

Ruralite

KLICKITAT PUD

APRIL 2025

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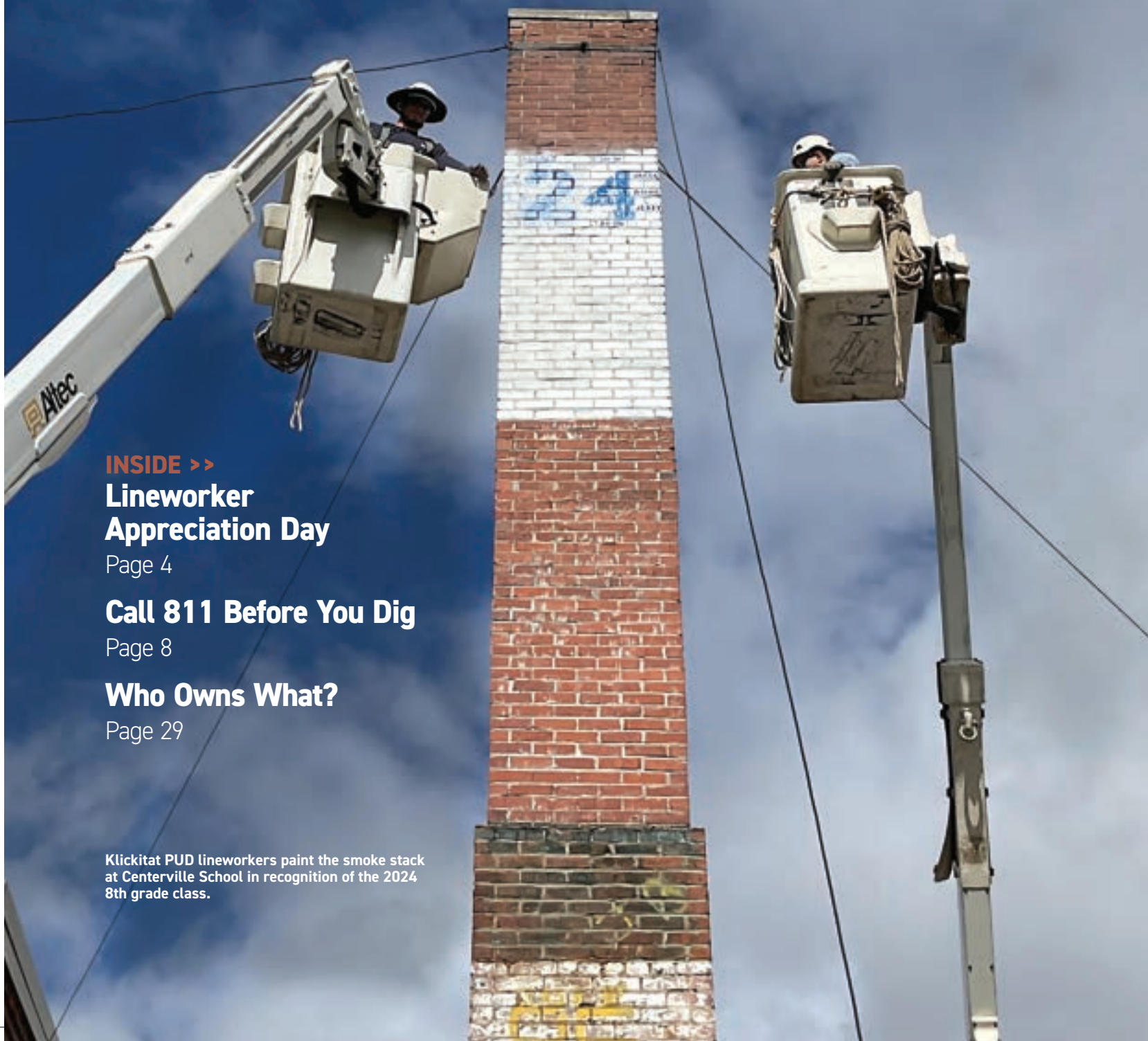
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Klickitat PUD lineworkers paint the smoke stack at Centerville School in recognition of the 2024 8th grade class.



The Power Behind Your Power

Honoring KPUD's lineworkers on National Lineworker Appreciation Day

April 18 marks National Lineworker Appreciation Day, a time to recognize and honor the hardworking people who keep our communities powered. Lineworker Appreciation Day, officially designated by the U.S. Senate in 2013 following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, acknowledges the critical role lineworkers play in maintaining and restoring power across the country.

