



Elk herd on the Duckabush.



THE CONNECTOR SUMMER 2024

COMMISSIONER CORNER

The PNW Needs to Stay Focused on **POWER RESOURCE ADEQUACY**

I have been very worried about how power providers will keep the lights on in the near future. America is trying to reduce carbon, and that is a good thing! We are closing coal plants, which are carbon emitting and the costs to maintain them are skyrocketing, making them unaffordable to keep in production. However, there are many coal plants being shuttered that are part of our power grid's baseload resources, meaning we can call on them to keep the grid stable when intermittent resources like wind and solar aren't producing. The issue with closing the coal plants at the current pace is that we are simultaneously trying to replace that baseload resource with renewables like wind and solar that are not firm power. They are not dependable when we need them the most. We need a more methodical strategy that replaces baseload-for-baseload to keep our grid balanced and able to meet the increasing power demands. In January of this year, we had a cold snap that almost made us go dark if it wasn't for the producing capabilities of the lower Snake River hydropower projects. We call on those projects to keep the lights on during periods of high energy use in our region.

The U.S. Government (Biden Administration and some legislators) is trying very hard to remove these hydropower facilities as well. The government would like to go carbon free, which the dams already are, but if we remove hydroelectricity from our firm power portfolio, we are going to go dark. We simply don't have enough firm power alternatives right now. It also takes around 10 years, sometimes

longer, to bring new generations projects online. This is largely due to federal permitting issues, which our PUD and our regional associations address in Washington, D.C. each year. So, they are calling for the removal of the baseload, carbon free hydropower that currently supplies our grid (along with the carbon emitting resources and the renewables), and yet the potential generation projects that could help replace the carbon-emitting power sources are hung up for a decade or longer in permitting red tape.

There are many reasons for us to be concerned. To truly go carbon free, we need to build more firm power resources and keep our carbon free resources available to keep the lights on- in this case, it's our hydropower. Nuclear power, with the help of renewable resources like wind, solar, and battery storage also help sustain the grid, but they can't do it without hydro as the baseload resource.

Another problem just exposed is there is new talk in D.C. about long-term planning for removing the federal hydro system on the Columbia River. This is not going to happen overnight, but as customers who receive your power from this federal system that you paid for through your power rates, not through federal taxes, you need to be aware of what is being discussed. I can talk about many problems which are not truly being addressed by policymakers who are pushing this dam removal agenda, but the bottom line is that it takes time to build things.

To try to make the issue as simplistic as possible: we need to bring on new resources that can be done in a timely manner and start moving faster and keep our eyes open to what is going on at the regional and federal levels. The U.S. is moving toward electrification with new electric cars, heat pumps, electric stoves and the like, which all will take more electricity. Data centers and A.I. all are requiring more of our electricity. If we truly want to go carbon free and retire coal and gas, we need to balance that with being able to keep the lights on for our current and future customers and that means keeping firm baseload power in place until we can build out new like-for-like resources, as well as the transmission lines required to bring those resources to the grid. We need to streamline the permitting process to get this replacement work done in a timely manner, so we don't experience brown outs and black outs like neighboring states in other areas of our country. The availability of new firm, carbon free power, constructing new transmission, and protecting the federal system to meet our projected energy demands are all issues that the Public Power Council covers at their monthly meetings that your PUD commissioners and staff attend. We will keep you informed as things progress.



Ron Gold,
Commissioner District 2

Washington Families Clean Energy Credits Grant Program



\$200 One-Time Electric Bill Credit

Eligible electric customers can apply to receive a one-time \$200 credit on their power bill. Per WA State Dept. of Commerce requirements, **ROUND TWO** opens on July 13th and includes all customers up to 150% of the AMI. All applications are due by September 13th.

Please see the chart below to determine if you qualify.

PUD 1 customers who have already received LIHEAP through Community Action Council or OlyCAP in the last 12 months, can

call the office to enroll without resubmitting paperwork. New applicants must complete the attestation form and submit required documentation to prove income levels.

You can find the form on our website at: mason-pud1.org/CCA2, or you can stop in the office or contact Customer Service at (360) 877-5249 or customerservice@mason-pud1.org to have a form sent to you.

MASON COUNTY

Median Income \$99,000	ROUND 2: Open from July 13- Sep 13
Household Size	150% AMI
1 Person	\$96,400
2 Person	\$110,150
3 Person	\$123,950
4 Person	\$137,700
5 Person	\$148,700
6 Person	\$159,750
7 Person	\$170,750
8 Person	\$181,750
9 Person	\$192,800
10 Person	\$203,800
11 Person	\$214,800
12 Person	\$225,850
13 Person	\$236,850
14 Person	\$247,850

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Median Income \$88,300	ROUND 2: Open from July 13- Sep 13
Household Size	150% AMI
1 Person	\$94,500
2 Person	\$108,000
3 Person	\$121,500
4 Person	\$135,000
5 Person	\$145,800
6 Person	\$156,600
7 Person	\$167,400
8 Person	\$178,200
9 Person	\$189,000
10 Person	\$199,800
11 Person	\$210,600
12 Person	\$221,400
13 Person	\$232,200
14 Person	\$243,000

This notice is required, per Department of Commerce grant conditions: "The Washington Families Clean Energy Credits Grant Program is supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at www.climate.wa.gov."



