



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

December 2020 Newsletter

Public Power, Local Services,
Community Connections



New Bill Design
Coming Next Month
More info about your account
and services, easier to read
and understand.

PUD
Jefferson County
Public Utility District

Customer Service Office Hours:
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8am - 4:30pm
Location: 310 Four Corners Rd.
Port Townsend, WA 98368
CALL: (360) 385-5800 24/7
website: jeffpud.org follow us on fb & twitter

PAYMENT DUE: \$180.00
DUE DATE: 01/22/21

Not For Profit/Community Owned
Providing safe, reliable, & affordable utility services.

INCLUDING 95% CARBON-FREE ELECTRICITY

CUSTOMER NAME
Herman R. Munsterschweiger
Lily Anne Munsterschweiger

INVOICE DATE: 01/01/21
ACCOUNT # 88888888

ACCOUNT BALANCE SUMMARY

Previous Balance	\$236.50
Payment Received	(\$236.50)
Balance Forward	\$78.00
Total Late Fees	\$15.00
Current Service Charges	
Electric	\$179.85
Water	\$129.80
Sewer	\$25.00
Utility Finance Charge	\$179.85
Rainy Day Donation	\$0.45
Total Current Amount Due	\$629.83
Budget Balance Payment	\$180.00
Budget Settlement Amount	\$1,888.00

REBATE OF THE MONTH:
Get \$600 from the PUD to replace your water heater with a new high-efficiency heat pump water heater. Now qualifying models can be purchased for nearly as much as the rebate. Water heaters are consistently one of the biggest users of electricity. Cut your usage nearly in half by installing a new heat pump water heater with help from us. More info and applications at jeffpud.org/hpwh.

Report
Call day or night
to report an outage
(360) 385-5800

Pay by Phone
Pay anytime
with a credit or
debit card
(360) 385-5800

Payment Assistance
Apply for
assistance
to help pay
your bill
(360) 385-5800

Budget Payments
Avoid surprises
and keep bills
consistent. Call
us to set up
(360) 385-5800

Auto Pay
Set up automatic
monthly bill
payments
(360) 385-5800

Save Energy
Energy audits
and weatherization
to improve energy
efficiency and save
money on bills
(360) 385-5800

Go Paperless
Sign up for
electronic bills
to help you
manage your
account online
(360) 385-5800

Drop Boxes
24/7 Service Only
310 Four Corners Rd.
Port Townsend, WA 98368
Call for location
(360) 385-5800

Give if You Can, Ask For Help if You Need it.

The holidays are traditionally a time for coming together: with family, friends, or even coworkers at the annual company party; in warm lit spaces, with food and drink, sharing gifts and stories, recounting tales of the year gone by and resolutions for the year to come.

This holiday season, however, we are being asked to stay apart. While for many of us this means yet another of a series of events we spend on Zoom rather than in person with friends or family, for others it means being even further isolated after nearly a year of distancing and being kept apart.

December is dark and cold and wet and without companionship it can be hard to take. Without steady income, or with no income, with compromised or poor health, with insufficient housing or no housing, it can be unbearable. Without access to clean water and dry heated shelter, it can be unlivable.

For most of the last year in this newsletter we have printed a message saying "CALL IF YOU NEED HELP." If a customer is struggling to afford their bills and reaches out, we can find ways to help, or set up a system of payment arrangements that can keep the heat on and water flowing. Customers who don't call, or who don't respond to our messages, are more likely to find themselves in trouble, getting sent to collections, or shut off. Usually both.

If you are struggling this holiday season, for any reason—money, shelter, sickness, loneliness—reach out. Ask for help. Jefferson County has many organizations and individuals ready to give. This has been a hard year that has only gotten harder. It is not shameful to seek assistance. It's an act of dignity.

And if you have extra this holiday, keep in mind those who are struggling and give where you can. Give time, money, or safely distanced attention. Every bit helps. There are lots of organizations to donate to in Jefferson County, and lots of local businesses that could use your help to make it through the winter.

Round Up or Donate to the Rainy Day Fund

Keep the heat and lights on and water flowing for some of our most vulnerable citizens. Check the box on your bill to round up to the nearest dollar each month. You can also make a monthly or one time donation. Funds are distributed by OlyCAP and the Society of St. Vincent De Paul.



PUD Power
is nearly 95 %
Carbon-Free

Generation Source	% of total
Hydropower	83.16%
Nuclear	11.45%
Unspecified	5.39%

The PUD purchases 100% of its electricity from the BPA. In 2019 (the most recent year reported) our power was generated by the sources above. *Note: Unspecified sources are small power purchases from a mix of generators that WA does not require BPA to report.*

(360) 385-5800 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368 jeffpud.org

CAUTION! DOWNED POWER LINES

DOWNED LINES CAN BE DEADLY!

Keep yourself, children, or pets as far away from as possible. The ground around a downed line may be energized up to 35 feet from the wire.

DON'T TRY TO MOVE DOWNED POWER LINES!

Even if they are blocking your driveway. Call the PUD or 911. Don't risk dying to get to work on time.

DO NOT CLEAR TREES TOUCHING LINES!

Assume all power lines are live and can kill if touched. Don't push away downed lines with another object. Non-conductive materials like wood or cloth can conduct electricity if slightly wet. Don't cut up fallen trees if entangled in power lines. Live trees in contact with power lines can also carry current.

DON'T TRY TO ASSIST OTHERS!

If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 for help if you see someone in danger.

DON'T DRIVE OVER DOWNED LINES!

Downed lines can spark, or they can become tangled in the wheel or axle. If a wire comes in contact with the vehicle, do not try to exit the vehicle. Stay inside until help arrives.

REMAIN IN THE CAR, UNLESS IT'S ON FIRE!

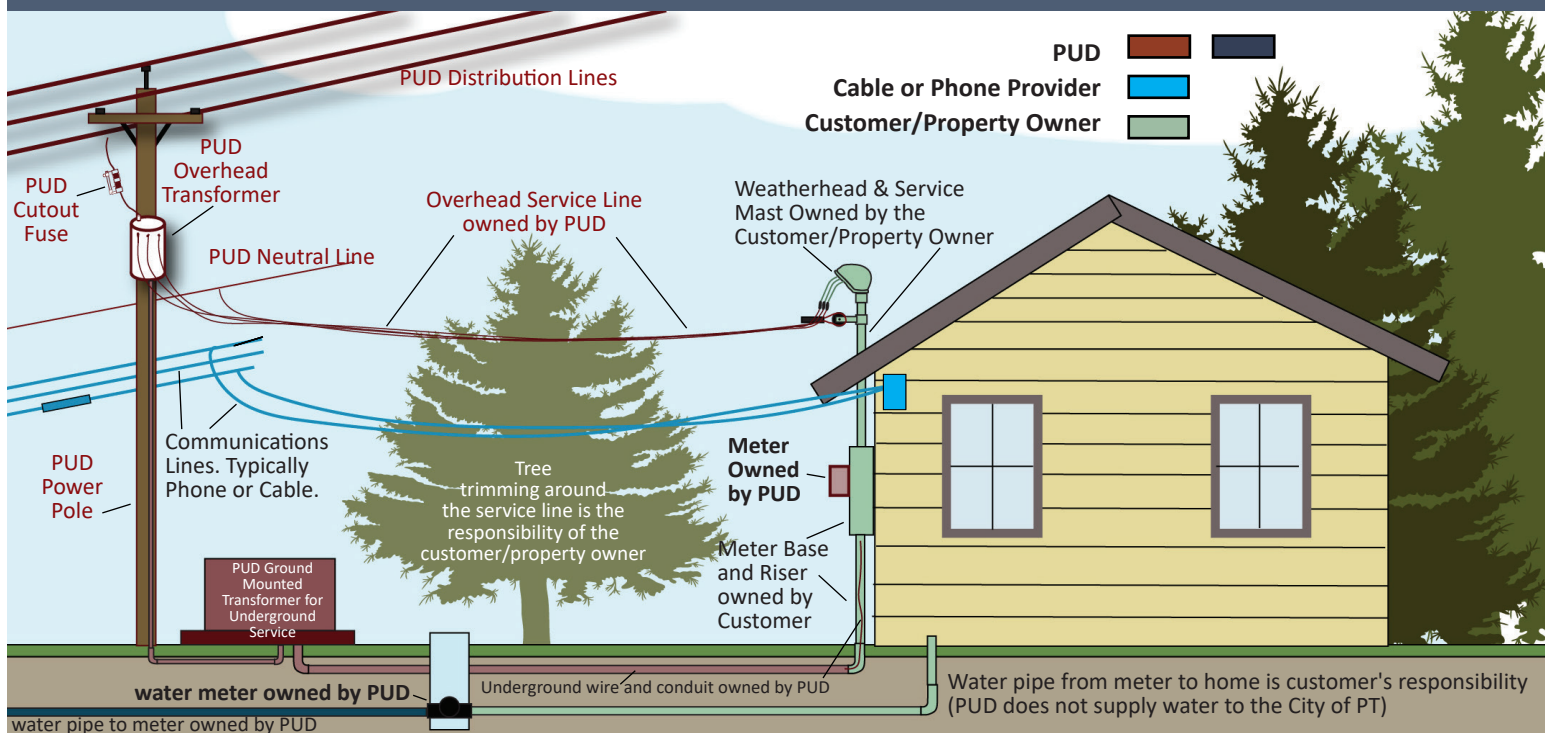
If the car is on fire and you must exit, jump from the vehicle with both feet together. Do not make contact with the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away from the car with both feet always touching the ground.