The Backbone of Our Electrical Infrastructure

Lineworkers are the unsung heroes of our utility systems, often working in hazardous conditions to ensure reliable electricity for homes, businesses and industries. At Klickitat PUD, we deeply appreciate our lineworkers as they brave storms, extreme temperatures and challenging terrains to keep our grid functioning 24/7.

A Legacy of Service and Dedication

The history of linework dates back to the early days of electrification. As

communities across the nation connected to electricity, skilled lineworkers were essential in installing and maintaining power lines, especially in rural areas benefiting from programs such as the Rural Electrification Act. The responsibilities of lineworkers have evolved in step with technology and other improvements, and their mission remains the same: keeping the lights on for all.

A Profession of Skill and Sacrifice

Line work is one of the most demanding and dangerous trades. Risks include electrocution, falls and extreme weather exposure. Despite these challenges, lineworkers put in long hours—often responding to emergencies and natural disasters—to restore power and safeguard public safety. Their commitment and expertise are vital to the resilience of our power grid.

Join Us in Saying #ThankALineworker
National Lineworker Appreciation Day

is an opportunity for our community to show gratitude for the dedication and professionalism of these essential workers. The unwavering efforts of KPUD's lineworkers help us achieve our 99.963% reliability goal, ensuring power remains available when you need it most.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our lineworkers. When you see them working in the field, take a moment to thank them, and share your appreciation using the hashtag #ThankALineworker. Their hard work keeps our homes and businesses powered every day. ■

BELOW: The Goldendale line crew, from left, Cort Ladiges, Todd Niva, Alonso Hernandez-Rangel, Lake Howard, Christian Clark, Travis Heilman, Jess Beierle and Sean Bryan.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, LEFT: Lineworkers use the demonstration trailer to teach electrical safety. Line crews make upgrades and repairs to keep your power flowing. White Salmon line crew, from left, Dominic Raether, Wade Griffith, Ed Lexa and TJ Lutz. Jess and Sean meet with students at the local Ag Day.





Digging Into an Outdoor Project?

Before you dig, dial 811 or visit call811.com to protect underground utilities and keep yourself safe.

Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.

Save Lives With One Call

Striking buried electric lines can cause serious injury or even death. Avoid hitting underground utilities by calling the 811 service. Every utility in your area will be

notified and will mark their lines on your property.

Free and Easy Service

Call 811 or submit a ticket at call811.com at least two business days before your project. Underground electric, water, sewer, gas and phone lines will be marked at no cost to you.

Follow the Law

Damaging buried utility lines without calling 811 first could result in hefty

fines—up to \$10,000 per violation—in addition to repair costs.

Avoid the Big Green Box

Never plant trees or shrubs near pad-mounted transformers. These large, green metal boxes house underground power lines. Utility lines run from these transformers to your home, so never dig anywhere in your yard without first calling 811.

Stay safe. Call 811 before you dig! ■

PRIVATELY-OWNED LINES CAN BE LOCATED FOR A FEE

Water, natural gas, and residential electric lines* are usually owned by the utility up to the meter. Some sewer districts own only the mains; others extend their ownership to laterals up to the property lines. The customer typically owns everything beyond these points.

