

# Community SOLAR COMES TO PUD 1

After a strong customer interest in starting a community solar project, PUD 1 engaged with Bonneville Environmental Foundation to begin a project here at our PUD. The installation contract was awarded to South Sound Solar in February and the permitting and design process has begun. The solar array will be 19.25 kilowatts (about the size of two residential rooftop solar arrays) and be installed on top of the PUD warehouse.

This project is funded entirely by its participants. There will be 860 units available and customers may register online at [solar.mason-pud1.org](http://solar.mason-pud1.org) to participate. Units are limited to a maximum of 10 per customer. Due to overwhelming interest, it is likely that the PUD will have to hold a randomized drawing of all registered customers to determine who will be given an opportunity to participate.

Registration closes at noon on Thursday, March 31st so register right away! Participants selected in the randomized drawing will be notified in April. The project is slated to be online and producing by June.

Please visit the solar website at [solar.mason-pud1.org](http://solar.mason-pud1.org) for more information!

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](http://www.mason-pud1.org).

## MASON COUNTY PUD 1 COMMISSIONERS:

### DISTRICT 1

Karl Denison .....(360) 898-2618

### DISTRICT 2

Ron Gold .....(360) 426-9540

### DISTRICT 3

Jack Janda .....(360) 490-1800

### GENERAL MANAGER

Steven Taylor .....(360) 877-5249



General Manager **Steve Taylor** and Director of Public Relations **Kristin Masteller** attended WPUDA's PUD Day on the Hill at the State Capitol in February.

# THE CONNECTOR SPRING 2016



[www.mason-pud1.org](http://www.mason-pud1.org)

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# Nation's First Carbon Tax?

When I opened this morning's paper the headline read, "Washington Considers Nation's First Carbon Tax". At a recent Washington PUD Association meeting we discussed the various carbon reduction policies that are currently in play in Olympia and Washington, D.C.

There are multiple processes underway that could impact our cost of providing reliable electricity to you the ratepayer. To list a few: at the direction of the Governor, the Department of Ecology is developing a cap on emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from large emitters called the "Clean Air Rule"; they are also taking lead on development of a plan for the state to comply with the president's Clean Power Plan rule that sets limits for the nation's existing power plants; there's also ballot measure I-732 before the state Legislature that creates a carbon tax on fossil fuel emissions, while lowering state sales tax by one percentage point. The carbon tax would start in 2017 at \$15 per metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> and increase by 3.5% plus inflation annually until it reaches a cap of \$100 per ton in 2016 dollars. Lawmakers have until March 10 to enact the initiative. If they fail to act, it will automatically be referred to the voters this fall.

## How would I-732 impact Mason PUD 1?

It impacts what we (and our customers) pay for electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration. During low water periods, BPA makes market purchases from a pool of unspecified electricity sources. The Initiative assumes the grab-bag of electricity has a certain level of carbon emissions and applies the tax as if they were coal generated resources (regardless

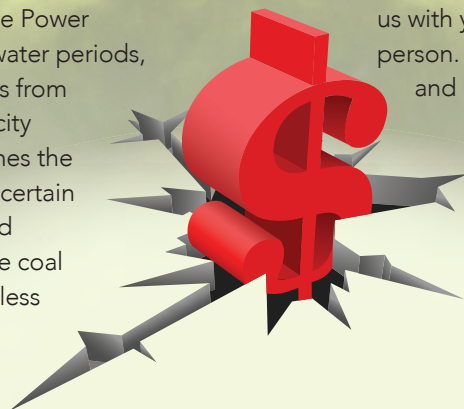
of what the actual mix is). At the \$15 per ton level, our power cost would increase approximately \$60,000 in a high water year to \$212,000 in a low water year. These costs increase annually until the \$100 cap is hit. Since the tax applies to all fossil fuel used in this state including our vehicles, it's difficult to give an overall PUD1 cost impact at this time.

We are fortunate in that we are starting from a good place. 95% of the electricity used to serve our customers is from zero-carbon resources, like hydropower. My concern is the potential cost impacts on an already clean resource. We should avoid enacting conflicting or redundant policies that increase costs without a real corresponding reduction in carbon emissions. We should use least cost principles, while ensuring grid reliability. Finally, we need to make sure that the work we have already done is recognized in policies going forward. Reliable low cost clean energy is a gift from the visionaries who built the Columbia hydro system. As your elected representative, I'm honored to work to protect it.

