Mason County PUD No. 3’s Electricity is 97 Percent Carbon Free

We Have Some of the Cleanest Energy in the Country

Mason County’s clean power is the envy of the nation—it’s 97 percent carbon free. Because your electricity comes from the Bonneville Power Administration, 85 percent of the energy is generated by reliable and renewable hydroelectricity.

The rich energy resources of the Columbia River Basin ensure that the electricity generated in the Pacific Northwest is much cleaner than other regions in the country, where they rely mostly on more expensive and more polluting coal and natural gas to keep their lights on.

The carbon free electricity enjoyed by public power utilities in Washington State looks great compared to the rest of the U-S. And, it’s cleaner than most other for-profit (or corporate) utilities in the region.

Nationally, 37 percent of all carbon emissions are connected to electricity generation. But, in Washington State it’s 15.3 percent, mainly because of how much clean energy is generated by hydroelectricity.

So, when your friends talk to you about clean energy and carbon, you can proudly tell them that your PUD 3 electricity is among the cleanest in the nation… an argument that holds (and comes from) water.

Mason County PUD No. 3 is a community-owned and governed utility. Its mission is “always providing safe, reliable, economical service, 24/7.”
Rate Increase to Take Place in October

Last year, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) increased its wholesale electricity costs by seven percent, and increased the cost of transporting that power to local customers by an additional 4.4 percent.

In response, the PUD 3 commission adopted a rate plan last October that would soften the blow to PUD 3 customers by spreading the increase over two years. The second phase of that increase will begin with meter reads on or after October 1, 2016.

The price per kilowatt-hour will go up by four percent (from $.0699 per kilowatt-hour to $.0727 per kilowatt-hour), and the system charge by ten cents per day (to $1.10 per day).

Bonnieville Power Administration (BPA) has made three consecutive and significant hikes in its wholesale rates. The federal power-marketing agency implemented a 9 percent power rate increase in 2013, and a 7.8 percent increase in 2011. BPA has increased its wholesale energy prices 29 percent since 2008.

The average increase in PUD 3 residential power bills will be about 5.5 percent, or about six dollars per month for a typical PUD 3 electricity customer.

We Like to Keep You in the Know
PUD 3's Communication Team is Recognized by the Northwest Public Power Association for Excellence in Communication

This year, NWPPA received a record-breaking 204 entries from 37 different utility and association members.

““This is a great honor,” said Joel Myer, PUD 3’s public information and government relations manager. “We never lose sight of the fact that our customers and community are the reason we strive for excellence.”

Now in its 23rd year, the Excellence in Communication contest recognized the top communication efforts of member utilities from throughout NWPPA’s service territory, which includes eight western states and one Canadian province.

PUD 3 won five “Excellence in Communications” awards from the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) among utilities its size.

The team took home first place in the photography and website categories, third place for its annual report, LED lighting pamphlet, and social media.
Customers In Need of Assistance

Project Share
Through the generosity of donors, low-income families (as certified by CAC) can receive help with a $175 payment on their account.

To find out if you qualify, contact the CAC at 360-426-9726 or visit the website www.cacmt.org.

Low Income Senior Discount
Seniors, age 61 and over; who are permanent, year-round customers of PUD 3; and whose annual income is $40,000 or less may qualify. The discount amounts to the removal of the daily system charge. Contact the PUD directly to apply.

Low Income Disabled Discount
Low-income disabled persons, may also have the daily system charge removed. To qualify, call the CAC at (360) 426-9726 to schedule a qualification appointment.

Federal Low-Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
Contact CAC at 360-426-9726 or visit the website at www.cacmt.org to find out if you qualify for Federal LIHEAP finds. Assistance amounts are determined by household size, income, heat source and the previous year’s energy usage and are based on availability of funds.

Prepare for Winter Storms
Every Year We Get Ourselves Ready...Do You?
While PUD 3 has won awards for its reliability, no utility can guarantee uninterrupted power, especially during winter storms. Power outages can range from a few minutes to several hours or days depending on the severity of the cause. Here are some things you should have on hand in case of an emergency outage:

- Three- to five-day supply of non-perishable food that needs little or no cooking
- Blankets and pillows
- Portable, battery-powered radio and clock
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Manual can opener, bottle opener, and utility knife
- First-aid kit
- Bottled water (one gallon per person per day)
- Candles
- Matches in a waterproof container or a lighter
- Cooler (keep ice or ice packs ready in your freezer)
- Personal hygiene and sanitary supplies
- Cash (ATMs and banks may not be available)
- Pet supplies for three to five days
- Playing cards, games, and books for entertainment
- Prescription medications
- Phone charger for a car

Assemble as much as you can and put it in a storage tub in a place that is easily accessed in the event of an emergency.

Round Up for Share
For less than a dollar a month you can help light up someone’s life. Round up your PUD bill to the nearest dollar and receive a free 4-pack LED bulb package for participating.

Your generous contribution keeps the lights and heat on in homes throughout our area. Simply round up your bill to the nearest dollar and your spare change can make a big contribution to families in need. You will receive a one-time 4-pack of the MaxLite LED bulbs for signing up for this automatic monthly donation.

Promotion ends December 31, 2016. Low income families are certified by the CAC. Not used for administrative costs. Tax deductible.
PUD 3 News is a publication of Public Utility District No. 3 of Mason County. It is published periodically to keep the customers of PUD 3 updated on local, regional and national developments within the power industry.

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PUD 3 News

Yvonne Roberts - Senior Network Systems Analyst

Yvonne Roberts works for the PUD's Information Services (IS) department. Lovingly referred to as the “unsung heroes” at the utility. They do the work behind the scenes to make sure that we can all do the work that serves you, our customers. Yvonne specifically helps manage the District’s network. Making sure that our system is secure and that all the hardware and software the utility uses is communicating. In addition to that Yvonne is overseeing the implementation of the utility’s software that will track all of the utility’s Human Resource (HR) functions, like payroll, benefits, etc.

You and I might think that sounds overwhelming, but Yvonne loves a challenge. She started with the utility as a student while she graduated from Shelton High School in 1989 and attended South Puget Sound for an associate’s degree in accounting. After working in the accounting department for PUD 3, she was asked to help the IS department out in preparation for the year 2000 (Y2K). Her talents for problem solving and love for learning new things made her choice between the two departments fairly easy.

She enjoys the collaborative nature of the work in IS and says she never gets bored.

A lot has changed since she started with PUD 3. In fact, she said there wasn’t even a computer here when she started – Just big terminals and huge (loud) printers. She has noticed with the rapid pace of changing technology, that there are more and more devices to support. She says that the technology is driving improvements to processes and she sees more change in the future with Office 365 and cloud computing. But that doesn’t bother her, she loves helping people and troubleshooting.

Her other loves include spending time with her husband, family and four dogs. Yvonne has a 21-year-old son and a 16-year-old daughter. She enjoys playing video games and going to the movies – she’s a big action and sci-fi buff. Maybe that’s because she’s a superhero in all she does here for the PUD…

Round Up for Share Authorization

Sign up for an automatic monthly donation to receive your bulbs while supplies last.

Each month, I ________________________________ hereby authorize Mason County PUD 3 to bill my account in the following method for the Project Share Fund. This authorization shall remain in effect until PUD 3 receives written notification from me to terminate this agreement. I understand that if my account becomes past due, this authorization becomes invalid.

- Round up my bill to the nearest dollar each month.
- Bill my account monthly for the following amount: $5 $10 $20 Other $_______

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________
Service Address: ____________________________
Account No: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

☐ I would like to support the Project Share fund with a one-time donation and still be eligible for the LED light bulb giveaway. $__________ enclosed.