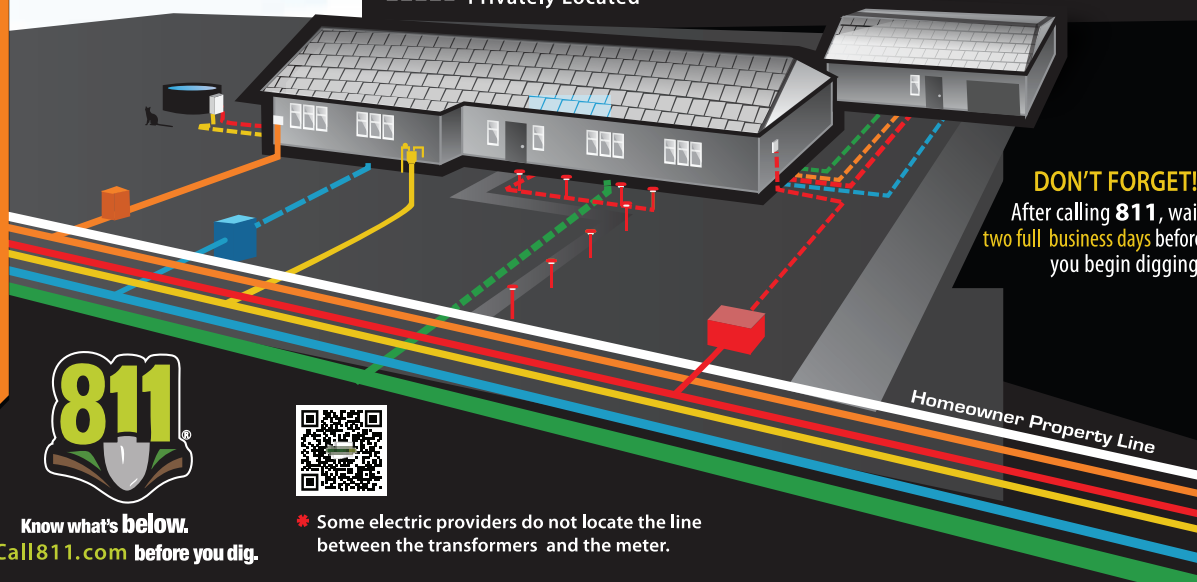
Customer-owned lines usually include any that serve outbuildings, hot tubs, security lighting, pools, and natural gas grills.

The free locating service available through 811 applies **ONLY** to facilities owned by utilities. The diagram below shows a variety of utilities, some owned by the utility and some by the homeowner.

— Utility Located
- - - Privately Located

Those utilities marked by dotted lines, including propane gas lines, are typically owned by the homeowner. Private locating services will mark these for a fee.

Blue	WATER	Red	ELECTRIC
Green	SEWER	Orange	INTERNET and PHONE
Yellow	GAS, OIL, and STEAM	Purple	NON-DRINKING WATER



DON'T FORGET!

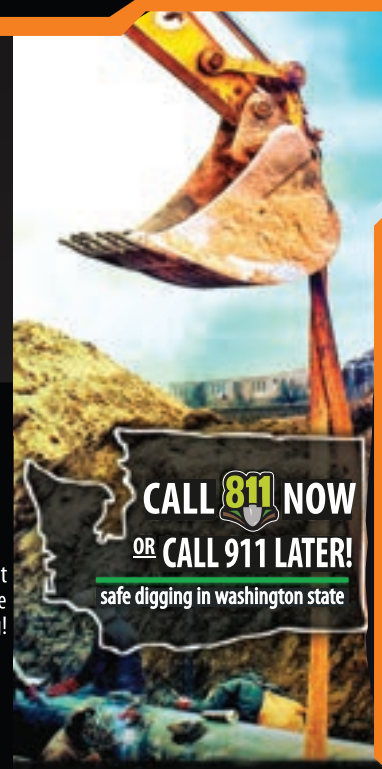
After calling 811, wait two full business days before you begin digging!



Know what's below.
Call 811.com before you dig.



* Some electric providers do not locate the line between the transformers and the meter.



PLANNING SOME PROJECTS THAT INVOLVE MOVING DIRT?

Call 811.com BEFORE YOU DIG!

www.DigSafeWA.com



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

We're planning forest restoration work near your community.



**YOU MAY SEE OR SMELL SMOKE DURING
AN UPCOMING PRESCRIBED BURN.**



Our work will include prescribed fire to
reduce wildfire risk and restore forest health.

WHAT IS A PRESCRIBED BURN?

Prescribed fire reduces wildfire danger and brings health back to our eastern Washington forests by removing overcrowded vegetation. Skilled professionals will use low-intensity fire to reduce vegetation on the forest floor, including dense shrubs and saplings, which could otherwise fuel a catastrophic wildfire.



QUESTIONS?

Please call Jeff Dimke (DNR)
564-669-0946

MORE INFORMATION

dnr.wa.gov/prescribedfire

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

This work, along with mechanical forest thinning, is part of the **20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan for central and eastern Washington**. This effort involves numerous public and private partners from the state, federal, tribal and local levels all working together to reduce the risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfires while bringing these forests back to a more natural state. In these forests, low-intensity fires help cycle nutrients back into the soil and activate the seeds of fire-adapted plants.

Read more at: dnr.wa.gov/foresthealthplan

WHAT CAN I EXPECT THE WEEK OF A PRESCRIBED BURN?

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plans to burn **up to 390 acres northeast of Glenwood this spring or next fall**. DNR will follow a burn plan guided by state and federal regulations to reduce any possible effects on nearby communities, but you may see or smell smoke.

