

# HOTLINE

**News From Your Public Power Utility • 4th Quarter, 2022** 



## Electric rate decrease announced for 2023!

See General Manager's message page 2







Employees were so happy to visit with customers at the Fair!

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Clallam County PUD PO Box 1000 Carlsborg, WA 98324

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## From the General Manager



**SEAN WORTHINGTON** 

It's been a busy summer of projects and we have also been wrapping up our application to the American Public Power Association's (APPA's) Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation. This is a renewal year for us, having achieved the designation the past three application periods. Each time the application becomes more challenging as the RP3 panel intends for this award to recognize best practices in the industry. It is important that utilities are continuously reaching for stretch goals.

I am pleased to announce that through dedicated adherence to the District's Strategic Plan, strong fiscal management, award-winning internal controls and BPA's Reserve Distribution Clause, there will be an electric rate *decrease* for 2023 in the amount of 0.5% on kWh energy. Look for more information to come on this exciting news!

We recently adopted an updated Strategic Plan (read more about this on page 6). Through the public comments that were submitted, we realize that there are some aspects of how public utilities do business that we need to clarify. PUDs are soon to be entering into a new long-term contract for wholesale power. These contract negotiations are a combined effort of the PUDs leveraging themselves together to negotiate the best wholesale power contracts for our ratepayers. The contracts are not negotiated on an individual utility basis. Hence the importance of industry trade associations such as the Washington PUD Association, Public Power Council, and Western Public Agencies Group, to name a few, that provide us with a "seat at the table".

We also benefit from being a "preference" customer as a public power utility, giving us first right to the low wholesale rates of our federal hydropower system. Largely due to BPA and other regional hydropower, Washington state has some of the lowest residential rates in the nation. Our large rural utility does have more challenges with respect to heavy tree exposure and associated O&M costs due to seasonal storms compared to most Washington PUDs. Even so, Clallam PUD has the lowest electric rates among all Olympic Peninsula PUDs which share similar challenges, including Grays Harbor, Mason 3, Mason 1, and Jefferson PUDs. We are proud of this achievement and have accomplished this all while doing things right having just received another clean audit from the State of Washington. We are excited to share our successes with you and pledge to continue offering low-cost, reliable and clean energy to you, our owners.

I encourage you to take a look through our Strategic Plan to see how we are serving YOU!

Stay safe!

Sear Gen

Sean Worthington, General Manager

## **Contact PUD**

PO Box 1000 Carlsborg, WA 98324 360-452-9771 Toll-free: (800) 542-7859 info@clallampud.net www.clallampud.net



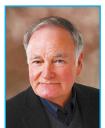


Fuel Mix
Your PUD's electricity
comes from the
following fuel mix:

Hydroelectric	85.44%
Nuclear	10.84%
Unspecified Resources*	3.72%
Natural Gas	0.01%
Coal	0.00%
Petroleum	0.00%
Solar	0.00%
Wind	0.00%
Other Generation	0.00%
Total	100%
*BPA Market Purchases	

#### **Commissioners**

Clallam County Public Utility District #1 is directed by a three-member board of commissioners elected by the citizens of the county. Our Board holds public meetings the 2nd and 4th Mondays monthly at 1:30 p.m. at our Carlsborg Main Office.



Will Purser
President, District #1

Will Purser has served as District 1 PUD Commissioner since appointment in April 2001. He represents the 1st District, which is the Eastern part of the County. Commissioner Purser recognizes that the issues of energy, water, and waste disposal are critical to the quality of life of Clallam

County residents now and in the future. He also serves on the Energy Northwest Board of Directors' Executive Board. Energy Northwest is a Joint Operating Agency of 28 public utilities operating nuclear, hydroelectric, wind, and solar projects.

wepurser@clallampud.net • 360-565-3512

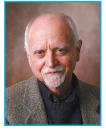


Rick Paschall
Vice President, District #2

Commissioner Paschall was elected to the 2nd PUD District on November 3rd, 2020 to serve a short term from December 1st through December 31st, and then taking a second oath of office to begin his full 6-year term on January 1, 2021. He has over 30-years of electric utility experience

in the Pacific Northwest. With experience including power supply, compliance, utility management, and participation in regional utility workshops, forums, and conferences, Commissioner Paschall brings a robust portfolio of knowledge to the District. For twenty years, he provided technical expertise for public power general managers at the Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC) and served for ten years as Vice-Chair of the Western States Power Pool, four years as Steering Committee member of the Western Interconnection Compliance Forum He holds an MS in Economics, and BS in Mathematics. Commissioner Paschall resides in Port Angeles with his wife, Connie, and rescue dog, Henry.

