleet.

Line vehicles, complete with powerful diesel motor and rugged build, allow line crews to access challenging outage areas. They also offer a unique challenge due to their almost continuous run time in the field. There's little downtime for a line truck, as the motor also powers the hydraulic system essential for boom operations. Heavy run time means constant maintenance from filter replacements, oil changes, and general

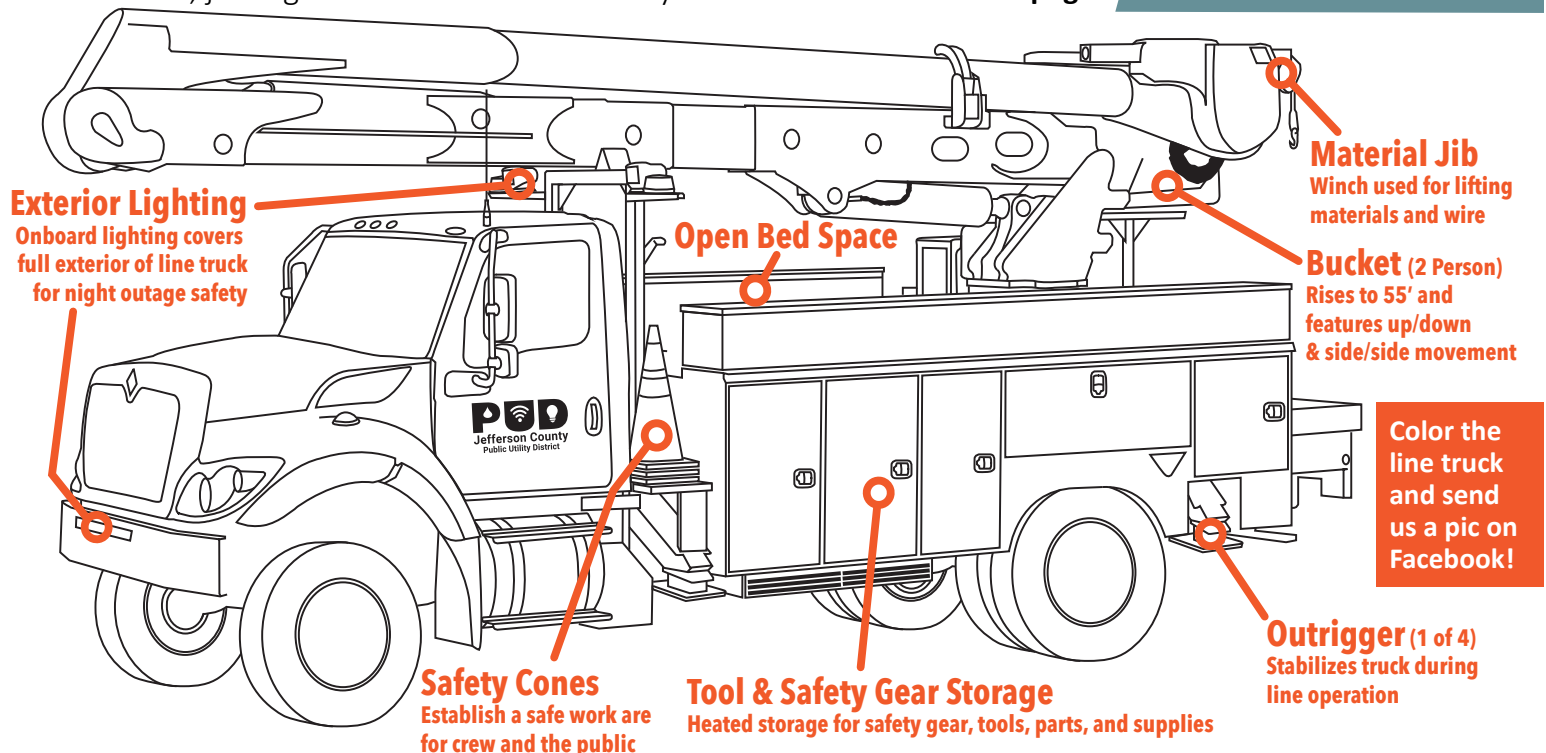
PUD FLEET

PUD-Owned Vehicles: 36

PUD Rental Vehicles: 8

PUD Trailers: 10

PUD Forklifts: 2



FLEET continued

wear items like exterior safety lighting. Even a simple tire change requires use of a forklift due to size.