Learn about ways to mitigate the effects of smoke at:
epa.gov/pm-pollution/fires-and-your-health.

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

Scan the QR code to sign up
for our prescribed burn alerts
(bit.ly/DNRburnalerts).

We will send you an email the
day before each burn, so you can
plan accordingly.

Smoke from a prescribed burn is
often less than smoke from wildfires.

However, if you or a loved one are
sensitive to smoke, **please sign up,**
or follow us on Twitter:
[@wadnr_forests](https://twitter.com/wadnr_forests)



Behind Your Meter

Understanding your electric utility and customer responsibilities

By Pam Stevens

When it comes to your electricity service, understanding where Klickitat PUD responsibilities end and yours begin can save you time, money and frustration. For electric utility customers, the boundary of responsibility is the meter—an essential component of your power supply.

Let's break down the roles of utilities and customers, explore how to maintain equipment on your side of the meter, and highlight the benefits of increasingly common AMI meters.

The Utility's Role: Up to the Meter

Klickitat PUD is responsible for delivering power to your home. This includes maintaining the infrastructure that brings electricity from power plants to your neighborhood.

Key elements

- ▶ Power lines and poles: Utilities maintain and repair the lines and poles that carry electricity to your area.
- ▶ Transformers: These devices adjust voltage levels to make electricity safe for household use.
- ▶ Service drop: The line that connects your home to the utility's distribution system is maintained by the utility company up to the meter.
- ▶ Electric meter: Meters measure the electricity you use to provide you with an accurate bill for your service. This device is installed and owned by the utility, and we handle any repairs or replacements needed.

The Customer Role: Behind the Meter

Once electricity passes through the meter and into your home, responsibility shifts to you, the customer. Everything on your side of the meter—commonly referred to as behind the meter—falls under your care.

Key elements Customers must maintain

- ▶ Service panel, also known as a breaker box: This distributes electricity throughout your home and protects circuits from overloads.
- ▶ Wiring: All electrical wiring inside your home, including connections to outlets, light fixtures and appliances, is your responsibility.
- ▶ Outdoor equipment: If you have customer-owned outdoor lighting, electric fences or other equipment, these systems must also be maintained by you.

Proper maintenance of this equipment is crucial for safety and reliability. Faulty wiring or neglected equipment can lead to power outages, electrical fires or damage to appliances.

Tips for Maintaining Your Equipment

To avoid potential problems, regular maintenance is key

- ▶ Inspect your wiring: Have a licensed electrician inspect your home's wiring periodically, especially in older homes.
- ▶ Check your breaker box: Ensure the service panel is clean, dry and free of pests. Replace worn or damaged components promptly.
- ▶ Address outdoor hazards: Keep trees and vegetation clear of outdoor wiring, and ensure external electrical connections are weatherproofed.

Being proactive about maintenance protects your home and can prevent costly repairs and disruptions.

AMI Meters: What They Do for You

AMI meters are revolutionizing how utilities and consumers interact with electricity. Unlike traditional meters, which require manual readings, AMI meters use advanced technology to measure and transmit your electricity use data in real-time.

How AMI Meters Benefit Klickitat PUD Customers

- ▶ Faster problem detection: Utilities can quickly detect outages or service issues through AMI meter data, often leading to faster power restoration.
- ▶ Real-time monitoring: Many utilities provide online portals or mobile apps where you can view your energy use by the hour, day or month. This helps identify high-use periods and helps you adjust habits to save money.
- ▶ Customized billing: AMI meters enable time-of-use rates, when electricity costs less during off-peak hours. This can help you save if you shift use to lower-cost times.
- ▶ Environmental impact: By using energy more efficiently, you reduce strain on the electric grid and lower your carbon footprint.

Educating Yourself for Long-Term Savings

Understanding how electricity flows into your home and where your responsibilities begin empowers Klickitat PUD customers. It also enhances our partnership as we serve the community.

