

## WEATHERIZATION

## Tips

After another long summer and unusually warm fall, all it takes is one cold snap to focus the mind on winter. That first cold weather electric bill will help as well. While we haven't had a brutal winter for some time, there are some indicators that this one could be wetter and cooler than normal. If you haven't weatherized your home yet, here are some basic tips for keeping the cold out and your heating season bills down.

Maximize the heat of the sun with your windows. During the day, open your curtains or shades on your south facing windows to take advantage of the daytime sunshine and close them at night to insulate against the chill of cold windows. Consider installing heavy duty clear plastic around the frame of your windows if they are drafty. Tight fitting drapes or shades may also help as an alternative or addition to plastic window coverings.

Adjust the temperature in your home appropriately for day and night. Keep your thermostat at the lowest temperature that you feel comfortable when you are at home and awake. Turn it back around 10 to 15

degrees at night and capture that electric savings. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to do this task automatically. Numbers vary, but this alone can take up to 10% off your heating bills.

Reduce or eliminate air leaks. Yes, your windows can be a source of air leakage, but so are other areas of your home you may not have considered. Many homes leak cold air in places you don't see on a day to day basis. Your plumbing and other utility penetrations into your home should be caulked to fill air gaps. Even recessed lighting in insulated ceilings present avenues for heat loss. Check the caulking around your chimney as well. Caulking can be used to fill many of these problem spots.

Weather stripping your doors to the outside or even non-heated spaces like garages, utility rooms or pantries is a very good way to isolate and conserve heat. One general rule is if you can see light under or around a door, you are losing heat through it. Weather stripping your doors is an effective, simple, and inexpensive way to cut down your monthly heating bills.

Finally, while not considered weatherization, your heating system may need attention. Heat pump and electric furnace systems should be serviced regularly according to the manufacturer's specifications. Poorly maintained heating systems can cause bills to skyrocket and, in some cases, complete system failure. Filters for furnaces should be replaced regularly as



recommended by the manufacturer to ensure the unit remains in tip-top shape. For wood heat and pellet heaters, make sure the flue vent is clear and cleaned regularly so that its working efficiently.

Weatherizing is generally a very inexpensive means of saving energy and money over the short term of a single season and well worth the time and effort.

## Your Contributions to Power Boost may be Tax Deductible

Itemizing your deductions on your tax return? If you want to know how much you contributed to Power Boost in 2016, just give us a call! Donations to Power Boost qualify as a deductible charitable contribution. Call us at 360-385-5800, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Power Boost program provides assistance to low-income residential customers having difficulty paying their electric bills. The PUD does not deduct any administrative costs from your donation and gives 100% of the contributions directly to the local Olympic Community Action Program (OlyCAP) and St. Vincent De Paul.

You can add any amount to your monthly bill as a donation to Power Boost or contact Customer Service at 385-5800 to set up a regular monthly donation.

## contact us

Customer Service:  
(360) 385-5800

Monday-Friday  
8:45am-5pm

**Mailing Address**  
310 Four Corners Road  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

**Payments**  
Pay-by-phone: (855) 386-9916

**Customer Portal:**  
[jeffpud.smarthub.coop](http://jeffpud.smarthub.coop)

 @Jefferson\_PUD

 Jefferson County Pud #1

# A Conversation About Rates and Values

**PUD customers will see their PUD bill go up as of January 1, 2017, by \$7.01, as a result of increasing the service charge from the current \$7.49 to \$14.50.**

In June of 2017, there will be an additional increase of 1% in the utilization rate, affecting customers differently, depending on how much electricity they use. Rate setting is the single most important task of a PUD Commissioner and it is also the most challenging, because it involves taking a multitude of factors and customer needs into consideration. This article will try to explain the process that the PUD Commissioners followed in making these rate-setting decisions.