I plan to call a public hearing at the May 10th board meeting at 1:00 p.m. to discuss various carbon efforts. This way our board can hear from you, our ratepayer/owners, and you can help us form our official position for the District. Please don't hesitate to call or email us with your comments if you are unable to attend in person. We look forward to a productive conversation and hope to hear from you.



Sincerely,  
Karl Denison--Commissioner



## Service Meter Installation and Water Quality & Use Reports

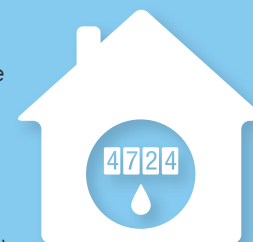
January 22, 2017 has been a deadline the District has been working toward for several years now. This is the deadline for which we have to have service meters installed for all our Group A water systems. We have been busy since 2010 installing these service meters. With the meter installation comes a change in water rates from flat rate to metered rate. Meters are read monthly with your usage shown on the bill. We track the usage for the entire water system because the District must report the total usage, total production, and total loss in the annual Water Quality and Use Reports.

Each year, the District is required to report to our customers the water quality and the water use efficiency for our Group A water systems. We use a template for our reports, but the District now has over 30 reports to update each year. We mail post cards with the specific URL (website link) that directs each customer to the specific report for the water system that serves them.

If you want to opt-in to receive a hard copy, please contact the Director of Operations-Water. The electronic version of the report will be a PDF version of the hard copy so you will need a PDF reader to view the report.

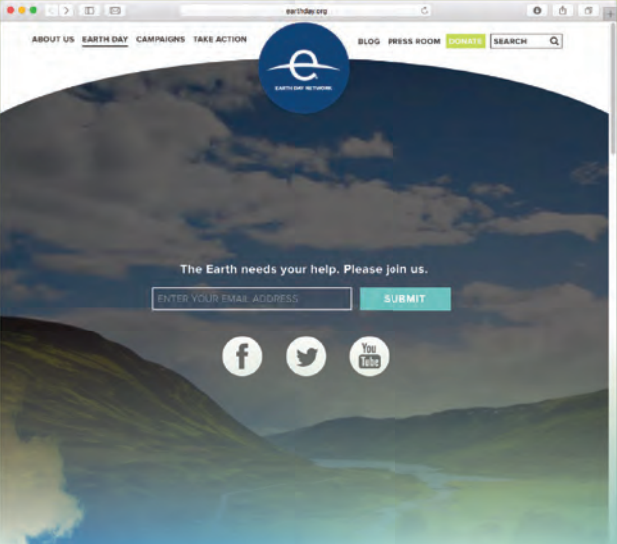
This is a free download from Adobe online. By mailing postcards instead of the full reports, the District saves on both printing and postage costs. The reports have grown from two pages to eight pages and are now in color. As regulations increase, the length of the reports will increase. In the future, we might be able to make the reports interactive.

If you have questions about the reports or metering, please call me, Jocelyne Gray, PE, Director of Operations - Water.



# April 22nd is earth day!

Visit [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org) more about how you and your to learn family can make a difference by joining the A Billion Acts of Green® movement. You can also use their cool Footprint Calculator to take the Ecological Footprint Quiz to see how much of the planet's resources it takes to sustain your lifestyle.



## MANAGER'S REPORT

# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE RALLY

In 2013, I was honored to be elected to represent Washington State on the Northwest Public Power Association's (NWPPA) Board of Directors. This board is made up of approximately 40 utility executives and commissioners, with our Mason PUD 1 being one of the smallest. Annually, a select few of us team up with California's public power leaders and travel to Washington, D.C. to lobby for you, our ratepayer-owners.

Over the course of four days, we meet with department administration officials, key congressional staff and industry leaders on issues important to NWPPA's utility members here in the Pacific Northwest. We hold an impressive and exhausting 40+ meetings with members of Congress, their staffs, and other administration officials. It is a whirlwind experience and a key part of NWPPA's Legislative & Regulatory program. Our meetings set the stage for NWPPA's legislative and regulatory agenda for the year. By participating in this process through NWPPA, tiny little Mason PUD 1 has a huge voice on federal policy issues that impact our daily operations.