CALL THE PUD OR CALL 911!

Downed lines are deadly. Our crews are on call 24/7 and are trained to handle them. If you see downed lines call us immediately (360) 385-5800. If you or someone you know is injured or in danger call 911.

ELECTRIC AND WATER SERVICE TO THE HOME

Between the pole and the home, ownership and responsibilities for service maintenance vary.



**Happy Holidays
from all of us at
the PUD.**

Jeff Randall
Commissioner D1
jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

Ken Collins
Commissioner D2
kcollins@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-1475

Dan Toepper
Commissioner D3
dtoepper@jeffpud.org
(360) 302-0448

General Manager
Kevin Streett
kstreett@jeffpud.org
(360) 385-8360

Newsletter Editor: Will O'Donnell wodonnell@jeffpud.org

Public Utility District No.1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

November 2020
Newsletter

Public Power, Local Services, Community Connections

CALL IF YOU NEED HELP

(360) 385-5800
Our offices are closed to visitors but customer service is available by phone anytime between 9:00am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Pay By Phone

855 386-9916
You must call this number directly to pay over the phone, it can no longer be accessed via our main line. Even easier? Click **PAY NOW** at the top of our website. Works on smart phones too.

AVOID OVERLOADING POWER STRIPS



They aren't designed to handle space heaters, microwaves, toasters, refrigerators or other high demand appliances. They can burn or melt if used for these purposes.



Morning on Morgan Hill in PT as seen from Foreman Bo Lee's bucket truck.

A Tale of Two Joshs

Though not much more than a dozen years separate them, one of the Joshes is just beginning his journey as a lineman while the other's is coming to an end. Or perhaps they are both starting new journeys. As the PUD's new Line Superintendent, Josh Garlock will be giving up his climbing spurs and union card (as well as late nights in a bucket truck in the wind and rain) to transition to a management position tasked with keeping the crew properly supplied and working efficiently.

Garlock (pictured left) was a line foreman for the City of Ellensburg and the contracting firm Potelco before coming to Jefferson PUD in

2019. During his 15 years in the trade he has worked in California, Oregon, and Idaho as well. Garlock feels his experience on multiple crews in multiple states will serve him well as Superintendent. He says he's sought out new challenges wherever he's been, and is excited to take on the new role. He says his wife and daughter are also excited to have him home more.

Josh Beadle's wife and children won't be so lucky. Since becoming the PUD's newest apprentice lineman in October, he spends every other Saturday in Grays Harbor attending apprentice lineman school on top of his full time plus overtime duties at the PUD. Beadle (pictured right) said his family is both proud and understanding, as his father-in-law was also a lineman. It will take Beadle anywhere from 3-5 years and thousands of hours to go from apprentice to journeyman. As he progresses he is able to literally move higher and higher up the power pole, from the communications lines to the secondary power lines, to primary and finally to transmission lines. As an apprentice he must always be accompanied by a journeyman. Journeyman can work solo.

Beadle is the PUD's first apprentice since 2017.



Meter Replacement Study



PUD staff have hired consulting firm FCS Group to perform a business case study for the replacement of PUD meters. The study will evaluate multiple meter technologies, from fully analog to fully automated as well as multiple steps between, to determine costs and benefits associated with each. The results of the study will be presented to the board in early 2021.

2021 budget approved

PUD commissioners approved the 2021 budget at their annual budget hearing in October. General Manager Kevin Streett described the drafting of the \$42M budget as a challenging process, with 2020 being anything but a normal year and the effects of COVID-19 into 2021 hard to predict. He proposed budget check-ins with the commission be conducted every other month to ensure the organization remains on track. The full budget can be found on the PUD's website at Budget and Financials under the Archive tab. PUD commissioners and staff will continue examining service costs and rate structures for water and electric in November and December.

COVID Response Continues

Though Jefferson County numbers have been among the lowest in WA state, COVID-19 numbers have been rising and the risk of infection remains present. Because of this, the PUD will continue the following practices into the new year:

- PUD offices closed to public.
- Staff will continue to work from home or practice social distancing and masking when sharing space.
- Customers must keep 6 feet or more from PUD crew working in the field.
- Board meetings conducted online in accordance with Governor's order.
- Residential utility disconnects for non-pay are suspended per Governor's order. This does not imply bill forgiveness. Please make payment arrangements to avoid future shutoffs after the suspension ends.

Portable Generator Safety Concerns



One week after Hurricane Laura hit Louisiana, 15 people were reported dead, and more than half of the deaths were due to carbon monoxide poisoning from improper use of portable generators. Weeks later, when the final tallies were done, 33 people had died during the hurricane, 14 from generators.

Between 2005 and 2017, carbon monoxide poisoning from portable generators killed more than 900 people in the US. According to a study by the Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) the vast majority of these deaths occurred during power outages caused by windstorms.

Portable generators don't have to be deadly of course. Many PUD customers have them and use them for backup power when the lights go out. If they are kept outside and more than 20 feet from the home, the carbon monoxide produced by generator exhaust will not be a threat. But if the portable generator is being run inside the home, in a garage, basement, or even under a carport or porch roof attached to the home, the exhaust from the generator can cause illness or death. That is in part because portable generators produce more carbon monoxide than nearly any other small engine, with CO outputs, according to the CPSC, equivalent to that of 450 cars. This is the reason running a generator in an open garage or under cover next to the home puts everyone inside at risk. It's also a good reason to remember to install a carbon monoxide detector in the home.

Unfortunately, carbon monoxide is only one of the many potential hazards of a portable generator. Improper use can also lead to fire or electric shock. Learn more about what not to do as well as how to operate a generator safely by visiting the electrical safety section on our website: jeffpud.org/safety.

"when the final tallies were done, 33 people died during Hurricane Laura, 14 from generators."

The PUD will only have one regular board meeting in December.

Jeff Randall
Commissioner D1
jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

Ken Collins
Commissioner D2
kcollins@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-1475

Dan Toepper
Commissioner D3
dtoepper@jeffpud.org
(360) 302-0448

General Manager
Kevin Streett
kstreett@jeffpud.org
(360) 385-8360



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Public Utility District

October 2020
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*Public Power, Local Services,
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PUD Linecrew work to install a new and larger transformer over an underground vault in the Port Townsend Boat Haven

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(360) 385-5800

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If your ability to pay your utility bill has been negatively affected by COVID-19 and related shutdowns, call immediately to discuss payment options.

JEFFPUD.ORG

Use our website to pay bills, start service, apply for rebates, & check outages on your computer or phone.

NEED INTERNET?

DRIVE IN WIFI

Choose "JeffPUD_Community" to Connect



PUD
Jefferson County
Public Utility District

We have over a dozen free hotspots around the county!

Bigger Pipes and More of Them

Whether it's power, water, sewer, or even broadband internet, delivering utilities to customers is all a kind of plumbing. Each process starts with something like a tank or box on one end and a tap or switch at the other. A series of pipes connect the two ends together and various devices (pumps, valves, transformers, regulators, modems, routers) move the service along.

In the academic world, explaining the mechanics of electricity through terminology associated with water is known as the "hydraulic analogy." Though the analogy doesn't apply quite as neatly to internet, it is helpful for explaining why so many people are struggling to obtain service or get the service in the quantity they need for their home or business. Simply put: we don't have enough pipes. And the pipes we have are too small.

We have plenty of pipes to deliver water and power, and they're generally sized appropriately. That's because the average amount of power or water used by an average customer has not changed all that much in the last 20 years. Nor has the technology to deliver it. Internet usage and technology, by contrast, has changed dramatically. If the growth in average water flow (measured in gallons per minute or gpm) needed to supply average home use followed the same increase over the last 20 years as home internet data use (measured in megabits per second or mbps), PUD crews would have had to replace all or our standard ¾ inch copper pipes to the home with 12 inch steel water mains, assuming we hadn't emptied the aquifers a few years back. And that would only cover the increase to today's basic definition of broadband at 25mbps, not the 150mbps to every resident that the WA State Broadband Office has set as a goal in 2028, or the 1gbps many people and businesses are demanding now.

Luckily, supply is not an issue. It's doubtful anyone could ever deplete the growing ocean of internet content available (though during quarantine, some have tried). And bigger pipes for internet come in smaller packages called fiber optic cables. A single strand of fiber can potentially carry hundreds of gigabits per second for many miles. The limitation on speed... **Continued on back.**

FIBER

CABLE

Dial-up DSL1 DSL2

(360) 385-5800 jeffpud.org 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

Bigger Pipes Continued...

for fiber is not the diameter of the glass strand. It's the connecting technology. Every splice, switch and router can slow down service. Fortunately, these technologies are also improving rapidly. In fact, one cure for slow home internet might be a new WIFI router, especially if it's over five years old. New routers may boost speeds for cable and DSL, too.