RICH CRUMP RETIRES FROM PUD 1

Congratulations Rich and thank you for your 9 years of service to the customers of Mason PUD 1. Wishing you a long and happy retirement!



New Appliance Rebates for Low Income Households

Cassandra, PUD 1's conservation specialist, has created a partnership with our friends at South Sound Appliance in Shelton to offer \$1,600 in rebates on new qualifying washers and dryers.

Customers who meet the income requirements can complete the verification form and work with Cassandra to pre-qualify for the rebates. There are several models to choose from. We've had several customers participate already!

The form is located here:

mason-pud1.org/SSAppliance and customers can reach out to Cassandra to get their prequalification letter to take into South Sound Appliance.

If you know someone who might qualify under the income requirements and could benefit from some new energy efficient appliances, please share!

Table 2: Income Qualifications Based on 200% of 2024 Federal Poverty Level

1 person	\$30,120
2 people	\$40,880
3 people	\$51,640
4 people	\$62,400
5 people	\$73,160
6 people	\$83,920
7 people	\$94,680
8 people	\$105,440
9 or more	Add \$10,760 each



PUD 1 superintendent doing a field safety training with HCC & FD6

PUD 1 has been taking our safety program on the road, doing joint training with our neighboring Fire & EMS partners as well as Hood Canal Communications. These folks interact with the PUD's electrical system when they are hanging fiber and communications lines on our poles or when first responders are arriving on scene to downed wires on roadways.

People often assume that when wires are down that they are not live. This often isn't the case. Power lines can be back fed from different directions on the system as well as from residential generators. There are also a host of other hazards surrounding downed lines including the presence of water or lightning. The lines can also energize nearby objects like fences, water pipes, vegetation, or metal objects. This is why everyone should always stay at least 100' away from downed lines.

Electricity is always searching for a path to ground. If you are in the path, you will become the connector to the ground. Do not assume that a line is a phone or internet line or that it is not energized. If a fire is ignited on a pole or on the ground, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE** with water or fire extinguishers. The electricity can follow the water or path of the spray to you, and you will become the path to ground that it is seeking to find.

If wires ever fall on your house or your car, **STAY INSIDE!** Call 911 and stay put until line crews arrive to deenergize the lines so emergency personnel can safely get to you. If your car is on fire and you must exit, try to jump completely clear, making sure you do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time, landing with both feet together and shuffling away in small steps. Lastly, if anyone receives an electrical

injury, even if there are no entrance or exit wounds, it's imperative that the person seeks medical attention immediately and gets a full evaluation. Electrical shock can take a day or more to cause internal damage before symptoms become apparent externally. Even if you feel fine, you should get a complete evaluation by a doctor to run tests and ensure that you won't have lasting effects.

The PUD has partnered with Hoodspout Fire & EMS to be the designated airlift site for the Hoodspout area. We coordinate airlift and power trainings with our first responder partners to help ensure our employees and our customers that we serve have swift and coordinated response to accidents and injuries. We hope you will help us share this information about electrical line safety with your family and friends. Education is key in preventing electrical accidents.
Matt Rolow, Electric Superintendent

EARN TEN BUCKS BY GOING PAPERLESS!



Customers who sign up through e-pay by September 30th to receive their statements via email instead of in paper format will receive a \$10 credit on their October billing statement. You must stay paperless for one year to keep the credit to your account. Existing paperless customers will also receive the \$10 credit.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS regularly meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Meetings are now held both in person and remotely. The call-in instructions for the public are posted on the PUD website along with the meeting packets. For more information on meetings, please visit mason-pud1.org or call the PUD office.



www.mason-pud1.org

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Drive Thru
MASON COUNTY PUD 1
**CUSTOMER
AND COMMUNITY
APPRECIATION
EVENT!**
Join Us!
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

11a.m. to 2p.m. • 21971 N. HWY 101 IN POTLATCH

**Burgers, Hot Dogs and
Olympic Mt. Ice Cream**

**Celebrating Public Power Week
at our drive-thru event!**

**PUBLIC
POWER
WEEK**

Powering Strong Communities



MASON COUNTY PUD 1 COMMISSIONERS:

District 1

Mike Sheetz(360) 898-7934

District 2

Ron Gold(360) 490-1560

District 3

Jack Janda(360) 490-1800

General Manager

Kristin Masteller.....(360) 877-5249