



Fall on the Hamma Hamma

THE CONNECTOR FALL 2026

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Wrapping Up Grant Projects & Looking Ahead to 2027



Ribbon Cutting at Shadowood Water System

As the weather begins to turn in the last 90 days of the calendar year, the PUD is busy wrapping up summer projects and starting new projects to meet our grant schedules and deadlines. In September, we celebrated the completion of the Shadowood Water System improvements in Shelton with our funding partners from the state's 35th District, the Washington PUD Association and Shadowood customers. This marks the fourth major water system improvement project we've completed in the last few years.

The water department has also broken ground on the Bay East treatment project on Lynch Road and the mainline replacement project at Canal View Water System in Eldon. On the power side, contractors are

wrapping up the underground mainline replacement on Lilliwaup Corner ahead of Phase 2 of this project going out to bid in the fall. Phase 2 includes boring the mainline under the tide flats and reconnecting with the overhead mainline on the north side of Lilliwaup Bay. This work will begin in late 2026 or early 2027.

In October, we began a robust \$1 million vegetation management project, to trim areas of Highways 101 and 106 and will remove approximately 50 danger trees, all included in the PUD's FEMA grant. Helicopter trimming will also occur along the PUD's transmission lines in October. The last big rebuild project set for the end of 2026 is the Eldon to Duckabush Mainline Replacement Project

where we will replace several poles and all of the overhead wire starting just south of Eldon store and ending five miles north to approximately Triton Cove. This is the last of our \$3.6 million FEMA grid resilience work to complete under that specific grant.

Internally, we have completed our 2027 strategic work plan and now are working on budgets for 2027. Bonneville Power Administration has notified us of an estimated 11.21% increase to our monthly power bills, which is a significant increase in just one year. It equates to roughly a 3% increase to PUD 1's electric rates just to pay the BPA bill. We will work with our industry associations to try to whittle that number down before the final rate case is decided. FEMA grants have helped the PUD alleviate some of the pressure on our rates the last couple years, but those grants are wrapping up now before the 2027 fiscal year. The PUD 1 Board of Commissioners will hold a public budget workshop and rate hearing before we set our next power and water rates. These materials will also be on the website ahead of the meetings in November and customers can call the office with any questions.



Kristin Masteller
General Manager



GENERATOR SAFETY

PREVENTING AVOIDABLE TRAGEDIES

It should be obvious since gas-powered generators are loud and smelly that the odor they are omitting is not just unpleasant but is also in the form of a poisonous gas. Despite these harsh effects of an operating gas generator, people still use them in enclosed spaces including garages, campers and sheds close to humans and pets. Carbon monoxide poisoning from generators causes thousands of illnesses and deaths every year, despite pleas from the news media and health officials urging people to use them safely and properly. Even if you can't smell

the fumes, carbon monoxide can still be permeating your home and cause serious injury or even death.

Another inherent danger from generator use that gets far less attention, but is equally as deadly, is electricity back feed from generators that puts electrical line workers at risk of injury and death. Many homeowners plug generators in without even considering that they are pushing generated power back onto the electrical grid. When line workers come to your home or neighborhood to work on the power lines, they undergo a series of checks to

ensure that the lines are deenergized from the utility's side of the power source, but they have no idea if the lines are suddenly energized from a homeowner firing up a generator without proper safeguards. In September of 2021, two line workers were killed in Alabama due to electrical back feed from a portable generator. They were part of a mutual aid crew that responded to the devastation of Hurricane Ida. This was an avoidable tragedy- one we certainly want to avoid at Mason PUD 1.

These injuries and deaths are avoidable if people use generators safely and responsibly.

SAFE GENERATOR USE FOR HOMEOWNERS SHOULD INCLUDE THINGS LIKE:



DO NOT plug your generator directly into your home outlets!



Install a transfer switch at the panel to help prevent back feed of electricity through the home and onto the power grid.



If there's no transfer switch, shut the main breaker to the whole house off at the panel and plug freezers or electrical equipment directly into the generator.



A well-ventilated space for the generator to operate that is at least 20 feet away from the house.



Keep the generator dry under an elevated tarp or pop-up tent.



Don't overload the generator- rotate the appliances you need to use on a schedule such as freezers and refrigerators overnight and tv time and lights during awake hours.



Install CO2 alarms in your home and if you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air **RIGHT AWAY - DO NOT DELAY!**



Have your generator inspected regularly to ensure it's working properly.

Our line workers and water techs already go out in the worst weather conditions. They put their lives at risk to ensure that our community has essential utility services 24/7. It is paramount that homeowners do what they can to help protect the men and women out there working for them. Please put these tips into practice and share them with family and neighbors. The more education we do around generator safety, the more we can help save lives.



Your Donations Make a Difference!

Thanks to the generosity of our customers and community, in 2025 your donations helped 58 families facing financial hardships stay in electric and water service. We are pleased to share that every customer who requested assistance and met the program requirements received funds!

If you are at risk of disconnection due to income restraints or an unforeseen emergency hardship, please contact our office to see if you may be eligible for assistance. Thank you for helping us support our neighbors when they need it most.