Something else that might help? The PUD is currently working to obtain access to one of the biggest internet pipes on the Olympic Peninsula. Unlike most of Jefferson County's internet service, which comes across the Hood Canal bridge from Seattle, this pipe runs along the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)'s transmission corridor up from Olympia, through Brinnon, Quilcene and Discovery Bay before heading to Port Angeles. Connecting to the BPA fiber would allow the PUD to have a second dedicated path off the Peninsula from our central network hub at our 310 Four Corners Facility. This additional pipe would help both with reliability and by relieving some of the strain on oversubscribed networks. Leasing the BPA fiber would also provide access points to build out potential future fiber networks in some of the most under and unserved areas of our county. In early 2021, the PUD will explore business models for connecting these communities and others in Jefferson County.



PUD fiber optic cable on Water St.

Take the Broadband Speed Test

The Washington State Broadband Office is asking all Washingtonians to take a 1-minute internet access and speed survey online. The office will use the data to create a statewide map depicting all the various levels of access to broadband or lack thereof. The results will help inform funding and policy decisions. You can find a link to the survey under the **BROADBAND** tab at the top of our website homepage.

Pay By Phone Number

Starting in November, the PUD's pay by phone service will no longer be accessible through our main number at (360) 385-5800. To pay a PUD bill over the phone customers must call our toll free line directly:

(855)386-9916

Even easier: click Pay Now at the top of our website.

Outage Season is Coming



In fact, it's already here.

Cooler weather brings more wind and rain to Jefferson County, which causes more power outages. Be sure to have back up batteries charged, extra blankets available, flashlights, canned or dry food stored, and jugs of fresh water filled in case of an extended outage in your area.

Special Rebate Extended to End of Year



Eligible customers can still receive anywhere from \$1,300 to \$2,100 off the installation costs of multiple air source ductless or ducted heat pumps. This super efficient home heating and cooling technology can help your household save money while staying warmer this winter.

More info and a list of participating installers at:
jeffpud.org/rebates

Contact the Commissioners anytime by email or phone w/ questions or concerns.

Jeff Randall
Commissioner D1
jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

Ken Collins
Commissioner D2
kcollins@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-1475

Dan Toepper
Commissioner D3
dtoepper@jeffpud.org
(360) 302-0448

General Manager
Kevin Streett
kstreett@jeffpud.org
(360) 385-8360



Jefferson County Public Utility District

September 2020

*Public Power, Local Services,
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BPA transmission lines crossing farmland near Discovery Bay before heading over the hills and out to Clallam County

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DRIVE IN WIFI

Choose "JeffPUD_Community" to Connect



**OVER A DOZEN
FREE HOTSPOTS!**

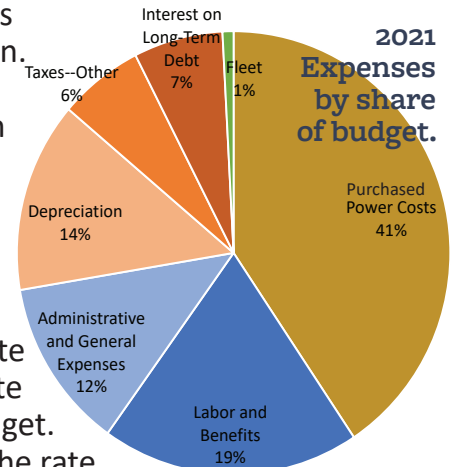
Crunching the Numbers

2021 is approaching fast, and in the coming months the PUD will be finalizing and approving both a new budget and rate study. Progress on the 2021 budget to date has been smooth. General Manager Kevin Streett began the process earlier in the summer by asking each PUD department to provide a list of projects and expenses for the upcoming year. Finance Director Mike Bailey then compiled the lists and entered them into a database along with other anticipated revenues and expenses.

Many items get cut early, others are vetted by the board in successive meetings. Vehicle and truck requests never seem to make it through fully intact, nor do requests for every additional staffer. Some budget items, like tree trimming and low income support are expected to increase in 2021. Broadband infrastructure funding, which was increased mid-year in 2020, will increase again in 2021. General Manager Kevin Streett has proposed dedicating the nearly \$500K in property taxes collected by the PUD to broadband expansion. No tax rate increases have been proposed.

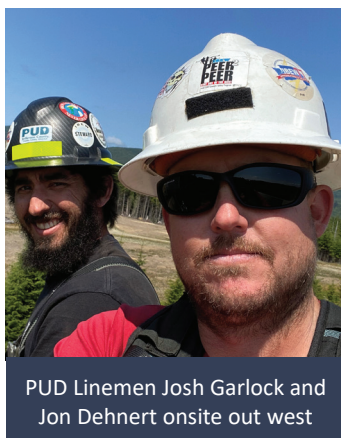
The \$42M+ 2021 budget assumes a growth in revenues of less than 1% while overall expenses are anticipated to rise 1.25% based on the Consumer Price Index. While COVID-19 has not to date had a significant impact on the PUD's finances, Streett acknowledged that previously anticipated rate increases could be delayed until 2022. No rate increases were factored into the current budget.

While the budget is only for a single year, the rate study looks at projected revenues and expenses over a period of 10 years. The PUD selected utility consultant FCS group of Redmond to perform the study. In their 2nd presentation to the PUD, FCS explained that without rate increases the PUD's water department expenses will exceed income in 2021. The electric division's balances are projected to remain in the positive until 2023. FCS will next present the BOC multiple options for rate adjustments. Both the rate study and the 2021 budget are available on the PUD's website.





Jefferson County PUD's service territory only covers a small portion of the county geographically. To the south, our poles and wires don't extend beyond Quilcene and to the west go only as far as Gardiner. Still, that hasn't stopped our team from responding to Jefferson County communities further out looking for help with internet access. Though Mason PUD1 provides power to Brinnon, they don't offer broadband services. So when the Brinnon school district asked for a WIFI hotspot, Jefferson PUD responded. On the west end, Clallam PUD provides power to the Hoh Reservation, but when the Hoh Tribe asked for assistance bringing broadband infrastructure into their extremely isolated community, Jefferson County PUD responded. PUD



PUD Linemen Josh Garlock and Jon Dehnert onsite out west

Setting the pole, high on a hill.



linemen made the long drive to first install a power pole and then mount an antenna on top. The antenna will allow the tribe to receive a 400mbps link from high up on Mt Octopus. Our nonprofit network provider NoaNet will next work with the State of WA to help the Hoh Tribe build fiber from the tribal fire station (where the PUD crew set the pole) to its administration building.

10 Year Water System Plan

The PUD is required by the State of Washington to update its Water System Plan once every ten years. The plan maps the next ten years of water system operation, management, and maintenance. It also lists probable and potential capital projects. Projects must be listed on the PUD's water system plan in order to be eligible for future grant or loan funding from either the State Revolving Fund for Drinking Water or the Public Works Trust Fund.

At the end of August, PUD Engineering Director Samantha Harper and Resource Manager Bill Graham presented the first draft of volume 1 of the PUD's water system to the Board of Commissioners (BOC).

Volume 2 was presented on September 9th. On Sept. 23rd, the PUD presents its Water Use Efficiency Plan to the BOC in an open public forum. Public feedback is encouraged as this component covers both customer and operator conservation practices. A first reading of the complete plan will take place at a BOC meeting in October, after which the plan will be submitted to the WA State Dept of Health. The final plan is anticipated to be adopted in January of 2021. Visit the WATER tab on jeffpud.org to view current or revised drafts of the plan throughout the process.

Summer Intern Program



Patrick Morton

PTHS class of 2017 grad and Seattle University student Patrick Morton was chosen for the PUD's 2020 summer internship program. Though this year's internship program was abbreviated due to COVID-19, Morton worked on site at the PUD (with a mask on) for all of August and some of September. Morton, a computer science major, was put to work by multiple

departments at the PUD, doing everything from filing, to painting hydrants, data entry, engineering support, and website programming. The PUD intern program is expected to open again to multiple local candidates in May for work during the summer of 2021.

Public power from the PUD is 97% Carbon-Free

Jeff Randall
Commissioner D1
jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

Ken Collins
Commissioner D2
kcollins@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-1475

Dan Toepper
Commissioner D3
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JEFFPUD.ORG

Use our website to pay bills, start service, apply for rebates, & check outages on your computer or phone.



Jeff Randall
Commissioner,
District 1

Since the picture above was taken, power lines and poles along most of Water Street have been removed.

Letter From District 1

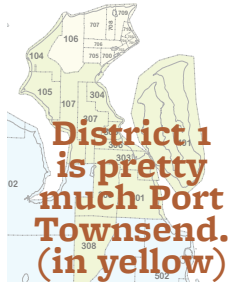
I believe the coronavirus pandemic may be part of a “new normal” rather than a temporary phenomenon. During this pandemic the hard working and creative staff at Jefferson PUD have maintained our electric, water, sewer, and broadband services without a single case of the virus, keeping our staff, families, and our customers safe. In this new normal, maintaining a strong and resilient local economy is vitally important.