Yingling's world extends beyond just the parts of a line truck contacting the ground.

Single and two-person buckets extend several stories in the air and can lift large loads like pole-mounted transformers with the material jib. Components must be in top working shape to operate in harsh conditions and for longevity of the vehicle.

"Many line truck manufacturers won't even take orders for new vehicles until 2026—and those have a price tag of at least \$500K," he said. Several line vehicles on the PUD fleet are long-term rentals. Yingling works to ensure all line trucks have annual inspections (to ensure line truck boom arms can handle contact from high voltage) for WSDOT certification and works with local service vendors for hydraulic operations and motor tune-ups. It's all in a day's work to keep the line fleet wheels rolling.

Go Paperless, Sign Up for Auto-Pay Get a \$10 Credit!

Save trees, save stress, and save staff time by switching your monthly utility billing to auto-pay and paperless! Making the switch is easy and when you sign up the PUD will repay the favor with a one-time \$10 credit on your bill after signing up for both.

To make the switch, visit jeffpud.org and log on to your SmartHub portal. Sign-ups are under the Billing & Payment drop-down.



Save a tree! Signing up for paperless is easy on your smartphone.



**Powered by 96%
Carbon-Free
Electricity
from the PUD**

Helping Charge the Future of Transit

Jefferson Transit is taking strides toward a zero-emission fleet with its first all-electric 35-foot bus. Transit received the bus in mid-2023 and secured \$567K in grant funding for electric bus infrastructure upgrades to their Transit Center.

Made by Gillig, the bus has a range of 160 miles per charge and an approximate run time of 4 hours.

Preparing for an E-bus fleet required considerably more power at the Transit Center site, prompting installation of a 480-volt, 3-phase transformer by PUD line crews. A traditional Level 3 fast charger

is currently in place for charging needs, with the transit center site being designed for up to 8 induction chargers. Induction charging does not require physically connecting the bus to power. Instead, a series of pads on the belly of the bus align with an array of in-ground chargers. Supply chain delays have pushed the induction charging project into 2024.

Route testing is underway, with the E-bus projected to enter the rotation by November of 2023. A second grant funded battery electric bus is anticipated to join the transit fleet by mid-2025.



The shift from a traditional diesel and bio-diesel fleet has meant new training opportunities for Transit staff. Here, Jefferson Transit Fleet & Facilities Manager, Desiree Williams, lifts the 'hood' where traditionally a diesel motor would be. The EV bus features 6 total battery packs—2 in the rear, 4 in the roof.

**Storm season is coming!
Is your outage safety kit
ready?
jeffpud.org/safety**

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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.

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.

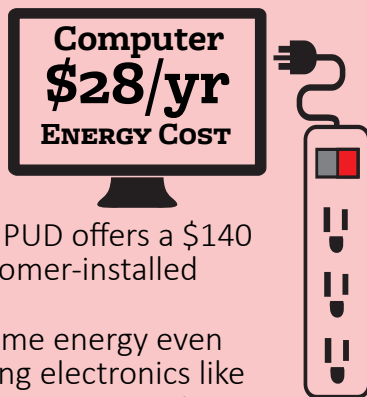
Budget available on: jeffpud.org/budget

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.