Lisa Cates,
Credit & Collections Specialist

Covering all the Bases

Hello to everyone in PUD 1 service area. I thought since we are heavy into the fall season with team sports on most people's minds, I would take the time to talk about your team at Mason PUD 1. There are three teams: the Administrative team, the Electric team and the Water team, that are all part of the Mason PUD 1 team.

Let's start with the Administrative team. It takes good strategic management and leadership to understand the needs of the three teams. The commissioners and staff at PUD 1 are always looking for ways to finance the projects that keep the Electric and Water teams busy. Keeping the electricity and water flowing and dependable for us all. From applying for grants and attending workshops to enhance their skills to the daily customer service duties and working to keep it all running smoothly.

The Electric team is how Mason PUD 1

started over 90 years ago. A group of professional line workers that give 110% to the betterment of our communities every day, 24/7/365. They are constantly working to rebuild existing infrastructure, to repair damaged infrastructure and to build new infrastructure as needed. Whether it be in the pouring rain, wind or snow, they will be there to make sure we have a functional and safe system. To name just a few projects, they've completed rebuilds at Gran Rd., Indian Beach, Lon Webb Rd., Eagle Creek Rd., Shar Lane, Virginia Street, Union Heights Drive and are heading to Enchantment Heights next. Needless to say, they are very busy.

As for the Water Team, PUD 1 started in the water business back in the 1940's and we now have over 74 water systems to maintain and operate. Their expert water technicians are spread all over Mason County. Like the Electric crew, the Water crew heads out every day to projects that

keep our water flowing and safe to use. The Manzanita Campus in Union is a great example of grant funded construction by the Electric and Water teams, supported by the Administrative team. Other water projects include Hamma Ridge mainline, Vuecrest reservoir, Shadowood, Lake Arrowhead removal of old fire hydrants, along with well house and booster pump buildings painted and maintained where needed. Also, very busy on the Water team.

In conclusion, Mason PUD 1 is a team of professionals who work well together daily, 24/7/365 to keep the lights and water on. Thanks for being great customers of Mason PUD 1.



Mike Sheetz,
Commissioner, District 1

PUD 1 Taking Applications for Energy Equity Rebate Program (EERP)



ENERGY EQUITY
REBATE PROGRAM
MASON COUNTY PUD 1

The PUD recently received a grant from Washington State Department of Commerce's Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) program, which provides rebates and incentives for low- and moderate-income households to adopt high-efficiency electric appliances and heating and cooling systems, including any necessary electric upgrades to install them.

While the first round of our EERP funding is already fully subscribed due to the overwhelming interest in the program, more funding is on the way, and we are still accepting applications so we can build a queue of eligible households in future funding rounds. So, we encourage customers to still apply! The queue will help demonstrate the need in Mason County and help us obtain additional funding for the program.

Get Pre-Qualified.

Submit your application and supporting documentation to prove household income. PUD staff will verify your information, site location, and appliance type to ensure all aspects meet program requirements.

Choose a Pre-certified Contractor.

Use the contractor database to choose a contractor who has been pre-certified to perform work under this grant program. Contractors will do an audit of your house to see if any panel upgrades are necessary, help you choose the equipment to install and then enter into an agreement with you to perform the work. The Contractor will submit invoices directly to the PUD. You do not have pre-pay for the equipment or labor if you have a PUD 1 prequalification letter.

Enjoy Your New Appliance & Provide Feedback.

The PUD will send you a post-installation survey to solicit feedback on how the process went to help us make any necessary adjustments to the program.

EERP ends June 30, 2027, and rebates are on a first come, first served basis until funding is exhausted. If you are interested, please visit the website or call Cassandra, PUD 1's Conservation Specialist, at (360) 877-5249.

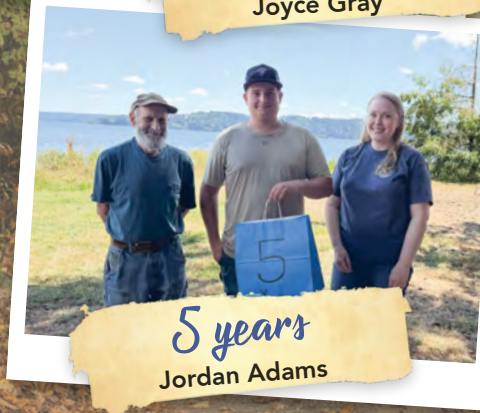
Are you eligible for EERP?

The chart below shows which household incomes qualify for the program. If you believe you qualify, go to the PUD website at www.mason-pud1.org/HEAR for the application or call the PUD office for a copy.

INCOME CHART	Mason County	Jefferson County
Household Size	150% AMI	150% AMI
1 Person	\$105,250	\$104,200
2 Person	\$120,250	\$118,000
3 Person	\$135,300	\$132,750
4 Person	\$150,300	\$147,450
5 Person	\$162,350	\$159,250
6 Person	\$174,350	\$171,050
7 Person	\$186,400	\$182,850
8 Person	\$198,400	\$194,650

PUD 1 Celebrates Service Awards

Thank you for your 120 years of collective service to PUD 1.



THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS regularly meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Meetings are held in the PUD 1 board room in Potlatch. Board packets are posted on the home page of the PUD website at www.mason-pud1.org. For more information on meetings, please visit mason-pud1.org or call the PUD office.

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www.mason-pud1.org

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