

PUD 3 NEWS

Winter 2021



Start Saving Energy with a Smart Thermostat

Customers with an electric furnace or heat pump may qualify for \$150 rebate

In recent years, many people have turned to smart thermostats to remotely adjust the heating and cooling in their homes. A smart thermostat can offer a lot in terms of efficiency, convenience, and features. Best of all, it can help you save on heating and cooling costs.

What is a smart thermostat?

A smart thermostat is a thermostat that can be controlled with a phone, tablet, smart speaker, or other internet-connected device.

How does a smart thermostat save you money?

A smart thermostat allows your HVAC system to run more efficiently, using less energy, by cooling and heating your home only as much as needed and reminding you when it's time to perform maintenance. Room sensors can also reduce energy

consumption by heating and cooling specific areas more accurately.

PUD 3 appreciates the value smart thermostats can deliver to its customers. A smart thermostat learns your heating preferences and prevents overheating or cooling of your home to save big on energy costs.

What are the requirements for installation?

Most homes with modern HVAC systems can upgrade to a smart thermostat, provided there is a Wi-Fi connection. However, given that there are a variety of different types of heating and cooling setups, it is important to confirm your system's compatibility before purchasing a smart thermostat.

To find out if a smart thermostat is right for you, call the PUD Conservation Department at 360.426.0777 for more information on qualifying products.

Commissioners:

Thomas J. Farmer, President
Linda R. Gott, Vice President
Bruce E. Jorgenson, Secretary

PUD 3 Commissioner Re-elected for Third Term

Tom Farmer, PUD 3 Commissioner from District 2, will enter his third term of office beginning January 1, 2021. Representing the northeastern area of Mason County, Tom has been on the board since 2009. His fellow commissioners have elected him to continue to serve as the board president for 2021.



Winter is Here...

That means colder temperatures, shorter days and higher-than-normal energy bills.

Bill shock can happen, especially this time of year with so many working and learning from home. Heating your home throughout the day can double heating hours and translate to bills that look a lot higher than a year ago.

Here are some tips to keep your bill lower:

Smart Investment Tip



For customers with electrically heated homes, the PUD offers rebates to help pay for eligible heat pumps, which provide efficient heating in the winter and cooling in the summer! Customers who upgrade their inefficient electric heating systems can save on winter heating bills.

No-cost Tip



Making thoughtful adjustments to thermostats will have a large impact on heating bills. For each degree a thermostat is turned down, a customer could see a 2% - 3% reduction in monthly heating bills. Also, don't forget to turn down the thermostat in unused rooms.

Low-cost Tip



Help your furnace breathe by replacing air filters. Make sure to check the air filters in an electric furnace every month. By replacing dirty filters, you can improve air quality as well as save energy.

pud3.org/saveenergy



CARES Funding Update

As a sub-recipient of federal CARES funds from Mason County, PUD 3 was able to connect customers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to job loss; reduction in work hours; layoff; illness or other circumstances with \$300,000 in CARES funding.

PUD 3 Commissioners Adopt 2021 Budget & Rate Increase

On November 24, 2020, PUD 3 Commissioners adopted a \$81.5 million budget for 2021, which includes an increase in the daily system charge and the first local energy rate increase since 2016. The adopted budget takes a conservative approach based on the uncertain economic impacts of COVID-19, while also prioritizing the safety and reliability of the essential services the utility provides.

Read the full news release at: www.pud3.org/news.

Need Help Paying Your Bill? We're Here to Help!

PUD 3 has programs for customers who are having difficulties paying their bill or need to adjust their energy use to keep their bills under control. If financial problems make it difficult for you to pay your bill, contact our offices or visit our website at www.pud3.org/help to learn more about our assistance programs.

Storm Preparedness:

Sudden power outages and disasters can occur without warning. PUD 3 encourages customers to be prepared for winter weather and disasters. Don't get caught in the dark without a plan. For tips on responding to power outages, as well as other emergencies, visit: www.pud3.org/prepared.

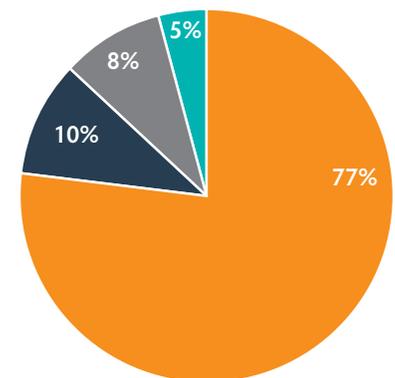
Build a Kit Make a Plan Be Informed

Mason PUD 3 Utility Fuel Mix Report

The 2019 fuel mix for PUD 3 (reported in 2020) listed as a percentage of the total is:

SOURCE	PERCENTAGE
Coal	0.00%
Hydroelectric	76.53%
Natural Gas	0.00%
Nuclear	10.42%
Petroleum	0.00%
Solar	0.03%
Wind	8.12%
Unspecified	4.90%
Other Generation	0.00%
TOTAL	100%
Renewable & non-emitting	95.10%

■ Hydroelectric
■ Nuclear
■ Wind
■ Other Sources (purchased from market)





PUD 3 offices will remain closed for the foreseeable future. We recognize the unique challenges some customers have in doing business remotely with the PUD. Many new services have been implemented to help make the process easier, such as the addition of payment kiosks in downtown Shelton and at the Belfair warehouse, electronic forms, and dual-language communications. We appreciate your patience as we continue our efforts to provide reliable services throughout Mason County.

PUD 3 Employees Give Back to the Communities They Serve

All-year-long, PUD 3 employees donate and volunteer to many local organizations, including raising over \$18,000 for United Way of Mason County for 2020.

The holiday season is special. Each year, The PUD's volunteer employee association (PUDEA), which coordinates opportunities for employee giving, teams up with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to sponsor foster kids in Mason County and fulfill their Christmas wish lists.

Additionally, every November employees donate time and money to deliver fixings for Thanksgiving dinners to families in need - another annual tradition organized by the PUDEA.

These are just a few of the ways our employees serve their neighbors, families, and friends to strengthen and connect our community. We believe our partnerships with local agencies have a lasting impact. PUD 3 is proud to be community-powered.

roundup For Project Share

Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Round up your bill to the nearest dollar or choose a set dollar amount. Your extra change goes to Project Share, neighbors helping neighbors in need. Sign up today!

www.pud3.org/roundup

"Connecting our community with safe, reliable, economical, and sustainable services, 24/7."

Contact Us:

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Shelton, WA 98584

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Belfair: 360-275-2833
Elma: 360-861-4247
Fax: 360-426-8547

Kiosk & Dropbox Locations:

Shelton Kiosk/Dropbox
310 W. Cota Street
Shelton, WA 98584

Johns Prairie Dropbox only
2621 E Johns Prairie Road
Shelton, WA 98584

Belfair Warehouse Kiosk:
21341 E State Route 3
Belfair, WA 98528

Belfair Payment Center
Dropbox only
24081 E Hwy 3 Ste B
Belfair, WA 98528

Pay-by-Phone:

1-844-255-3683

Pay by SmartHub:

my.pud3.org or use
SmartHub Mobile app

By email:

hello@masonpud3.org

