

LOW-COST, RELIABLE, AND COMMUNITY-OWNED.

These are all key components of the Public Utility District (PUD) formula. Mason 1 is proud to be part of “public power” electric utilities—not-for-profit, community enterprises. Every day, every week, every year for over 75 years they have powered our days and nights.

From that morning cup of hot coffee to the late-night television news—and all the hours in-between—we keep the power flowing.

Just a generation or two ago, people still marveled at electricity’s uses and improvements to their lives. After all, it wasn’t until the 1940s that our country was fully electrified. Initiative 1 was passed in 1930 creating the statutes that allowed the formation of PUDs in the State of Washington. Now we take for granted the contributions that electricity makes to America’s economy and infrastructure. But just think about what a day without electricity would be like for you—and think how long that day would be for your children or grandchildren.

PUDs throughout the state bring to our local communities electricity, water and telecommunications services. They are owned by their consumers and are governed by locally elected officials. The spirit of community is what is embodied in the actions of your local PUD.

The public power formula provides numerous advantages for our customers.

- *We are proudly driven by public service, not profit.*
- *We exist to serve you – our fellow citizens, friends and neighbors. Our loyalty is to our customers – not stockholders.*
- *We help to make our communities a good place to live and work.*
- *We take pride in our governance structure, with an (elected/appointed) policy board that has open meetings at regular intervals to hear from you, our owners.*

Every year, we take part in a week-long national celebration of public power’s hometown advantages. This year we are celebrating our 75 year partnership with BPA and preference power from the Columbia River dams that supply the region with clean, green, renewable, hydropower resources. **I hope you will join us for lunch on October 5th in Potlatch (Customer Appreciation Day)** and celebrate with us the value that public power brings to you.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Karl Denison
–Union

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS regularly meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the PUD 1 office in Potlatch. For more information on meetings, agendas and minutes, please visit www.mason-pud1.org.

MASON COUNTY PUD 1 COMMISSIONERS:

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DISTRICT 2

Ron Gold
Board Secretary
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DISTRICT 3

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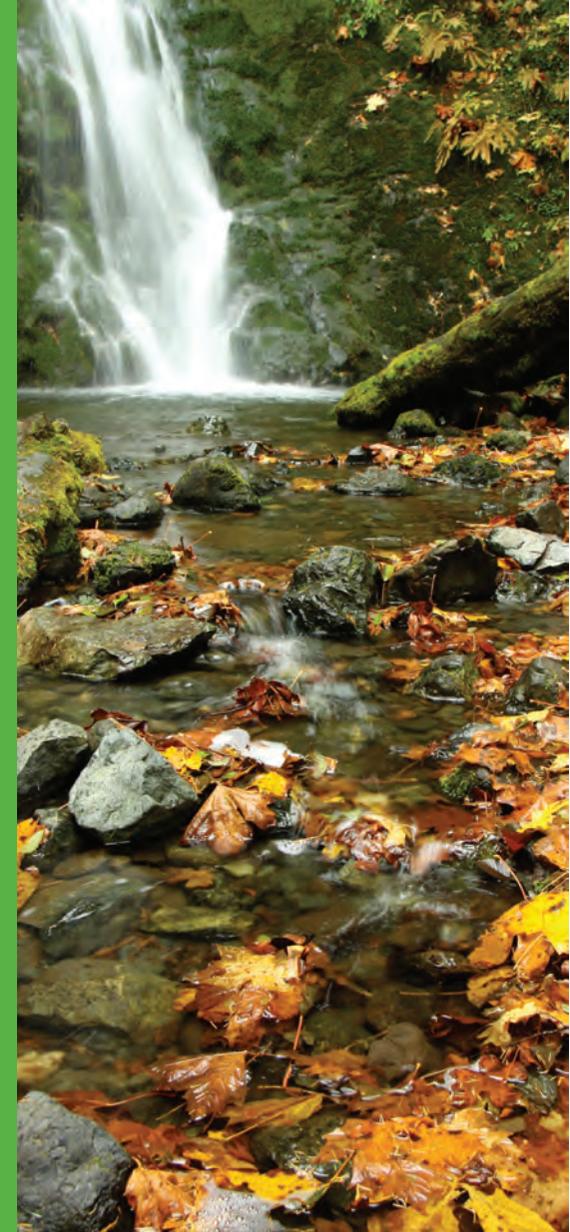
GENERAL MANAGER

Steven Taylor
(360) 877-5249

PUD 1 FUEL MIX SUMMARY (CY 2011)

SOURCE	PERCENTAGE
Geothermal	0%
Wind	0%
Waste	0.03%
Solar	0%
Petroleum	0.02%
Other	0.01%
Nuclear	5.28%
Natural Gas	0.67%
Landfill Gasses	0.01%
Hydroelectric	91.72%
Coal	2.13%
Biomass	0.13%
TOTAL	100%

THE
CONNECTOR
FALL 2012



www.mason-pud1.org

CONSERVATION tips



Fall is here and families have migrated indoors, which means a lot of energy (40-70%) can be wasted in efforts to keep your family and your home comfortable.

If you haven't already done these quick and easy energy savers- make time this weekend! These can save you valuable dollars on your electricity bill.

- **Remove or cover your air conditioner:** If you can't remove your window unit, consider covering it both inside and out with foam.



- **Caulk it:** Small spaces and gaps around windows and pipes and wires entering the home create energy wasting drafts. Most products cost under \$10.

- **Block drafts:** Draft blockers are foam plates that fit behind light switches and electrical outlets to reduce drafts that enter through those spaces. A packet of 10 costs about \$3 and they're easy to install with just a screwdriver.