I believe the other “new normal” we face is climate change. In May of 2019, Governor Inslee signed the Clean Energy Transformation Act, committing our state to switch to 100% non-carbon emitting and renewable power sources by 2045. Luckily, Jefferson County's power is already nearly carbon-free, with 87% of our electricity produced by hydroelectric dams, 10% from nuclear, and the remaining 3% from a variety of sources which can include solar & wind.

According to a recent study by the Climate Action Committee, the PUD's 2013 acquisition of the power grid helped drop our carbon footprint by 40%. Today, our carbon emissions primarily come from transportation (66%).

In the last few months, many of us have learned how much work can be done from home with remote meeting technology and high speed internet access. In-person meeting and travel restrictions have highlighted the importance of broadband availability in Jefferson County. Expanding high speed internet service throughout Jefferson County can also reduce our climate impacts by eliminating unnecessary travel. When we work from home we also save time that we can spend with our loved ones.

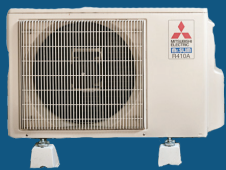
In the next few months, we will begin the second phase of our broadband strategic planning process, evaluating ways to expand our 45-mile fiber optic network to unserved or underserved parts of the county. The process won't be quick or inexpensive, but we are learning from our neighboring PUDs in Kitsap and Mason Counties who have leveraged state and federal grants and forgivable loans to significantly expand access to high speed internet service. We've also built twelve free high-speed wireless hot spots from Brinnon to PT. Rest assured your PUD is working hard to help connect our county.



NEW RATES CONSIDERED FOR 2021, COST OF SERVICE STUDY UNDERWAY NOW

According to General Manager Kevin Streett, PUD water and sewer rates have not been covering costs for multiple years. Though the PUD's electric division is self-sustaining, Streett believes many electric rates need either examination or rethinking. The PUD is working with utility consultant FCS group to determine options for updating the PUD's rates. The results of the rate study and recommendations from FCS group will coincide with opening discussions of the PUD's 2021 Budget in August and September. The PUD will hold its annual budget hearing on Monday October 5th at 5pm. Updates will be available online.

Heat Pump Rebates Increased by \$500



Eligible customers can now get anywhere from \$1,300 to \$2,100 off the installation costs of this super efficient home heating and cooling technology. Save money and stay warmer this winter by installing now.

More info and a list of participating installers at: jeffpud.org/heat-pump-program

PUD takes part in COVID-19 recovery collaboration

Port, City, County and PUD staff and elected officials have officially teamed up to explore options for restoring and revitalizing our local economy and community in the wake of damage brought on by COVID-19 and related closures.

Meetings began in June and will continue through the fall, with a plan expected to be drafted by winter. More info on the process, meetings, participants and related resources can be found at jeffcotogether.net.

Get ready for winter now with home heating help from OlyCAP

OlyCAP distributes LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) funding in Jefferson County. LIHEAP funds are normally distributed during winter months, this year OlyCAP currently has funding to distribute to low-income residents all summer long.

LIHEAP funds can be used to pay for most home heating fuels, including: firewood, wood pellets, heating oil, propane, and increased use of electricity for home heating (based on PUD billing history).

Jefferson County residents earning 125% of the federal poverty rate may be eligible for LIHEAP funds. Eligibility is based on a household's previous three months of income. Funding assistance ranges from \$100-\$1000 depending on family size, income, and actual energy usage.

OlyCAP's current funds are available until September 30th. A new season of funding opens for application October 1st. Eligible customers can apply for funding from both seasons. Income eligibility for LIHEAP will also expand to 150% of the federal poverty rate for the Oct 2020 to Sept 2021 season.

Don't hesitate to reach out. Funding can cover past due heating bills and fuel purchases for the coming winter.

Call OlyCAP today for help: 360-385-2571, or visit their website at olycap.org to learn more & apply for energy assistance.

**Board Meetings
held on the 1 & 3rd
Tuesdays at 5pm**

**Jeff Randall
Commissioner D1**
jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

**Ken Collins
Commissioner D2**
kcollins@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-1475

**Dan Toepper
Commissioner D3**
dtoepper@jeffpud.org
(360) 302-0448

**General Manager
Kevin Streett**
kstreett@jeffpud.org
(360) 385-8360



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

July 2020 Newsletter

Public Power, Local Services,
Community Connections



photo of the Kilisut Harbor Bridge under construction by John Gussman, and courtesy of Washington State Department of Transportation.

**CALL IF YOU
NEED HELP
360 385-5800**

Customer Service is
available to answer all
your utility questions
9:00am - 4:30pm,
Monday through Friday.

JEFFPUD.ORG

Use our website to
pay bills, start service,
apply for rebates, &
check outages on your
computer or phone.

WIFI HOTSPOTS

NOW IN THE BOAT HAVEN
AND AT THE COYLE FIRE
STATION. CHOOSE
"JeffPUD_Community" TO
CONNECT.



Kenneth Collins
Commissioner, District 2

PUD power, water, and fiber lines run under the new bridge to Marrowstone Island

Letter From District 2

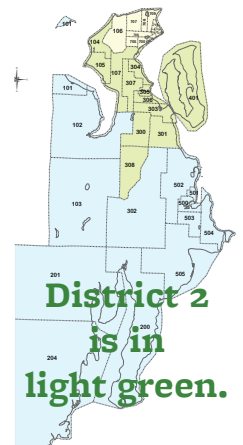
When I first became Commissioner in January of 2015, I quickly learned the job was far more complex and involving than I anticipated. Not only was I responsible for preparing for and participating in all of the PUD's regular, special, and citizen advisory board meetings each month, I also attended and participated in the meetings of several regional associations that were made up of PUDs, or served PUD interests.

In March, I was elected Vice President of the Washington State PUD Association (WPUDA). WPUDA is a nonprofit membership organization made up of over 25 WA state PUDs that lobbies for PUD interests in Olympia. It also provides education for newly elected commissioners and ongoing training and networking opportunities for PUD commissioners and staff.

Jefferson County PUD is self-insured against risks to property, liability and the health and welfare of its employees through the Public Utility Risk Management Service (PURMS). Involvement in PURMS is important from a both fiduciary standpoint and as an information resource on emerging risks. The work of PURMS is of particular interest to me, as I have a background in healthcare and human resources.

As the current Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated, access to broadband is essential. NoaNet was created to serve as a nonprofit broadband network provider by PUDs for PUDs. Half of the fiber optic cable in our county was installed through partnership with NoaNet. NoaNet also operates the 911 system in WA state.

Energy Northwest was also created to serve the needs of PUDs and public power providers. I currently serve as Secretary on Energy Northwest's board. It operates the west coast's only nuclear power plant, the Columbia Generating Station, which provides 10% of our electricity in Jefferson County. Energy Northwest also fosters emerging technologies, including building Level 3 EV charging stations across the state. Being a PUD Commissioner is not a small commitment, but it is an honor and a privilege to be of service to our community.



Kenneth Collins

Thanks to all who've donated and rounded up

COVID-19 and its related shut-downs have brought numerous hardships to our local economy and community. Jefferson County PUD has worked to make sure no one affected by the pandemic loses their power or water due to inability to pay. We've also helped customers come to payment arrangements, and added hundreds more to our low income bill-credit program. But we aren't the only ones trying to help. Many of our customers have been donating extra money on their bill to our Rainy Day fund, which is distributed by OlyCAP and the Society of St. Vincent De Paul to families and individuals who are at-risk and in need. Other customers have asked to pay the bills of families they know who cannot pay. Still more customers have opted to round-up, adding a little each month to their bill to support our Rainy Day Fund. Thanks to so many of you for giving what you can. Every little bit is appreciated.



HOW DO I GET AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATE?

If you are investing in home or business improvements that result in reduced or more efficient use of electricity, the PUD can help pay for it. However, payments and programs vary, and there are different requirements for each, so make sure to check our website or give us call before you begin your project to make sure it qualifies for an energy efficiency rebate. Below are some quick responses to common questions:

DO YOU HAVE ANY REBATES FOR NEW HOMES?

New single family homes and manufactured homes that exceed the Washington State building energy code may be eligible for whole home rebates. Contact rebates@jeffpud.org for more info, or call 360 379-5825 for info.

WHAT IF I RENT?

Generally no, the homeowner must apply for the rebate. However, we do have options for qualifying low-income households that can result in nearly no-cost energy efficiency improvements that might convince a reluctant landlord to leap.

HOW ABOUT FOR BUSINESSES?

Commercial rebates can be as small as a \$100 for a single smart thermostat and as large as \$100,000 for commercial lighting. And there's lots of opportunities in between. Most large commercial rebates are custom.

Email or call for more info.

WHAT PROJECTS CAN I DO MYSELF?

Nearly all of our heating and weatherization rebates require approved contractors to do the work and verify the energy savings. However installation of smart thermostats and heat pump water heaters can be done by the home or business owner. Also washers & dryers.

ANY OTHER APPLIANCE REBATES? No. Sorry.