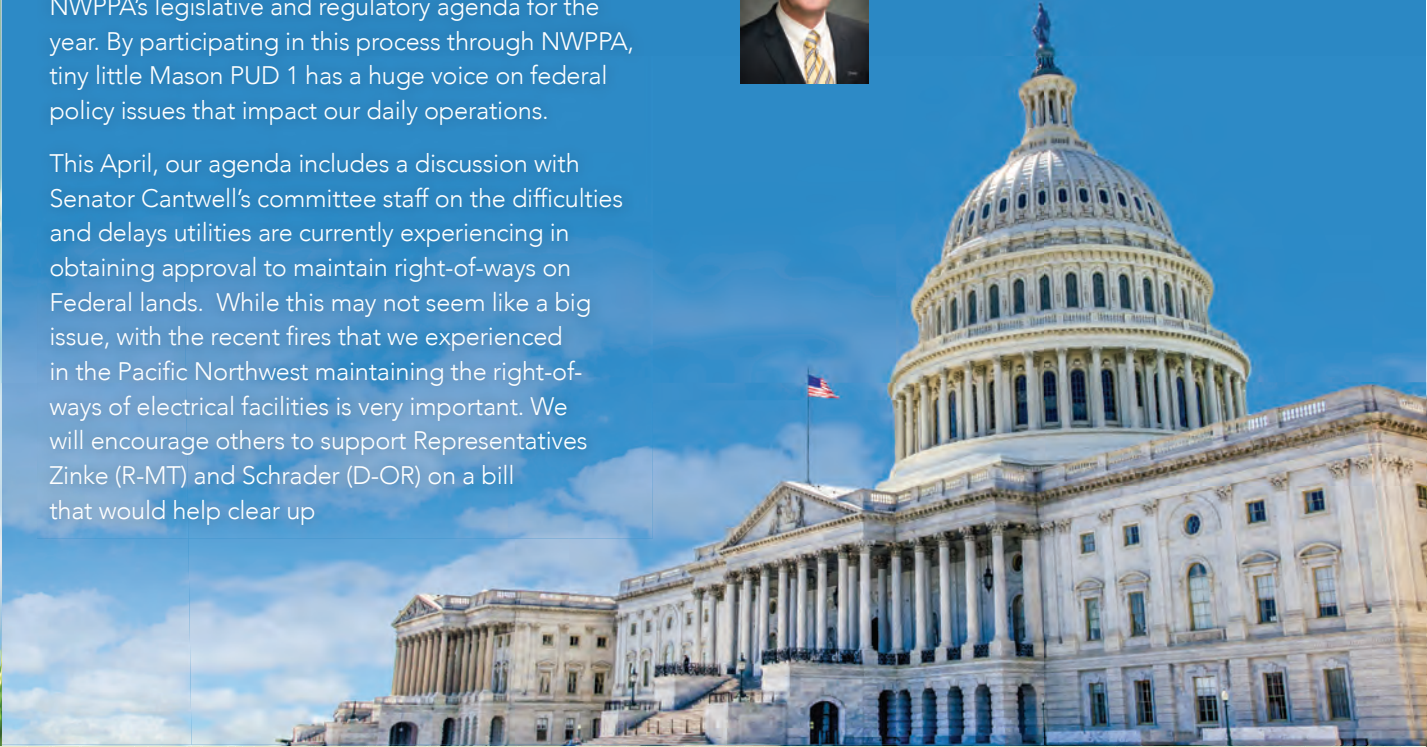
This April, our agenda includes a discussion with Senator Cantwell's committee staff on the difficulties and delays utilities are currently experiencing in obtaining approval to maintain right-of-ways on Federal lands. While this may not seem like a big issue, with the recent fires that we experienced in the Pacific Northwest maintaining the right-of-ways of electrical facilities is very important. We will encourage others to support Representatives Zinke (R-MT) and Schrader (D-OR) on a bill that would help clear up

confusion and delay in permitting. Additionally, we will discuss modernizing the hydropower relicensing process and consideration of all hydropower as a renewable resource, funding for catastrophic wildfires, renewing municipal bonds and funding the Rural Utility Services program (which is how PUD 1 historically has financed many of their electric construction projects), and supporting policies that allow electric utility use of drones. Finally, we will thank our delegation for supporting the Cyber Security Act of 2015.