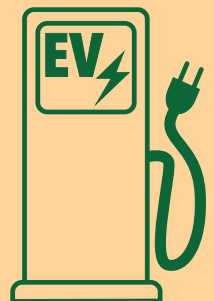
To learn more about PUD efficiency rebates please visit: jeffpud.org/rebates



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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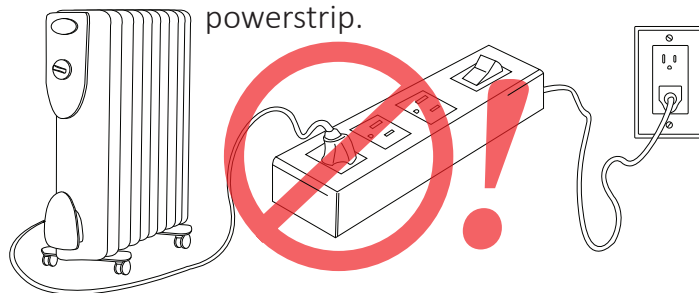
Jefferson County
Public Utility District

December 2023 Newsletter

Holiday Electric Safety

Cold, crisp days and long winter nights are upon us, filled with the glow of holiday lights, warm homes, and higher electric usage. With higher usage comes the need for greater electrical safety. Keep your holiday season merry and bright with these electric safety tips.

- Own a real Christmas tree? Keep it watered and use LED lighting for decorations to reduce fire hazard.
- Use the correct size extension cords for your decorations. Don't use cords that are too thin or too long. Don't connect extension cords end-to-end.
- Do not overload outlets. Plug in only a few strands of lights at a time.
- Inspect light strands for frays, cracks, or breaks!
- Ensure you use the right holiday lighting! Are the lights designed for indoor or outdoor use?
- Use a powerstrip for lighting. A powerstrip makes it easier to turn off multiple light strands and features a built-in circuit breaker.
- Turn off lights or use a timer for lighting when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Any space heater should be UL-tested and feature a tip-over safety switch.
- Never plug a space heater into a powerstrip. Space heaters use large amounts of energy and can melt a powerstrip.



Shedding Light on our Roadways Countywide

The PUD owns and maintains more than 1,000 streetlights across the county. PUD staff works closely with regional partners to design lighting for infrastructure projects like the WSDOT Kearney Street/SR20 roundabout, Cedar Ave pedestrian safety corridor in Hadlock, and future Discovery Rd bikeway and sidewalk project.

Most new light installations feature programmable LED lights. LED streetlights use less energy and can often be dimmed.

Questions about streetlights? You can report streetlight issues online by clicking the Tree & PUD Services button on jeffpud.org.



(360) 385-5800 jeffpud.org 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

96% CARBON-FREE ENERGY

Jefferson county is powered by some of the cleanest most affordable energy in Washington and second-lowest in the country thanks to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Each year, the WA State Dept of Commerce produces its Electric Utility Fuel Mix Disclosure Report offering a look at the vast world of utility energy sources.

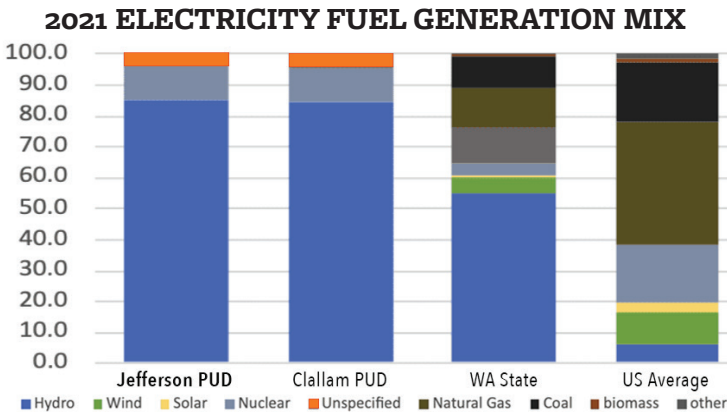
Thanks to BPA, our energy portfolio is an easy one: 84.51% hydropower, 10.89% nuclear, and 4.6% unspecified. Hydro and nuclear power sources are considered non-carbon-emitting. Unspecified sources are power purchases by BPA that may be a mix of wind, solar, and geothermal energy, even coal and natural gas sources, but are not required to report.

Prior to going public in 2013, the largest share of Jefferson County's electricity came from coal-burning power plants, with more than 60% being generated by fossil fuels.