For the past three years, the PUD made no changes in its rate structure. This waiting period was necessary for the PUD to assess the need for various staff positions, identify necessary infrastructure upgrades and gather enough data on revenue and expenses to make accurate projections. The primary reason that rates have to go up is that the cost of energy from the Bonneville Power Administration has already increased by 6% and is projected to increase by another 4% next year. Equally important is the fact that the PUD is obligated to repay the loan

from the Federal Rural Utility Services, which financed the purchase of the electrical utility, and is required, by the terms of the loan, to maintain a specific ratio of income to debt service.

## The Process of Determining Rates

Washington State law requires that the PUD set rates that do not favor one class of customers over another, with the exception of low-income assistance. To help us determine the actual cost of service for each customer class, we engaged EES Consulting, which works with many of the PUDs in Washington State. The Commissioners made a number of decisions, based on what we felt was in the best interests of the broader community:

1. The Commissioners decided to retain the tiered rate structure based on the belief that it encourages conservation.
2. The Commissioners rejected the recommendation to place a surcharge on individual solar generation, because we believe that solar generation is an important means of reducing electrical consumption.
3. Although the consultants identified a major disparity between the cost of electrical services for the schools and what they are now being charged, the Commissioners decided to take a very gradual approach to making the rates for schools consistent with other rate classes.

The Commissioners reached unanimous agreement on the rate adjustments, based on the following considerations:

- Increasing only the consumption rate would magnify the variation in PUD income between winter and summer and would place the PUD at financial risk, in the event of consecutive mild winters.
- At \$7.49, the current PUD base rate does not come close to covering fixed costs. In order to provide consistently reliable service, the PUD must replace aging equipment and upgrade outdated technologies.
- Raising only the consumption rate, while retaining the current service charge, would impose a significant hardship on lower income individuals and families during the coldest months of the year. While the Commissioners accepted the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Board to provide additional relief to customers who earn less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, there are a lot of people in our community on fixed incomes who would not qualify for assistance, but would be hit especially hard.

## Going Forward

During the third quarter of 2017, the Commissioners will re-evaluate the PUD's financial position and determine what increases, if any, are appropriate for 2018 and beyond. Meanwhile, the PUD

is committed to reducing carbon emissions and will employ a number of different strategies to promote conservation, including the following:

- Hiring a weatherization specialist in 2017 to work with customers on identifying ways to make their homes more energy efficient.
- Continuing to promote rebates on LED bulbs, energy efficient appliances, ductless heat pumps and heat pump water heaters. Lighting alone accounts for 30% of electrical consumption.
- Exploring the feasibility of a community solar project in Jefferson County.
- Working with the National Park Service and other interested parties in providing additional electric vehicle charging stations.
- Researching the recommendation from the Citizens Advisory Board on how the PUD can legally promote conversion from wood, propane or oil heating to high efficiency electric heating.

The Commissioners wish to thank all of the individuals who have attended the various Board meetings and those customers who have shared their views via email and phone calls. We appreciate the time you have taken to be part of the process. We will continue to strive to fulfill our mission of providing reliable service at the lowest possible cost and act in a manner consistent with the values of the larger community.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HIGH WIND ADVISORY, WATCH, OR WARNING?

	Sustained winds for an hour or more...		Wind gusts...
<b>High Wind Advisory</b>	...are expected to be 31 to 39 mph	and/or	...are expected to reach 46 to 57 mph
<b>High Wind Watch</b>	...of 40 mph or higher are possible	and/or	... of 58 mph or higher are possible
<b>High Wind Warning</b>	...of 40 mph or higher are expected	and/or	... of 58 mph or higher are expected

Source: Weather.gov

**Any wind event can cause power outages. Stay tuned to your local news sources for the most up-to-date information.**

# WHICH IS EASIER FOR YOUR FAMILY TO BUDGET?

for FREE!