rpaschall@clallampud.net • 360-565-3528



Jim Waddell
Secretary, District #3

Jim Waddell is a Civil Engineer who is retired from a 35-year public service career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For over twenty years of that career he has been a leader in developing the policies and practice of Sustainable Development. He also served with the Environmental

Protection Agency and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Jim's work with the NSF and then as the Senior Policy Analyst for the Environment in the White House office of Science and Technology Policy was largely focused on climate change policy, budgets and research integration. During the early stages of his career, Jim Waddell was an officer in the Army National Guard, serving in Engineer, Signal and Transportation units.

iwaddell@clallampud.net • 360-565-3521

# Celebrating Public Power Week Oct. 2-8

COMMUNITY powered

PUBLIC POWER PU PO MEEK 2022

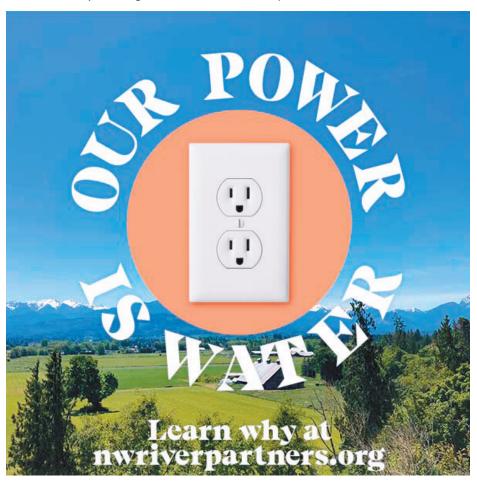
Clallam PUD is celebrating Public Power Week, Oct. 2-8, along with more than 2,000 other community-powered, not-for-profit electric utilities that collectively provide electricity to 49 million Americans.

"This year, we are focusing on educating the next generation of Clallam PUD customers on the benefits of public power," said Clallam PUD General Manager Sean Worthington. "We are so proud to provide reliable, affordable, and

sustainable power to our communities."

"We hope that young people in our community and their families acknowledge this vital service and maybe even look to the utility as a good place to work down the road."

"Since we operate right here in Clallam county and serve our friends and



neighbors, we care a great deal about things like customer service, helping folks save energy and money, and keeping the community safe."

"We are proud of the work we do in these areas."

Keep up with Clallam PUD on facebook at www.facebook.com/ ClallamPUD and make sure to follow us!



## Winterize Your Home



By Mattias Järvegren Utility Services Supervisor

Fall has arrived and it is now time start thinking about preparing for winter. You are getting ready to pull out your sweaters and look for your hats and mittens at the bottom of the coat closet. But what about your house -- is it prepared for the cold months ahead?

You'll be a lot less comfortable in the coming months if you haven't prepared you home for old man

winter, because as temperatures begin to dip, your home will require maintenance to keep it in tip-top shape through the winter and while it's still a little warm and somewhat dry is really the best time to start.

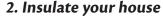
Below are six tips to help you prepare your home for winter and eliminate energy waste. Always remember that you can call us if you have any questions. Our contact information can be found at the bottom of this article:

#### 1. Get your ducts in a row

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a home with central heating can lose up to 60% of its heated air before that air reaches the vents if ductwork is not well-connected and insulated, or if it must travel through unheated spaces. That's a huge amount of wasted money, not to mention an uncomfortable house.

That's why Clallam County PUD is running a duct testing and sealing program. If you haven't already had it done, you can have the testing and duct sealing done by an approved PUD contractor, we will pay up to \$500 of the cost. Often Clallam County PUD's incentive covers the full cost of the duct sealing and testing. Call us

now, and we will give you a referral.



You need warm clothes to stay warm in the winter and so does your house. The only difference is that the warm 'clothes' for your house is called insulation, and it is the most effective way to stay warm and eliminating energy waste.

If you go into the attic and you can see the ceiling joists you know you don't have enough, because a ceiling joist is at most 10 or 11 inches and you should have more insulation than that. The same goes for your floor insulation. There should be thick insulating bats in between your floor joists.