- **Upgrade your thermostat:** Changing your thermostat to a programmable one allows you to control the temperature in your home at different times of the day without you being home.



- **Install heat reflectors:** These are thin sheets that fit behind radiators, to reflect heat away from the wall and into the room, thereby maximizing efficiency.



- **Weatherstripping:** Weatherstrips are plastic, foam, felt or rubber strips that fit around window and door frames with a self-adhesive backing.

- **Reflective Window Film:** This film placed on the inside of window panes and glass doors reflects inside heat back into your home. It costs about \$10 a window and is easy to put on!

- **Storm Window Kits:** It can be expensive to have storm windows installed throughout your house, but for \$3-10 per window, you can weatherproof windows with plastic film or sheets.



PUBLIC POWER

AN AMERICAN TRADITION THAT WORKS

Public Power Week • October 7-13, 2012

Please join us!

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

BBO

Friday, October 5th 11am to 2pm

PUD 1 District Office: 21971 N. Hwy 101 in Potlatch



FREE burgers, soft drinks & giveaways. Celebrating PUBLIC POWER WEEK!

MANAGER'S REPORT

Energy and water utilities like Mason PUD No. 1 face immense challenges in ensuring the safe, reliable delivery of service to their customers. At PUD 1, we implemented a solution that helps us be as efficient and effective as possible when managing our resources and business processes. In that effort, we have initiated replacing all of our old electrical analog metering devices with Itron digital AMR (advanced meter reading) meters.

Advanced meter reading, or AMR, is the technology of automatically collecting consumption, diagnostic, and status data from water or energy metering devices and transferring that data to a central database for billing, troubleshooting, and analyzing.

"Collecting data" is an interesting term. Some feel that we are invading their privacy; some imply that we are spying on them. I can assure you that Mason PUD 1 is not spying on our customers, or anything of that nature. The only information that we are collecting is energy and water use reads (consumption). Our AMR meters simply allow our meter readers to drive into neighborhoods and read from the road instead of driving into every customer's driveway and navigate past angry dogs, bees' nests, locked gates, etc. This has reduced our meter reading labor by more than 50% and saves the utility money now and in the future through vehicle expenses. It also improves the job safety of our meter readers who now don't have to exit



their vehicles and encounter hazards on private properties. Many customers prefer this method because it prevents our meter readers from having to enter their private properties.

We collect the consumption data by using a mobile drive-by meter reading device that is installed in a PUD vehicle. The meter reader drives the vehicle while the reading device automatically collects the meter readings. Each meter is assigned its own unique number which is already set up in the device. With mobile meter reading, the reader does not normally have to read the meters in any particular route order, but just drives the service area until all meters are read. Our Itron AMR meters don't have the capability to read anything beyond the meter socket. Their benefit is that they are more accurate and have less moving parts that won't wear out over time.

We are always happy to speak to you about our new technologies and explain how we came to the decision to incorporate them into our daily business practices. Customers are welcome to call the office if they would like more information. This is your public utility and we make decisions that will ultimately benefit you as our customers.



Steven Taylor,
General Manager



SIGN UP!

We have created an email LISTSERV that includes the email addresses of e-bill customers and customer email addresses we have on file. If you did not receive an email in August about the new website/e-bill address and BPA outage, you are not yet on our list. To join, please email kristinm@hcc.net directly and ask to be included on the LISTSERV. You may also reply and ask to be removed from the notification list, if you choose.

This list will only be used for important PUD announcements and the quarterly District newsletter. You can also see these announcements on our website www.mason-pud1.org and on our Facebook & Twitter pages.

NEW WEB ADDRESS

PUD 1 has a new website address! Please visit www.mason-pud1.org to view our website and pay your bill online. Please note there is now a hyphen or "dash" between the words mason and pud1.



Crews work to replace a section of underground line in Union.

ELECTRIC OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATES

PUD 1's electric operations has been busy this year. Most recently, we coordinated major Hoodspout substation improvements with the Bonneville Power Administration scheduled outage in August. The substation was basically rebuilt, which will now improve reliability and quality of service throughout our system. Customers whose power feeds from the Skokomish and Union substations should no longer see blinks in their power when the northern part of our system has an outage.

We have repeatedly communicated our tree trimming efforts and are pleased

to report that over the last six years, we have dedicated \$3.5 million to vegetation management both in-house and through contractors. This has been a tremendous effort and we continue to dedicate resources to trimming and outage prevention.

Last winter we had some nuisance outages on our main transmission line in Union from McCreavy to Manzanita that were caused by snow-laden trees falling on the lines. Crews widened the existing right-of-way area along that section to help minimize the risk of experiencing the same problems during this upcoming storm season.

Taking advantage of the good weather this summer, crews have been upgrading infrastructure by reconducting the Beemille/Whitney Point lines with a heavier tree wire, which is more resistant to limbs and smaller trees, in one of our highest outage areas. They also replaced a portion of underground line on the west circuit of the Union substation, which feeds power to our customers from McCreavy to Highway 101.

We have purchased property for our new Skokomish substation which allows us to move that sub out of the flood plain. We are in the design process and plan to bring it online in October of 2013. This will be a relief to customers in the Skokomish Valley who are plagued by storm and flood-related outages each year.

Lastly, in an effort to preserve and lengthen the life of our existing office and operations buildings, we have invested manpower and budget into building repair and repainting. The same attention has been paid to several of our aging well houses on our water systems, and we have repaired and resealed our parking lot to make it safer for our customers.

The new budgeting and strategic planning season has arrived. Your PUD commissioners and staff are prioritizing projects for 2013 to ensure that the dollars and man-hours we expend provide value to our operations and to our customers.