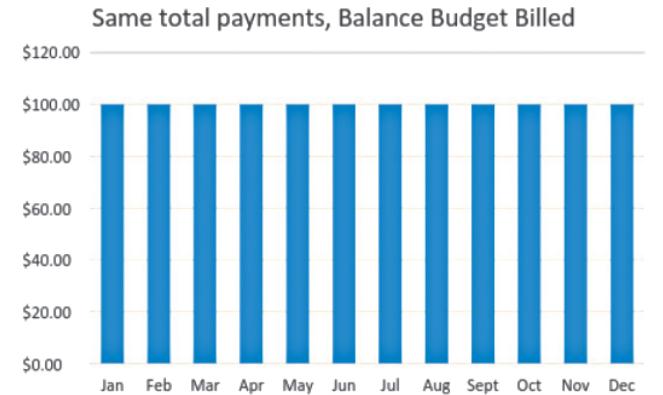
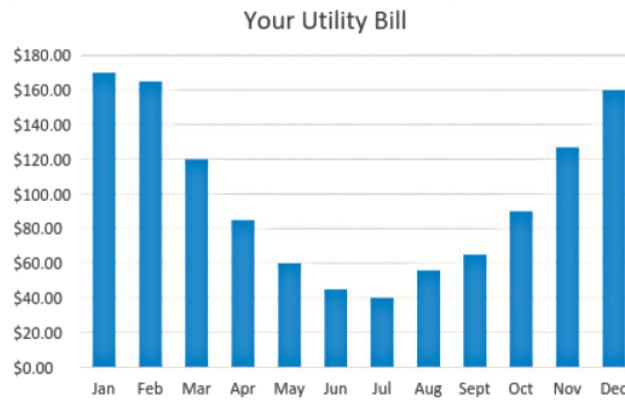
Our computer system will use your past 12 months of bill history to determine what you need to pay per month so that your entire utility usage is paid for evenly. Every July, the system does another look back to see if the amount paid was correct. If not, it will adjust the payment up or down as needed to cover the difference over the next 12 months.

It's that simple! You can stop the budget billing program at any time and simply make up the difference of what is owed, or if you have a credit, apply that credit toward future bills.

If you get behind on your balanced budget bills, you will be removed from the plan and you will start to see your bills vary with actual usage.

Contact Customer Service today at 360-385-5800 to get signed up for the Budget Billing program!

Most of us have experienced the pain of a high power bill in the cold winter months. Jefferson County PUD offers a way to balance out those high bills so that you can more easily budget for your monthly expenses. PUD customers who have had their PUD account at their current address for one year can sign up



## Go Paperless and Get So Much More!

Did you know you can get your utility bill via email? Go to [www.jeffpud.org](http://www.jeffpud.org) and click on "Pay Bill Online". The link will take you to "SmartHub." Have your most recent utility bill handy and you can easily create yourself an account.

After creating your account, you will have the option to turn off paper bills.

If you already have a SmartHub account and want to convert to paperless bills, go to

Manage My Registered Accounts  
Update My Printed Bill Settings  
Then change your Printed Bill Status to "off".

You can always change back

to paper bills in the future if you choose.

You can verify your email notifications by going to "Notifications" and choosing "Manage Notifications".

From SmartHub you can pay your bill, update your contact information, view your billing and usage history, and report an outage!

You can even access your account from your mobile device. Search for the SmartHub app in Google

Play or the Apple Store. SmartHub is currently not available for Windows phones.

If you need assistance setting up or using your SmartHub account, contact Customer Service at 385-5800 Monday-Friday, 9 am. to 5 p.m.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE BARNEY BURKE

Barney Burke served as a Jefferson County Public Utility District commissioner from 2009-2016. He was first appointed by the Board to fill a vacant term then elected by the voters for a full six-year term. In addition to serving the citizens of Jefferson County, he was appointed to the Energy Northwest Board of Directors in 2012 and was elected as that board's vice president in 2015. Barney was recently honored by the Washington Public Utility Districts Association as a Heritage Life Member in recognition of his contributions to the interests of public power and water in



the region.

Prior to moving to Port Townsend in 2000, Barney had a 20-year career in planning and economic development in the San Francisco Bay Area. Once

he relocated, he was an award-winning reporter and photographer for the Port Townsend Leader newspaper for 10 years and continues to work as a freelance photographer.