HOW ABOUT FOR MOBILE HOMES?

We offer special rebates for heating, windows & insulation upgrades to mobile homes, including in some cases, replacement of pre-1976 homes. Contact us for more details.

WHAT'S THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO DO IT?

Now! The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provides funding for our rebate program and projects are awarded on a first come first serve basis.

WHAT ABOUT ELECTRIC CARS?

The PUD does not have rebates for electric cars, but we do offer a new \$20 rebate for approved Energy Star level 2 charging stations.

CAN YOU RECOMMEND CONTRACTORS?

No, but we do have a list of participating contractors on our website: jeffpud.org/rebates

WHAT ABOUT SOLAR PANELS?

No. Solar panel purchase rebates are offered through the State. We do pay retail electricity rates to solar customers sending excess power to our grid through our net meter program.

WHAT ABOUT LIGHTING?

Rebates for individual LED light bulbs are applied at local stores. For commercial lighting, contact us. To be eligible and to achieve the highest efficiency, both bulbs and fixtures must often be replaced.

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**General Manager
Kevin Streett**
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Jefferson County
Public Utility District

June 2020 Newsletter

Public Power, Local Services,
Community Connections



Pictured above: Elk lunching along the heavily forested Dosewallips River Road in Brinnon

**CALL IF YOU
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360 385-5800**

If you are experiencing
a financial hardship
due to the effects of
the COVID-19 virus and
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contact customer service
9 -4:30pm, M-F, to make
payment arrangements.

**HELP IS ALSO
AVAILABLE
ONLINE @
JEFFPUD.ORG**

Use our website to
pay bills, start service,
apply for rebates, &
check outages on your
computer or phone.



Dan Toepper
Commissioner, District 3

Letter From District 3

As we transition from spring to summer, it is important that we are all mindful that fire or wildfires pose a grave threat to life, property and infrastructure. Fire can most definitely have a profound negative affect on PUD operating costs and service if we are not vigilant and proactive in preventing it. A painful lesson learned in California last year.

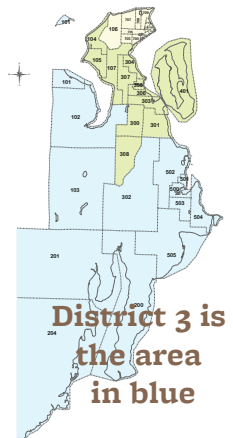
In February, my fellow commissioners and I approved an updated "Tree Trimming and Vegetation Management Policy." The comprehensive policy is a product of an evaluation of lessons learned by our hard working employees out in the field over the past few years. Projects Manager Scott Bancroft led the effort. Just as his title implies, he oversees everything from tree-trimming to construction projects. Like me, Scott has lived in Jefferson County all his life and knows the landscape of this county well.

The updated policy addresses employee, contractor and public safety. It also addresses in detail the steps that need to be taken in PUD rights-of-way and easements to ensure a reliable and resilient electrical grid. Tree removal criteria, tree planting guidelines, how and where different types of shrubs or vegetation should be located and communicating with landowners are all important components of the policy.

It is our goal and responsibility as public servants to engage in a transparent and good faith effort to accommodate the wishes of our public as much as possible this summer as we implement our policy. I would ask that everyone go to our website at jeffpud.org and familiarize themselves with the Tree-Trimming and Vegetation Management Plan, especially if you have a home or property adjacent to PUD overhead lines. East Jefferson Fire Rescue is also a great resource as we head into the summer months. They have great information on burning requirements and on how to maintain your homesite and property through their "Firewise Program," which is available on their website: ejfr.org/information/wildfire-preparation.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy
summer. Be well and enjoy the great outdoors.

Daniel S. Toepper



KEEP 6 ft. BACK FROM PUD CREWS!

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the PUD has asked customers not approach our crew members while they worked in the field. Not only because the work they do can be dangerous, but also because the distraction of dealing with customers while trying to work increases risks and costs for the PUD.

Even now with social distancing being the norm, our crew members are still reporting customers attempting to approach them in the field. Unless it is critical to communicate with our utility crews, please refrain from doing so. If you must approach, keep at least 6 ft. back. This goes for meter readers as well as water & line crews. Thanks for understanding.



repairing a downed line on Lawrence Street in Port Townsend

DEPOSITS REFUNDED

If you signed up for electrical service with the PUD less than 12 months ago and were required to pay a \$100 or \$200 deposit, you will see that amount credited to your account on the statement included in this month's bill. Deposits are collected when new customers have medium to no credit history. The PUD's Board of Commissioners approved the return of all deposits to help mitigate financial stress on our customers due to the effects of COVID-19 related closures, layoffs, and job losses.

FLUSH STAGNANT WATER FROM UNUSED PLUMBING BEFORE USE

Stagnant water can lead to bacterial growth and waterborne diseases. If you own or operate a building that has been little or un-used over the last few months, take some time to study up on safe practices for re-opening. WA State's Department of Health recently published a pair of guides for safely flushing pipes and plumbing systems before using. They are available on our website at:

jeffpud.org/water-safety.

DRIVE IN WIFI

Choose "JeffPUD_Community" to Connect



PUD

Jefferson County
Public Utility District
jeffpud.org | 360 385 5800

FREE WIFI HOTSPOTS

Up and running around the county: in Brinnon, Gardiner, Chimacum, Marrowstone, Quilcene, at the Airport and in PT. Free, easy to connect, available 24/7, and depending on the location, fast! See the full map at:

jeffpud.org/wifi-hotspots



JEFFERSON COUNTY LIBRARY

Though the building has been closed to the public due to COVID-19, Jefferson County Library is offering multiple online services:

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

"Imagine Your Story" Sign-up starts June 15th

Imagination can take you anywhere! Youth and adults are invited to explore fiction and fantasy worlds, create your own characters, and share real-time adventures. Kids and teens can earn a free book and t-shirt, and adults can be entered into weekly drawings for \$50.00 gift certificates to local businesses of your choice! Activities and programs through Aug. 5th.

To sign up call, **360-385-6544** or go to jclibrary.info/summer2020.

LIVE ONLINE ZOOM EVENTS

Programs for all ages! Storytimes, technology classes, trivia contests, book discussions, and special events. All programs held via Zoom.us - links to each program can be found at: jclibrary.librarymarket.com/events/upcoming.

CHECK OUT eBOOKS & MORE ONLINE

eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and streaming video are available at jclibrary.info.

360-385-6544 information@jclibrary.info

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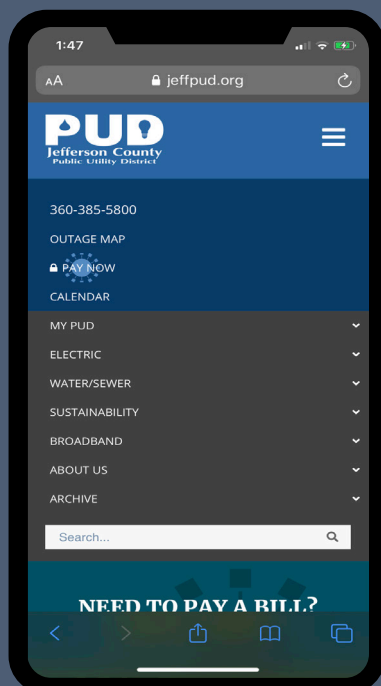
Pictured above: a partial driftwood fort standing at the mouth of Dabob Bay during low tide

CALL IF YOU NEED HELP 360 385-5800

If you are experiencing a financial hardship due to the effects of the COVID-19 virus and related shutdowns, contact customer service 9 -4:30pm, M-F, to make payment arrangements.

JEFFPUD.ORG

Use our website to pay bills, start service, apply for rebates, & check outages on your computer or phone.



Wifi hotspots added around county

Access to the internet was important before the COVID-19 outbreak. Since schools and businesses were shuttered and Washington State was ordered to Stay At Home, access to internet has become essential. Schools and churches moved online; basic business and government services were suddenly online only. Even weddings, birthday parties, and grocery shopping moved online. But if you don't have internet at home, or have extremely slow internet, as is true of many of our rural residents, how are you supposed to connect?

Prior to the pandemic, many residents used free wifi from public facilities and cafes to access the internet. With most of those options removed by the shutdown, PUDs around Washington State have stepped in to fill the void by installing free wifi hotspots around their service territories.

Jefferson County PUD began by adding an outdoor hotspot to its customer service office, beaming symmetrical speed internet to the parking lot. Hotspots were added next at substations that had both fiber connections and accessible parking: first at the Chimacum Substation and next at the Hasting substation in Port Townsend. By the end of April, the PUD had ten hotspots up and running around the county (incl. Gardiner and on Marrowstone Island at their respective fire stations) with plans for at least 15 by the end of May.

Depending on the site, our PUD hotspots provide speeds of anywhere from 10 to 100mbps each way. Each way is important. One of the things so many of us are discovering during the shutdown is that slow upload speeds (under 5mbps) make online classrooms and Zoom meetings difficult to participate in. Most of our free PUD hotspots offer symmetrical speeds, so its as fast coming down it is fast going up, and no one will complain about your face blurring or lagging and your voice not coming through clearly.