If your insulations is lacking, call us and we will refer you to one of our participating installers.



### 3. Check the Exterior, Doors and Windows

Now, of course, is the time to take down the window screens and, if you have them, put up storm windows, which provide an extra layer of protection and warmth for the home. Storm windows are particularly helpful if you have old, single-pane glass windows. But if you don't have storm windows, and your windows are leaky or

drafty, they should to be updated to a more efficient window. Call us to find out about our window replacement program, otherwise see below for a few ideas to weatherize your windows and doors.

- Inspect exterior for crevice cracks and exposed entry points around pipes; seal hem.
- Use weatherstripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home and caulk windows.
- Switch out summer screens with glass replacements from storage. If you have storm windows, install them.
- Install a window insulator kit. Basically, the kit is plastic sheeting that's affixed to a window's interior with double-stick tape. A hair dryer is then used to shrink-wrap the sheeting onto the window. (It needs to be removed in the spring.) It's temporary and it's not pretty, but it's inexpensive and it's very effective.

#### 4. Wrap those pipes

A burst pipe caused by a winter freeze is a nightmare. Prevent it before winter time temperatures settle in. Make certain that the water to your hose bibs is shut

off inside your house (via a turnoff valve), and that the lines are drained. Also, you should install Styrofoam cups with a screw attachment to help insulate spigots.

Next, go looking for other pipes that aren't insulated, or that pass through unheated spaces -- pipes that run through crawlspaces, basements or garages. Wrap them with pre-molded foam rubber sleeves or fiberglass insulation, available at hardware stores.

#### 5. Reverse that fan

Reversing your ceiling fan is a small tip that people don't often think of. By reversing the fan's direction from the summer operation, the fan will push



warm air downward and force it to recirculate, keeping you more comfortable. You can know if the fan is ready for winter by looking at it while it is spinning; if the blades are turning clockwise, then it's setup for winter.

### 6. Finally, check those alarms and clean your filters

This is a great time to check the operation and change the batteries on your home's smoke detectors. Detectors should be replaced every 10 years, fire officials say. Also, invest in a carbon-monoxide detector; every home with a combustion appliance, like a woodstove, should have one. And last but certainly, not least change or clean your filters. Change the filter on your heat pump or electric furnace. Vacuum out the coils on your refrigerator. And if you've already upgraded



to heat pump water heaters, then it's got a filter too that you should clean. The bottom line is. If it has a filter, you probably haven't

cleaned or changed it for a while, and you should get up and do it right now.

As usual, we want all of Clallam County PUD's customers, residential, commercial and industrial alike; to know that we are here to offer assistance when looking at eliminating energy waste. Please go to our website, www.ClallamPUD.net, send us an email at Utility.Services.Info@ClallamPUD.net or give us call at either (360) 565-3249 or (800) 542-7859 x249.



Many look forward to Fall, and the changing colors of the leaves, sweaters and cozy mugs of your favorite beverage by a fire. Here at the PUD, it takes on an additional meaning to the time of year – that of the beginning of outage season. We understand the inconvenience of an unplanned outage as it impacts many of our employees when one occurs, sometimes both at home and work, depending on the location. As with so many other things in life however, you can minimize the frustration by planning ahead.

We always recommend that you check the batteries in your flashlights, test your generator if you have one, and have enough nonperishable food and water on hand. Most importantly, if you have medication that requires refrigeration, or medical equipment that requires power, have a plan for how you will accommodate these needs in the event of an outage. We have additional tips and resources on our website at https://clallampud.net/outages-be-prepared/.

You should also be prepared to protect the contents of your refrigerator and freezer. One of the easiest things you can do is freeze containers, such as plastic gallon milk containers, of water which will help keep your food cold. If an outage occurs, put one in the refrigerator and keep it and the freezer doors closed to maintain the temperature. The FDA advises that a refrigerator will keep food cold for

about 4 hours and a FULL freezer approximately 48 hours if the door remains closed. For their complete food and water safety tips visit https://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/food-and-water-safety-during-power-outages-and-floods.

If your power goes out, the first thing you should do is check your breaker box for blown fuses or tripped breakers. If they're OK, check to see if your neighbors have power. Call 360-452-9771 or 800-542-7859 to report an outage. You can also use the SmartHub mobile app to report an outage. At the top of the home screen of the mobile app, tap "Report an issue/inquiry", then "Power Outage". Read the instructions there then tap "Continue". This is particularly handy in the event of a large outage where all of our inbound phone lines may be busy.