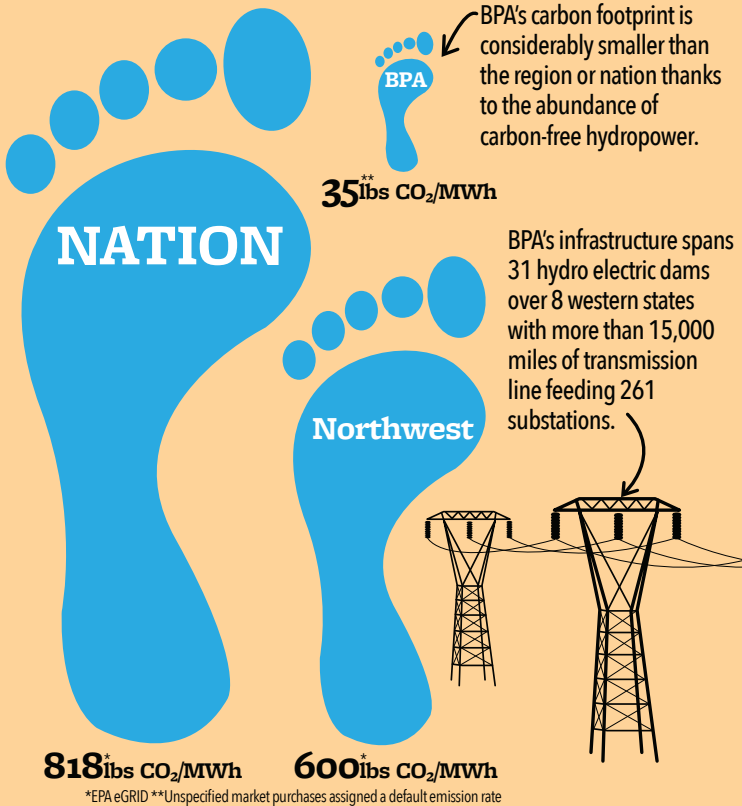
WATER LEADS THE WAY

Nearly 60% of all energy used in Washington comes from hydropower.

Hydropower is renewable energy from rain and snowmelt that doesn't produce waste or air pollution, saving the equivalent greenhouse gas emissions of more than 10 million cars on the road, according to the BPA.



CARBON FOOTPRINT COMPARISON



Water Winterizing Tips

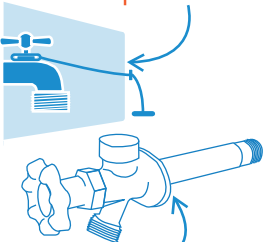
Let a faucet drip

During very cold conditions, keep cabinet doors open to allow air circulation and let the cold water faucet drip slightly. This relieves pressure and allows water to flow, rather than freeze.

Colder weather means the potential for frozen water pipes. A few simple winterization steps both inside and outside the home can save a lot of cold weather blues.

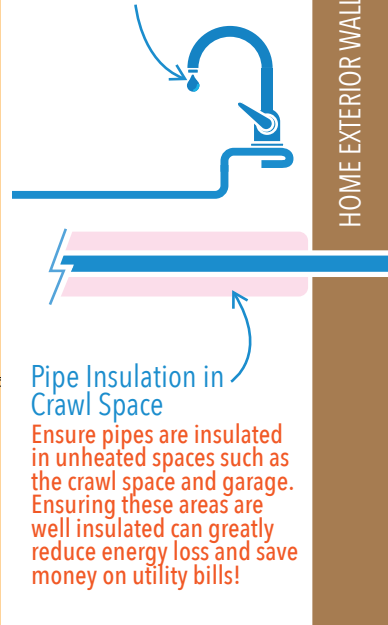
Install Foam Hose Faucet Covers

Foam faucet covers can help reduce freezing even in sub-zero temperatures.



Anti-Siphon Outdoor Water Faucets

Helps prevent water backflow into the home when faucet is not in use. Can reduce pipe breakage near exterior of the home.



Happy Holidays from your PUD!

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