The network is open and it's accessible 24/7. Choose **JeffPUD_Community** from the list of wifi network options to connect. All locations have parking so users can connect from their cars safely, and at acceptable social distances.

Additionally, the PUD has added USB charging outlets to a few of our hotspot sites as well at the Jefferson County Library. You can find them listed and mapped along with the rest of our wifi hotspots (including notes on each) on our website at jeffpud.org/wifi-hotspots.

PUD wins safety award

Jefferson County PUD took third place in its division for the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA)'s annual electrical utility safety awards. The NWPPA represents over 155 utilities in the northwest. Awards are given out for the lowest total injury and illness rates reported for all employees. This was the first time the PUD has won the award said Senior Electrical Engineer Jimmy Scarborough.

"We're a new electric utility, maybe the newest in the NWPPA. Many to most of the other utilities have been operating for 50-100 years. We're still building our protocols and culture," said Scarborough. "But we already have a very active employee safety committee and we do monthly safety trainings for the crews. What we're doing is working and I'm proud of our team for taking safety seriously and winning this award."



Warm dry weather is coming. Water Wisely!

According to NOAA, the National Weather Service and our own in-house weather guru Resource Manager Bill Graham, this summer is shaping up to be hotter and drier than average. Which means that Jefferson County residents and PUD water customers will likely want to be watering their lawns and gardens a lot.

You can save money and help protect our limited resources by taking the time to learn to water wisely before the summer begins. Repair all hose and spigot leaks. Water early mornings and evenings and use a garden gauge to measure. Invest in drip irrigation and timers. Plant drought tolerant species. Learn more on our website: jeffpud.org/conservation-tips. Note, since Jan 1, a new 4th tier water rate has been in effect: \$1 per 100/gal for residential use over 30,000 gal/month.

Don't plant under power lines

Before you plant that tree, look up. If you see a power line, don't plant that tree. It seems simple, but people still do it, planting cedars, fir, birches, maples, and even giant sequoias directly underneath or right next to PUD power lines.

If you must plant near or under power lines, think small. Or short, no taller than 10-15 at most, and ideally 10-25 feet back from the power line zone. Keep any tall tree plantings (like those cedars or sequoias) at least 50 feet back.

If your home is supplied by underground power, try to keep landscaping at least 3 ft* or more from ground mounted transformers.

Some times the best solution to tree and power line conflicts is tree removal. Particularly in cases where trees may require repeated pruning, we work with neighborhoods to remove problem trees. Tree removal is especially important where pruning alone can't achieve safe clearance from power lines. We never remove trees without first talking with the homeowner. Along vacant stretches of road, we remove problem trees from the public right-of-way.

*12 feet from the door

Call 811 before you dig.

It's free! Call 811 and the PUD will send someone to locate any potential underground power, water, or propane lines. We can't help with rocks, but you'll find those on your own.

We're here to serve you!

The PUD is governed by a 3 member Board of Commissioners elected by the citizens of Jefferson County to alternating six year terms.

PUD Districts are the same as County Commissioners

District 1



Jeff Randall

jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

District 2



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Newsletter Editor: Will O'Donnell wodonnell@jeffpud.org

Public Utility District No.1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

April 2020 Newsletter

Public Power, Local Services,
Community Connections



Rainbow cutting through the fog on Admiralty Inlet in Port Townsend

OFFICES CLOSED

Due to COVID-19 concerns, all PUD offices are closed to customers until further notice.

POWER & WATER ON

We are committed to keeping the lights on and water flowing for all customers during this pandemic. The PUD has suspended late fees and disconnects for non-pay during the extent of the emergency declaration.

CALL IF YOU NEED HELP

If you are experiencing a financial hardship due to the effects of the COVID-19 virus or related shutdowns, contact our customer service representatives immediately to make payment arrangements. They are available by phone or email M-F, 9am to 4:30pm.

Health and Safety Come First

As a public utility delivering power, water, sewer, and wholesale broadband services, safety is always our primary concern. Delivering electricity and drinking water to nearly 20,000 customers already requires that we have in place multiple procedural redundancies to ensure no one is harmed by the essential services we provide to them.

That goes for our staff as well as our customers. Everyone knows our linemen and water crew have dangerous jobs, but statistically, neither profession are in the top ten of the most dangerous jobs in the US.* Part of the reason why is because as union workers (IBEW for Electric and Laborers for Water), safety protocols are drilled into them from day one on the job. Each task they perform has a checklist of steps to ensure that they come home from work safe every day. If one worker attempts something outside the protocols, it's the duty of their union brothers and sisters to call them out. If PUD management was to ask a union employee to perform a task outside of the checklist, the full weight of the union is there to back up the employee. Accidents do still happen, but when they do, our crews have response plans at the ready to deal with them.

Responding to an international pandemic has been different. If a water line breaks or a powerline goes down, we can isolate the break and redirect the supply, or issue a boil order at the worst. Keeping our customers and crew safe during the pandemic requires different actions. Keeping our customers healthy means keeping our services on and not letting them go down. Keeping our employees healthy means sending as many of them home as we can, which we've done, and separating and isolating our first responders, the crews that need to be on call at a moment's notice, 24/7, to keep our services flowing.

Thankfully our board and staff have risen to the challenge, and we will keep rising to the challenge for the duration of the pandemic. Stay safe, be healthy, wash your hands, keep appropriate distances, and contact us if you need help.

**According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Plumbers, pipefitters and wastewater workers, the closest equivalent to our water crew, have the 33rd most dangerous job, while electric line crew workers have the 11th (up from 16th the previous year). Surprisingly, garbage and recycling work was fifth. Fishing and logging were ranked as the two most dangerous careers.*

(360) 385-5800 jeffpud.org 210 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

THERE'S NOTHING SANITARY ABOUT FLUSHING WIPES!

Sanitary wipes are good for keeping surfaces clean but even so-called "flushables" are notorious for clogging or overflowing sewer and septic systems. Please remember:



Don't flush them down, throw them out.

Construction Fees Revised for Power & Water

Due to years of rising costs (and recent tariffs) on equipment and supplies for installing connections for new service, the PUD has revised its Construction Fee schedules for both power and water. The new schedules are available under the ELECTRIC and WATER tabs on our website. Please review them before applying for construction of a new service. These fees do not affect existing rate payers who are not modifying their current service.

BOC DECLARES EMERGENCY

At a special meeting on March 18th, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PUD commissioners declared an emergency, directing the General Manager to take actions to protect the health and safety of PUD customers and staff. Late fees and disconnects for non-pay are suspended for the duration of the emergency. PUD admin staff were enabled to work from home, and crews were silo'd to separate facilities and asked to maintain proper distances from members of the public.

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stands for Public
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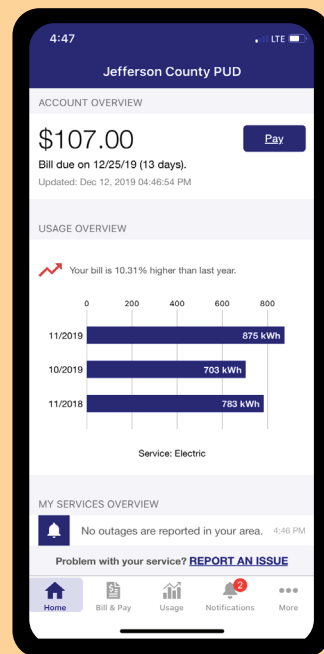
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(360) 302-0448

The best way to manage your PUD account is on a phone, tablet or computer

Even before our offices were closed, the best way to manage your utility account was online via our website or our PUD SmartHub app. Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, and its unique ability to survive on surfaces, all bills paid by mail or dropbox have to be quarantined for three days after we receive them. But you can pay instantly and avoid any possibility of virus transmission by paying online. While there you can also view your usage, report outages, or sign up for features like autopay.



Attend Commission Meetings Online or by Phone w/ Webex

Jefferson County PUD is committed to transparency and public access. Members of the public can now attend meetings of the PUD's Board of Commissioners online or over the phone via Webex Meetings. Regular meetings of the commission will continue to be held on the first and third Tuesdays at 5pm. All commissioners and staff will be attending remotely. Due to the limits of time and technology, members of the public are encouraged to submit comments, questions, or notification of intent to speak in advance. Instructions on how to call in or join our meetings online are available on our website: jeffpud.org.



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

March 2020 Newsletter

Budget Billing &



Levelized Payments

Depending on the season, the amount due on your electric bill can vary widely.