Once you've reported your outage, listen to the radio for outage updates (if you don't have a battery-powered emergency radio – now's a good time to get one!) or, if you have a smart phone, visit www.clallampud.net where we will post outage information on our homepage. Our outage map will update so you can see the location of the outages, and know that we are aware and responding. Updates will be posted as new information comes in. Please be patient as it can take some time, depending on location, for our crews to arrive on scene and assess the situation.

## Strategic Plan Update

In June of this year the District's management team met for a two-day deep dive into the Strategic Plan. Every year minor adjustments are made during the budget process to account for completed initiatives and projects. However, every 3-5 years a major update will be done taking broader and more impactful changes into account such as regulatory and legislative mandates.

The Strategic Plan, as approved by the Commissioners, can be found at www. clallampud.net/about/ or scan the QR code found on this page. The Plan consists of 11 Strategic Objectives such as "Provide Stable Rates", "Ensure Reliable Supply", and "Be Financially Responsible". For each of these Objectives, there then are the following attributes:

- Picture of Excellence (POE): The perfect picture; where we would like to be.
- Identified Big Gaps to POE: The identified challenges to reaching the POE.
- Strategic Initiatives: Initiatives that will bridge the Big Gaps, to reach the POE.
- $\bullet$  Key Performance Indicators (KPI): The measurables that allow us to assess progress towards the POE

Finally, the budget is then driven by the Strategic Initiatives each year as the Districts projects are planned for the upcoming year that help us to achieve the Picture of Excellence.

Some of the large drivers of this year's updates include:

- The Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)
- · A retirement bubble and challenges in workforce recruitment
- Supply chain issues and inflation
- Infrastructure enhancements related to climate change
- Resource adequacy issues



- · Long-term power supply contract
- Legislative and economic uncertainty

Our Strategic Objective of "Continuous Performance Improvement" drives leadership to practice ongoing evaluation of new technology and thoughtfully planning for responsible integration when it benefits our customers while mitigating rate impacts. During the planning process, customer comments were solicited and have been integrated in to the changes. We encourage you to read the Strategic Plan so you can be up to date on the current state of your PUD!

## Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Roundtable

by Sean Worthington, General Manager

A little background regarding the nature of the Honorable Jennifer Granholm visit: Supporting rural communities remains a top priority of the United States Department of Energy (DOE). The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has supported large energy innovation projects in the region in the past, including the Olympic Peninsula Smart Grid Demonstration. The region is currently evaluating what is needed to meet current and future energy goals, including decarbonization, resilience, equity and access, and economic development. PNNL is committed to sharing lessons from its own net-zero lab transition and providing technical expertise through DOE's technical assistance programs to help the community in meeting its goals.

The objective of the dialogue: This regional dialogue brought together community leaders for a roundtable discussion on energy needs of the of the North Olympic Peninsula (Clallam and Jefferson Counties) and challenges and opportunities for

system upgrades. The participants were invited to comment on how PNNL and DOE can assist with their energy transition and what other communities could learn from their experience.

The meeting format: There was a 45-minute dialogue roundtable discussion involving the leaders and community members (listed below). The roundtable was moderated by PNNL laboratory director Steven Ashby. After introductions, the Secretary set the stage by making a few remarks on the Department's vision for supporting rural energy transitions and the importance of community partnerships. Participants were then invited to speak for two minutes, sharing their views on the challenges and opportunities they face in planning and implementing energy improvements to address diverse goals, including resilience, to equity and affordability, and decarbonization. A roundtable discussion ensued after each participant spoke.

continued page 7



#### Those in attendance for the roundtable discussion:

- The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, DOE;
- Chairman W. Ron Allen, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe;
- Chairman Timothy J. Greene, Sr., Makah Tribe;
- The Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. House of Representatives;
- The Honorable Geri Richmond, Undersecretary for Science and Innovation, DOE;
- The Honorable Steve Tharinger, Washington State House of Representatives;
- Ted Pietrok, Acting Manager, DOE PNSO;
- Steve Ashby, Laboratory Director, PNNL;
- Sean Worthington, General Manager, Clallam PUD;
- Meggan Uecker, Resource Analyst/Lead of Sustainable Sequim Program, City of Sequim; and
- Karen Affeld, Executive Director, North Olympic Development Council.

