Mason County PUD No. 3 is a community-owned and governed utility, created to provide safe, reliable and cost-based electric and wholesale telecommunication services. PUD 3 strives to meet the community’s expectations through responsive customer service; an educated, well-trained staff; a strong commitment to protect and improve the public’s investment in the utility; and the wise and efficient use of the community’s resources.

PUD 3 Celebrates its 75th Anniversary

Since 1939, Mason County PUD 3 has placed service above all else. That is a fundamental principal behind public power. Public Power in Washington state was formed under Initiative number 1, also known as the Grange Power Act.

The Washington State Grange sponsored the initiative in order to get power to rural area farms. In 1932, the initiative Passed and in 1934, Mason County PUD 3 and PUD 1 were granted the authority from voters, who were tired of unfair rate schedules from the private power companies, to form public power districts. (PUD 2, which would have served the Agate area withdrew its petition to join forces with PUD 3.)

While both PUD 3 and PUD 1 were created in 1934, PUD 3 didn’t begin serving its first 8 customers until May of 1939. Mason County is the only county in Washington state with two operating PUDs.

At its inception, PUD 3 was served by Tacoma’s Cushman Plant until 1948 when it signed its first wholesale power contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The PUD has purchased virtually all of its electricity from BPA since that time.

Mason County PUD 3 has come a long way since those first 8 customers in 1939. It now serves over 32,000 customers (at-cost) with the cleanest, renewable, and most reliable electricity in the nation. It owns and operates 11 substations and maintains over 1,700 miles of lines.

The PUD is governed by a board of 3 elected commissioners, so customers of PUD 3 can feel good about living in a public power community where they have local control. The employees also take pride in the service they provide and they are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The official anniversary celebration will happen during public power week in October, but watch all year for special promotions!
New Bill Design in 2014

As part of a cost-savings initiative, the District has changed our billing process. In doing so, we had an opportunity to re-design your bill.

A Check the Bill Message area for important messages from Mason County Public Utility District 3. The District will use this area to share updates each billing cycle.

B Key account information including Account Number, Amount Due, Service Address, and Due Date are displayed in the Account Information section.

C This area provides information on your usage. You'll find meter readings and a consumption graph to help you analyze your usage habits. The graph is helpful for conservation purposes and in alerting you to possible excessive usage.

More details to come with your new bill in February.

Low Income Senior & Disability Discounts

To qualify for the senior citizen discount, a person must be 61 and over, a permanent, year-round customer of PUD 3, have an annual disposable household income of $35,000 or less; and not live in federally subsidized housing. The discount waives the daily system charge. A senior citizen discount application form is available from the PUD, or online at www.masonpud3.org.

The low-income disabled discount also removes the daily system charge. To qualify, the PUD 3 account must be in the name of the disabled person. The customer cannot live in federally subsidized housing and must be a permanent, year-round customer of the PUD. To see if you qualify, contact the Community Action Council at 426-9726 or toll free at 1-800-952-6992 to schedule a qualification appointment.

PUD 3 Rate Increase with February Meter Readings

An increase in the price of electricity purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and requirements of a state energy law mean higher electricity costs for PUD 3 customers in 2014.

On average, a customer who uses 1,000-kilowatt hours of electricity per month will see the price for their service increase from $86.10 to $92.20 per month (without state and local taxes), an increase of $6.10.

Customers will notice in the redesigned bills coming out in February, that the PUD will break out all taxes charged by Washington State and local governments. This is intended to provide full disclosure about how these added taxes affect a customer's bill.

The increase in the cost of electricity purchased from BPA actually went into effect in October, however the PUD has been using some reserves and financial management in order to hold off passing along the increase until February 1 in an effort to help customers get through the colder months.

The requirement to increase conservation efforts and the obligation to purchase higher cost “qualified” renewable energy under state law will cost the utility approximately $1.1 million in 2014.

Watch for your new bill design in February!
PUD 3 Commissioner Linda Gott was recently named to a one-year term on the American Public Power Association Policy Makers Council. The 40-member council assists APPA in promoting federal legislation that is important to public power utilities like PUD 3, and works to protect utilities from harmful legislation.

The American Public Power Association (APPA) is based in Washington, DC and serves more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities. Ms. Gott was elected to the Mason County PUD 3 board of commission in 1999, and is in her third six-year term. She is the first woman elected to the PUD 3 commission in its 75-year history.

“I’m excited about the chance to take part in the battle to protect the interests of PUD 3 customers, as well as those that are served by public power utilities across the country.”

-Linda Gott

Having served in a variety of leadership roles with Pacific Northwest utility trade groups and on boards for public power consortiums, she has used her position as PUD 3 commissioner to represent local and regional public power interests.

Having local representation in this important national leadership post, will not only serve the customers of Mason County PUD 3 - but all customers of public power in the Northwest.

### Comparative Electricity Cost with Neighboring Utilities For Households Based on 1,000 kWh / Month

- **Lewis County PUD**: $65.10
- **Mason County PUD 3**: $89.20
- **Grays Harbor PUD**: $95.45
- **Mason County PUD 1**: $98.66
- **Puget Sound ENERGY**: $100.50
- **U.S. AVERAGE Residential Energy Rate**: $120.70

*SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy*
PUD 3 and City of Shelton to Showcase LED Streetlights

A Bright Future for: Wallace Kneeland Boulevard, Northcliff Rd., Olympic Highway N., and Brockdale Rd.

PUD 3 and the city of Shelton are teaming up to conduct a pilot project to show the benefits of street lights that use light emitting diodes, more commonly called LEDs.

A number of LED lighting projects in the Pacific Northwest have improved nighttime visibility with a better quality light for motorists, pedestrians and law enforcement, while reducing electricity costs for cities and utilities.

Areas in Shelton targeted for the test program include Wallace Kneeland Boulevard, Northcliff Road, Olympic Highway North, and Brockdale Road.

About 75 lights will be fitted with the energy saving fixtures, which use much less electricity than high-pressure sodium bulbs; last up to ten times longer; and for the comparable brightness have a better light spectrum. Energy savings is expected to be approximately $600 per year on the city’s streetlight bill.

Benefits to the PUD will be lower energy consumption and maintenance costs; the ability to test new technology; and credit towards meeting state energy laws for renewable energy and conservation.

In the photo above, the intersection in the background shows the stark difference in the quality of light and visibility that LED fixtures provide. Rather than the yellowish spotlight effect of the High Pressure Sodium bulbs (in the foreground), LEDs “paint” the light on the ground which is much better for motorists, pedestrians and law enforcement.

Meter Reader Vince Campagna Presented with “Good Samaritan” Award

PUD 3 meter reader Vince Campagna was awarded the Washington Public Utility Districts Association’s 2013 “Good Samaritan Award” last month. It was in recognition of his response following a February 13 fatal traffic accident on Highway 3, and his actions that saved lives and prevented additional accidents and injuries.

After witnessing the accident, Campagna directed traffic at the scene; checked the condition of the victims; and asked the driver of a sand and gravel truck to use his fire extinguisher to put out a fire that had flared up in one of the vehicles. When emergency responders arrived on the scene to take control, he then drove to the Belfair office to report for work.

A passer-by contacted the PUD the following day and commended Campagna for his service.

Upon receiving the award, Campagna said it was sad that there was the loss of life in the accident, but that he was lucky that he was in the right place to help the survivor and prevent other persons from being injured.