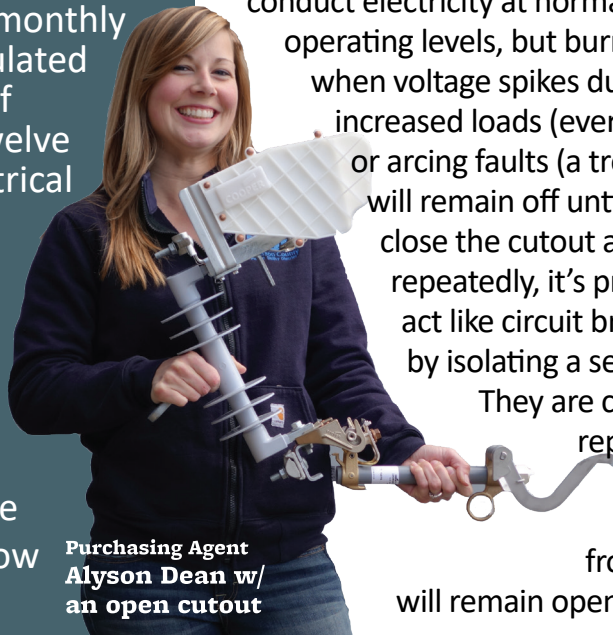
The PUD's Budget Billing program provides customers with more predictability. That's because Budget Billing allows you to pay the same or nearly the same amount every month.

If you sign up for the program, your monthly bill will be calculated as an average of the previous twelve months of electrical usage.

Avoid surprises and keep bills consistent.

Call Customer Service for more info or enroll now on Smarthub.

Purchasing Agent
**Alyson Dean w/
an open cutout**



CUTOUTS RECLOSERS & TRANSFORMERS

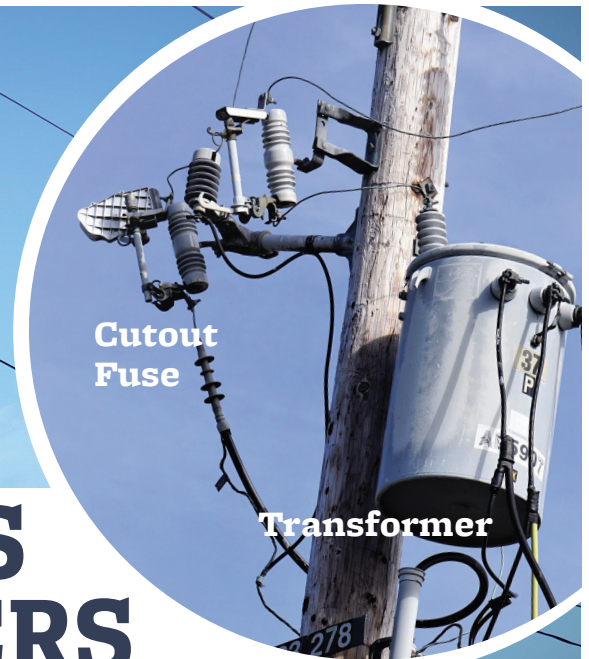
If you've heard a loud booming or shotgun-like blast prior to an outage, then you likely heard the sound of a cutout fuse opening up. Cutout fuses are located between the power line and the transformer and protect the transformer from damage, much like a circuit breaker in your home electrical panel. When cutouts open, the PUD often receives reports of exploding transformers. But according to General Manager Kevin Streett, explosions are rare. Transformers sometimes overheat or fail due to age, but unless they are directly struck by lightning, they don't blow up.

Cutouts have fuses inside that conduct electricity at normal operating levels, but burn up when voltage spikes due to

increased loads (everyone turning on their dryers at the same time) or arcing faults (a tree on the line). When a cutout opens, power will remain off until a lineman arrives to replace the fuse and close the cutout arm. If your power blinks or dims on and off repeatedly, it's probably a recloser hard at work. Reclosers also act like circuit breakers, and are often used to reduce outages by isolating a section of line from the rest of the circuit.

They are called reclosers because they open and close repeatedly when they detect increased load or arc faults (usually a tree, branch, or animal).

If the cause of the fault does not clear (or fall from the line) after 3-4 reclosings, the recloser will remain open until a line crew arrives to fix the problem.



Owen hired as CSR



April Owen, the PUD's newest customer service representative might look familiar. She worked for the City of Port Townsend for nearly 30 years before coming to the PUD, supporting both the Police and Fire Department at different times.

Owen has lived both in Jefferson County and on Four Corners Road her entire life, though, she explains, in different houses. In fact, her aunt once lived at 210 Four Corners, the address of the PUD's temporary customer service office where Owen now works.

Owen says she can't imagine calling any other place home. She loves being near the water, mountains, and trees. She and her husband have two children, one who recently graduated from Chimacum High and one attending middle school.

Bland hired as Meter Reader



Jesse Bland was already a familiar face around the PUD before he was hired as the PUD's newest meter reader. Bland's father Lue owns L&J Excavation, a frequent contractor for the PUD, and Bland stopped by the PUD often to pickup materials for jobs. Bland has worked for his father off and on since attending high school (he went to Chimacum), but spent most of the last 10 years in Boise, where he attended college and then worked a college recruiter and healthcare recruiter.

Bland and his wife decided to move back to Jefferson County after becoming parents. He said he pursued the job at the PUD because of the solid benefits and the good relationships he'd developed with staff. The transition was a little tough for his dad, but Bland said he understood and was proud.

2020 US Census starts Apr 1

The Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five US territories. Data collected from the census provides critical information to lawmakers, businesses, teachers, and other organizations.

Census data is used to allocate billions of dollars in federal funding to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other more. Census results also determine congressional and state legislative districts.

Beginning in mid-March, mailings will be sent to all Jefferson County residents with information on how to complete the upcoming Census. 2020 is the first year the 10 question Census will be available on-line. A paper census is available as is a phone number to call. Reminders will be mailed through April.

If no response is received, a Census Taker will visit on-site and take answers in person. Census responses are required by law. There is a \$5,000 fine per question for not completing the Census or not responding truthfully.

Data from the 2010 Census resulted in more than \$16 billion dollars of federal spending in WA State, and \$2,319 per person per year for school lunch, senior assistance and transportation programs in Jefferson County.

Board of Commissioners

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jrandall@jeffpud.org

District 2 Ken Collins
kcollins@jeffpud.org

District 3 Dan Toepper
dtoepper@jeffpud.org

Kevin Streett, GM
kstreett@jeffpud.org

Newsletter Editor: Will O'Donnell wodonnell@jeffpud.org

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One of the many trees that fell on powerlines during the snowstorm on the Coyle

February 2020 Newsletter
Public Power, Local Services, Community Connections

TIPS FOR REPORTING OUTAGES

CHECK YOUR BREAKERS

Many reported outages are merely tripped breakers. Know where your electrical panel is and check it before calling.

CHECK YOUR NEIGHBORS

If you don't know where your panel is, check with neighbors to see if their power is out. It helps the PUD to know if the outage is isolated or affecting multiple homes.

CALL (360) 385-5800

Anytime, 24/7. If you call from the number associated with your PUD account, you may get an automated message informing you that we are aware of the outage. Listen for instructions if you need to speak to a PUD representative.

OR USE SMART HUB

If you pay your PUD bill on your phone with the Smart Hub app you can also use it to report outages instantly. No waiting on the phone necessary. And you can use your phone to follow PUD outage updates on Facebook or Twitter.

Groundhog Day in January

PUD Utility Accountant Nate Tantom has lived on the Coyle Peninsula for 23 years. She loves it, but admits it's not the easiest place to get to.

"My biggest complaint is how long it takes to get to the grocery store," said Tantom, who estimates the drive to the closest store, QFC in Hadlock, to be a half hour or more each way. "And maybe internet. But otherwise it's just really quiet and peaceful. And there's lots of animals. Bears, cougars, bobcats, I've seen them all." In January, Tantom also saw 13 inches of snow fall at her home. Unlike the more populated regions of Jefferson County, the snow on the Coyle lasted for seven days. And while the winter storm didn't lead to a lot of homes on the peninsula without power, the outages that did occur were lengthy and repeated.

On Thorndyke Road, the PUD line crew repaired one section of power line twice in less than 24 hours. A tree fell onto the line in the morning and again in the evening. The crew returned to the shop after working all day in the snow and cold were forced to head back to the same spot again. Another section of wire on the Coyle had three different trees fall onto or through it three different times over the course of three days. Again the crews were back and forth from the shop, believing their work to be complete and then having to head back to do it again. Like Groundhog Day, but in January.

While Tantom's trips back and forth to the Coyle were relatively easy, the going for the line crews, driving service and bucket trucks, was slower. They had to use chains to contend with snow-covered side roads that saw no plows. Though no more than 50 customers were ever without power, the PUD crews worked round the clock for days to remove the trees and restore power, over and over. If a tree falls out of the woods, and onto a power line, our crews will be there: snow, rain, or shine. No matter how near or far.*

*unless you live in Brinnon. Mason 1 PUD provides electricity to Brinnon.



*technically, it's the Toandos Peninsula, but locally known as the Coyle

Melanie Patterson hired as Human Resources Manager



Prior to coming to the PUD, Melanie Patterson lived and worked in Bellevue as an HR Specialist for the local school district.

Though she's only been a resident for a couple of months, Patterson has visited Jefferson County every summer for the

last nearly 20 years. She was drawn to the position at Jefferson County PUD in part because of the slower pace and access to the outdoors, and in part because it would allow her to work on a broader array of tasks in the human resources field. Patterson was also excited to join an organization that was still growing and changing.