**A synopsis of my remarks are as follows:** I am grateful to Secretary Grandholm and PNNL for the opportunity to participate in this round table discussion.

I would like to provide a little background on Clallam PUD as well as challenges from a utility perspective to the items being discussed here today. Clallam Public Utility District is a rural distribution utility that is geographically large with a relatively sparse population base located at the very end of a long radial transmission line, literally the last stop on the western interconnect. Our distribution system has more exposure to system outages than almost any other utility in the Pacific Northwest, as do the

Bonneville Power Administration transmission lines that serve our territory. During storm season, it is not unusual for some outages to exceed eight hours in duration, and these problems become progressively worse the further west one resides. We are also the first BPA customer in the region that is subject to emergency load shedding in the event of insufficient resources to serve load, this would be similar to what happened in Texas last year. Chairman Greene indicated a "one way in and one way out" situation on the Peninsula and in order to provide redundancy of the BPA transmission lines it would cost in excess of several hundred million dollars.

This is why the development of carbon-free electric resiliency technologies discussed today are very important to our utility and our customers, as is our close collaboration with PNNL and community partners. Micro-grids, distribution scale batteries, renewable generation, including emergent hydrogen and marine based power, are all promising long-term solutions for problems in our community. Recent State legislation and funding in support of low-income community solar, that mitigates energy assistance need, is also something very interesting to us that we are currently exploring.

Having said that, such technologically sophisticated solutions are not easily implemented and come with a high price tag, and it will take a dedicated collaborative effort by many, including those here, to bring these ideas to fruition. Among the biggest challenges for our utility, is limited staff and financial resources. We have little industry and more than 70% of our electric load and revenue is from residential customers with a median household income that is 30% less than the State average. However, going forward, I can say with confidence that our utility has a capable and impressive work

force who are dedicated and invested in the communities we serve and it's our mission to continue providing affordable, reliable and carbon free power.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to be here today and thank you Secretary Grandholm for taking time out of your day to share your vision.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, participants were invited to tour the laboratory and surrounding facility. There was much dialogue and promotion of further engagement by the stakeholders and community leaders to partner on initiatives moving forward and PNNL made the commitment to not only host such dialogue but offered up staffing resources and subject matter experts to assist in any way.

PUD staff will continue to remain engaged with PNNL and other local stakeholders to discuss and address future energy needs on the Olympic Peninsula.



Signature:



#### Neighborly Assistance Program Helps Your Neighbors In Need

Did you know that Clallam PUD has a program where you can help assist others with their electric bills? It's called our Neighborly Assistance program. You can make a one-time or recurring contribution to a fund that assists qualified low-income residential customers. You can even simply round up your bill to the next dollar! Find out more or print the enrollment card below and return to us with your contribution. Your community thanks you!

https://clallampud.net/neighborly-assistance/

You can help neighbors in need by donating to this fund. Indicate how you would like to contribute and your choice of agency below. Please clip and enclose this with your PUD payment or drop off at your nearest PUD office. (If submitting with payment, only one payment is necessary for both your contribution and your PUD bill.)

Name:	Acct. No.:
Address:	Phone No.:
My choices for participation in the indicated below. This <b>replaces</b> a	e Neighborly Assistance Program are ny previous pledges.
Please bill \$ every statement, until I contact the	
☐ Please round up my bill to the	next dollar and contribute the excess.
☐ I prefer a one-time contribution	of \$
I want my contribution to go to (c	heck one):
to Olympic Community Acti	on Programs
to Port Angeles St. Vincent	de Paul
to Sequim Community Aid	
to Sequim St. Vincent de P	aul

#### **SmartHub Quick Facts**

- SmartHub is FREE and lets you manage all aspects of your utility account 24/7 online or with your mobile device.
- View all your accounts on one screen, so you can manage multiple properties at once and even pay all with a single payment.
- Provides current and historical billing information and payment history, along with weather data to help you better understand your usage.
- · Go green! Sign up for Paperless Billing and Auto Pay.
- · Receive email and text notifications about activity on your account.
- Do more without the need to call an office to service your account, pay your bill, update mailing information, or report service issues.
- Report outages and monitor your service status.



Scan the QR code for your device, or search for "SmartHub app" to download the free app!