You will hear Barney as the host of Friday Night Blues on KPTZ. A long time blues fan, he's been to not one or two but all three graves of legendary blues pioneer Robert Johnson, and more Centrum Blues Fests than he can remember.

The PUD thanks Barney for his dedicated service. All our best to him as he closes this chapter and opens a new one in life.

# Generator Use During a Power Outage

Did you know that the same people, the PUD linemen, who are working through all kinds of weather conditions during a power outage to restore power to your home and business, can be electrocuted if you improperly install your generator? Your mistake could even electrocute your neighbors on the same transformer. When connecting a generator, follow the directions supplied with the generator. When in doubt, contact an electrician.

The Washington State Department of Health provides the following tips when using your generator.

## Don't overload your generator

- Determine the amount of power you will need to operate those things you plan to connect to the generator. (Light bulb wattage indicates the power needed for lighting, appliance and equipment labels indicate their power requirements.)
- If you can't determine the amount of power you will need, ask an electrician.
- Make sure your generator produces more power than will be drawn by the things you connect to the generator,

including the initial surge when it is turned on. If your generator does not produce enough power to operate everything at once, stagger the use of your equipment.

- If your equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, you may blow a fuse on the generator or damage the connected equipment.

## Connect your generator correctly

- Plug appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads.
- Never try to power house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "back feeding." It can lead to the electrocution of utility workers or neighbors served by the same utility transformer.
- The only safe way to connect a generator to house wiring is to have a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch.

## Never use a portable generator indoors

- Never use a portable generator in a garage, carport, basement, crawl space or other enclosed or partially-enclosed area, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the home.
- If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air right away — do not delay!
- Install home carbon monoxide alarms that are battery-operated or have battery back-up. Test batteries frequently and replace when needed.

## Using your generator outdoors

- Place the generator away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- Generators should be at least 20 feet away from buildings. Even 20 feet away, air flow patterns could still blow carbon monoxide into homes through attic vents, windows, or doors, so it's very important to have a working carbon monoxide detector inside the home.

- To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry. Do not use in rain or wet conditions. Operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure. Make sure your hands are dry before touching the generator.

## Use and store generator fuel safely

- Turn the generator off and let it cool before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Store generator fuel in an approved safety can outside of living areas in a locked shed or other protected area. Local laws may restrict use or storage of fuel. Ask your local fire department for information.
- If you spill fuel or do not seal its container properly, invisible vapors can travel along the ground and be ignited by an appliance's pilot light or arcs from electric switches in the appliance.
- Use the type of fuel recommended in the generator instructions or on its label. Permanently installed stationary generators are the safest way to provide home backup power during a power outage.

## Welcome to the PUD!

Jefferson County PUD welcomes our newest commissioner, Jeff Randall. Jeff has lived in Port Townsend and Jefferson County for 19 years. A native of Washington and growing up in small towns in Eastern Washington, Jeff understands and appreciates the rural character of Jefferson County.

Commissioner Randall has a background and work experience in renewable energy. Jeff has also worked as a land use planner and as a manager. He is a licensed attorney and trained mediator. As a PUD commissioner, Jeff will work to stabilize the financial future of the PUD and promote conservation.



We look forward to working with Commissioner Randall.

## PUD COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

The PUD Commissioners generally meet twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. There are exceptions to that for holidays, and in the months of October and December.

Meetings start at 5:00 p.m. and are held at the Administration Building at 230 Chimacum Road in Port Hadlock. Meeting materials are available a few days in advance on the PUD's website at [www.jeffpud.org](http://www.jeffpud.org).

The Commissioners may call a special meeting for emergent business. Such meetings are advertised on the PUDs webpage at [www.jeffpud.org](http://www.jeffpud.org).

We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting!



## Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

**February 7th and 21st**  
**March 7th and 21st**  
**April 4th and 18th**