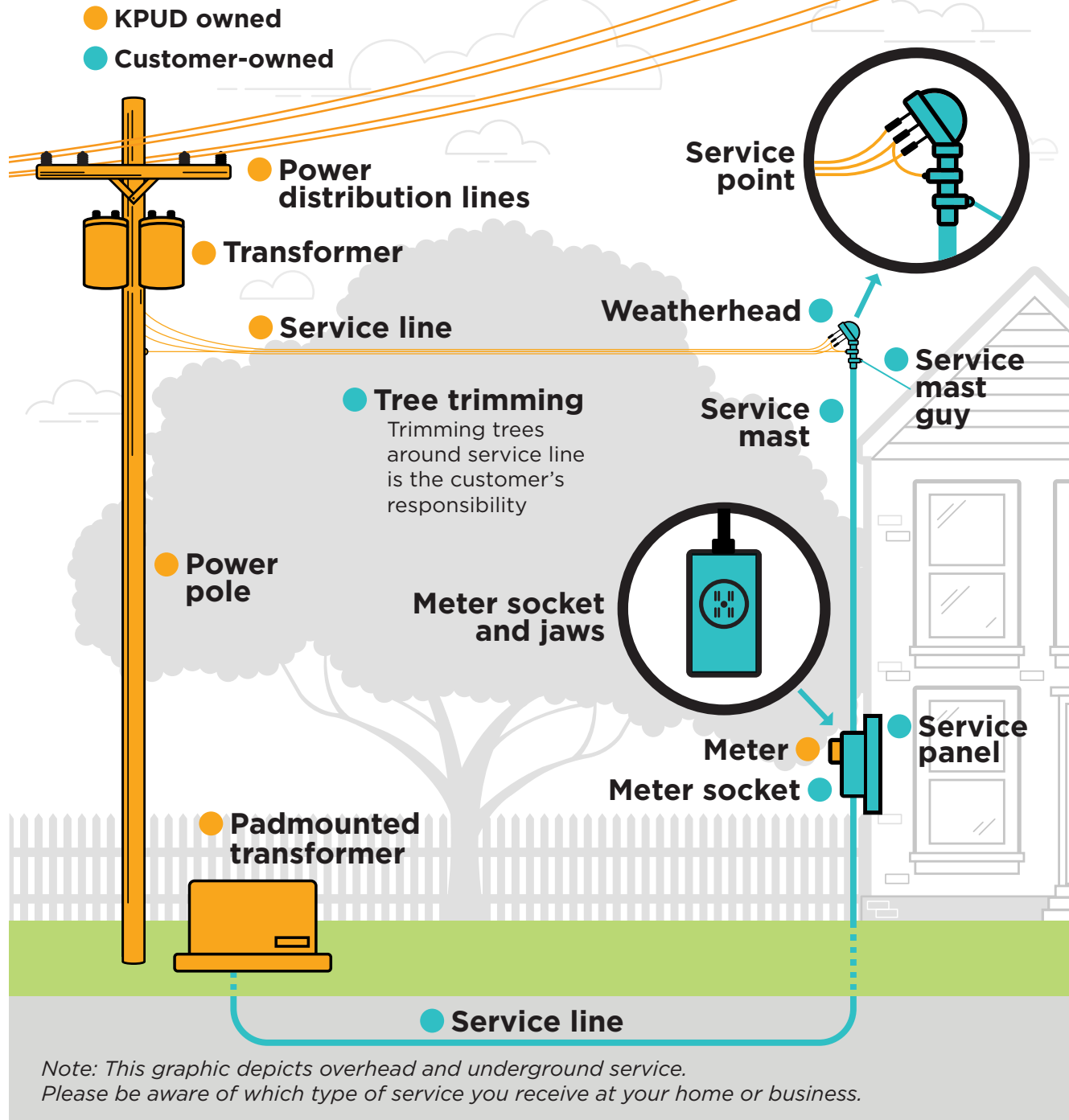
Regular maintenance of your side of the meter, and smart energy use, can lead to long-term savings and a safer home environment.

Have questions about the health of your side of the meter? Consult a licensed electrician for professional advice. By staying informed and proactive, you can keep the lights on—and your wallet happy. ■

Who Owns What?

Electric Utility Owned Equipment vs Customer-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the utility (in **gold**) and the customer (in **blue**). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the utility, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any customer-owned equipment, the customer is responsible for repairs. Customers should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to customer-owned equipment.





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www.klickitatpud.com

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Goldendale Office
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Goldendale, WA 98620
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WA-18



GOLDENDALE
home &
garden
show

Join Klickitat PUD for the 2025 Home and Garden Show!

MAY 2-4, 2025
KLICKITAT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Stop by and visit the KPUD booth to say
hello, grab some swag and learn about
available customer programs!



FRIDAY-SATURDAY 10AM-6PM
SUNDAY 10AM-3PM

Scan the QR code
to learn more!