An avid runner, Patterson is looking forward to participating in this year's Rhody and Oyster Runs. Though she completed a marathon in 2019, she said she's sticking to shorter races this year.



Slow Down and Move Over for PUD Vehicles, It's the Law!

When police, fire, or ambulances pass by, most people know to pull over. Not only is it the right thing to do, it's the law. The same laws apply to utility trucks. Though you are unlikely to see a PUD line truck speeding down the center lane, if you encounter them working along the side of a road, you must slow down and move over before attempting to pass. Failing to do so puts workers' lives in danger and risks a \$1,000 fine or jail.



Lineman Kurt Anderson tying in primary conductor wires on top of a power pole.

STAY BACK FROM DOWNED POWER LINES!

Keep yourself, children, or pets as far away from downed power lines as possible. The ground around a downed line may be energized up to 50 feet from the wire.

DON'T MOVE DOWNED POWER LINES YOURSELF

Even if they are blocking your driveway. Call the PUD or 911. Don't risk dying to get to work on time.

DON'T DRIVE OVER DOWNED LINES!

Downed lines can spark, or they can become tangled in the wheel or axle. If a wire comes in contact with the vehicle, do not try to exit the vehicle.

CALL THE PUD OR CALL 911!

Downed lines are deadly. Our crews are on call 24/7 and are trained to handle them. Call immediately.

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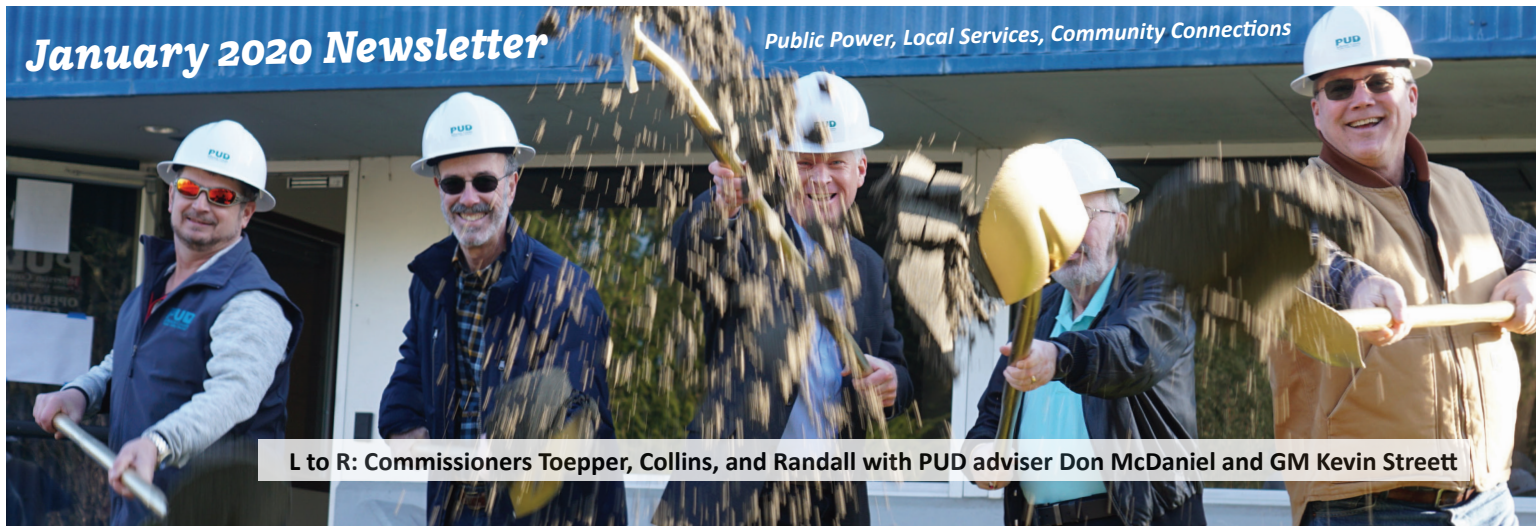
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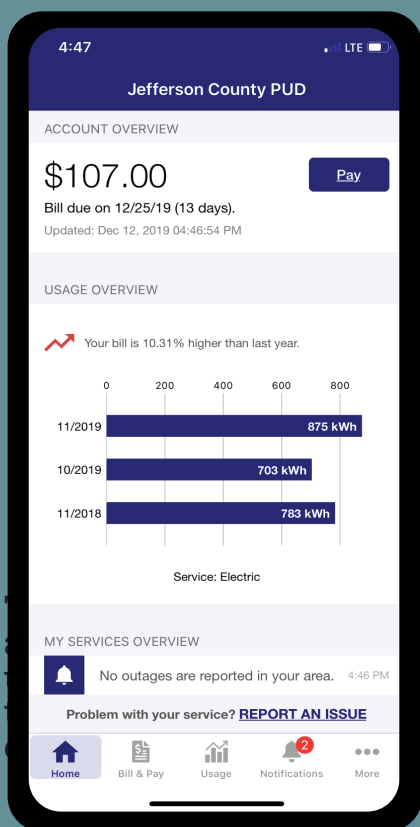
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L to R: Commissioners Toepper, Collins, and Randall with PUD adviser Don McDaniel and GM Kevin Streett

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Pay Online, View Usage, Report Outages, anytime 24/7.



Sign up for the newly redesigned app on our website jeffpud.org or download it from your device's app store

PUD

Jefferson County
Public Utility District

Breaking ground on a new year at the PUD

In 2020, Jefferson County PUD will mark 7 years in the electric business. In December, the PUD received its 4th consecutive clean audit from the state, broke ground on the expansion of its operations facility, and passed a long debated opt-out policy for electrical meters.

Since 2013, the PUD has invested tens of millions of dollars upgrading and modernizing Jefferson County's electrical grid. In the summer of 2019, the PUD upgraded three of its seven substations. In 2020, the PUD will continue investing in its infrastructure, improving reliability and outage response.

The PUD also hired a dozen new employees in 2019. Some were hired to fill open positions, while others were hired for newly created and long needed positions like Water Superintendent, Fleet/Warehouse Helper, and Electrical Pre-Apprentice. Adding staff has been a priority for Streett since becoming GM in June. "We ran very lean during my first few years at the PUD, and we had to, but it's been clear to me for some time that we couldn't deliver the level of service our customers deserve without adding more staff."

In 2020, Streett hopes to add a few more staff members, including a replacement for his prior position as Electrical Superintendent. He's also dedicating more funds to employee training and development, with a goal of not only helping employees improve performance today but building up leadership for tomorrow.

Streett is excited for the future of the PUD. In 2020 the PUD will begin a second round of broadband planning. Aided by a grant from the State Public Works Board, the PUD will work on developing business cases for building last-mile fiber or wireless connections.

Streett is also exploring options for electric vehicle (EV) charging, and hopes to add the first ever EV to the PUD's fleet in 2020, powered, of course, by 97% carbon-free PUD electricity.



Water Distribution Manager Jose Escalera working on a buried water line in Port Hadlock.

Kenny Yingling hired as Fleet/Warehouse Helper



At the PUD, Yingling's duties are split between managing the up-keep and maintenance of all PUD vehicles (including bucket trucks, water trucks, staff pickups and sedans), and helping stock and inventory materials in the PUD warehouse.

Yingling graduated from Port Townsend High School in 1997. He worked at Jefferson Transit as

a Service Technician for nine years prior to joining the PUD, and before that in facilities maintenance at the now defunct Fred Hill Materials.

Outside of work, Yingling is heavily involved in youth sports. For the last ten years he has managed East Jefferson Little League, remaining on even after his now 17-year-old son aged out of the program. Yingling said the PUD's enthusiastic participation in local community events like the County Fair and high school career days was part of what attracted him to the job.

Theresa Giese hired as CSR



Before being hired as our newest Customer Service Representative (CSR), Giese worked as the Office Manager of the San Juan Villa Memory Care Center. Giese grew up in Jefferson County and

graduated from Chimacum High School in 2008.

"It's nice, having grown up here, I already know a lot of the customers, and I get to see people that I haven't seen for several years."

Giese lives on the Coyle Peninsula with boyfriend Dennis and dogs Macy and Max. They love to fish, shrimp, and crab, all of which they can do almost in their own back yard. Having a boat certainly helps.



Opt-Out Policy approved. Meter options available.

Starting January 6th, any qualifying single phase customer can request the installation of a non-radio frequency (rf) transmitting electrical meter at their home. There is no charge for the installation, but an additional \$5 monthly fee will be added to the customer's bill to recover some of the PUD's costs to perform manual walk-up readings of the non-rf meter. Current PUD meters are read remotely.

Most opt-out applicants can choose between either a non-rf transmitting analog or digital meter. Net metering (solar power) customers are limited to the digital meter, and must pay a \$75 installation fee.

Applications can be found online under the MY PUD tab of the PUD's website, or at our 210 Four Corners Rd. Customer Service office.

Round up or Donate to the Rainy Day Fund



Share some comfort during the coldest months of the year.

Check the box under the amount due tab on your bill to round to the nearest dollar. Or consider making a one time donation to help those who need it most.

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