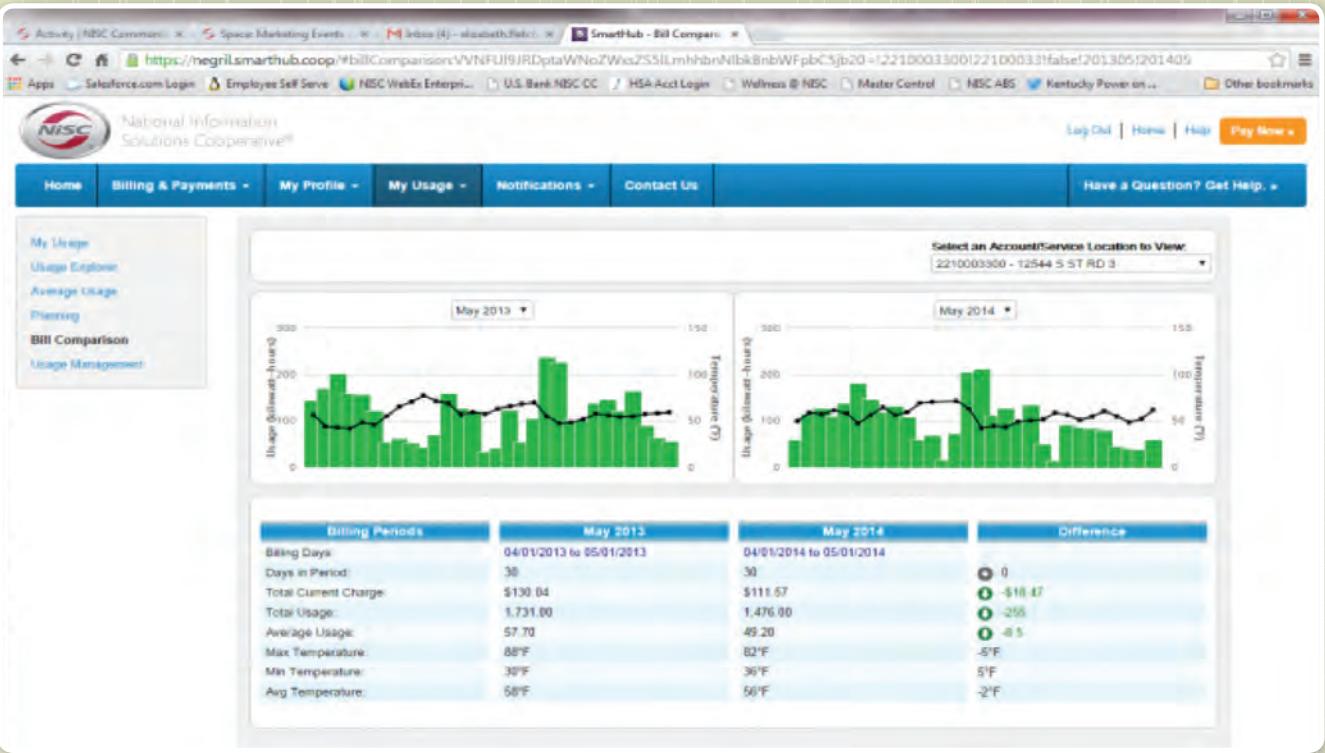
This face time with our federal legislators is very impactful and again, I am honored that I have been selected to represent Mason PUD 1's ratepayers and Washington State as one of the NWPPA delegates to our nation's capital.



— Steve Taylor, GM



## Take Control of Your Account with SmartHub



**IN MAY, PUD 1 IS SCHEDULED TO TRANSITION** to a new customer account management system called SmartHub. SmartHub will replace the E-Bill program and can help you take control of your PUD 1 account like never before.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your historic electricity and/or water usage, contact customer service and much more.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks... or taps, if you're using the app! You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous summer, if you want to compare costs. You can see how your use is trending over time, which

will allow you to take steps to reduce your consumption and lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the Web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll also be able to manage your account notifications with SmartHub. By logging in to SmartHub on the Web, you'll be able to select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging. You'll even be able to set usage thresholds so that you'll know when you're using more than you'd like and help you keep your electricity bill as low as possible.

Reporting a power outage is also quick and easy from

the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call the office, just let us know you've lost electricity with a few taps. You can also contact PUD 1 with a request, a question or for customer service. SmartHub's contact feature makes it quick and easy.

Want to get the latest PUD 1 news and information? Stay connected with us through SmartHub. With the SmartHub news feed, you'll get the latest news, updates and more- all without leaving the app or the web page.

We will notify you when it's time to access SmartHub through the PUD website or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iPhone or iPad) or Google Play Marketplace (Android phone or tablet).