

RuralLife



KLICKITAT PUD

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Don't Let Frozen Pipes Burst Your Bliss

PUD's water experts have tips to help you prevent frozen pipes—and minimize the impact if they do occur

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Cold Weather Impacts Bills

Winter weather, heat pumps and heat loss all can increase electricity use

January and February are normally the coldest months of the year. Consistent low temperatures often mean heaters run harder and more often, driving an increase in electricity use.

The larger the difference between the temperature inside and outside of your home, the more energy is needed to bring your home back to your desired temperature. Even if you don't adjust the setting on your thermostat, lower outdoor temperatures mean your home's HVAC system must work harder to maintain the same constant temperature inside.

For example, a common mid-January day may be 40 degrees. If your thermostat is set at 70 degrees, your heating system is making up the difference of 30 degrees. If the outdoor temperature drops down to 20 degrees at night, the temperature difference is now 50 degrees, and your heating system is having to add even more heat.

Heat Pump Efficiency Decreases Near 30 Degrees

At around 30 degrees, most heat pumps reach what is called the balance point. This is the point where the heat pump must

run constantly to maintain a consistent, comfortable temperature.

Auxiliary heat, also called emergency heat, refers to the supplemental heat being supplied by internal heat strips when the heat pump is in its defrost cycle. Auxiliary heat assists the production of heat during extreme cold weather. However, it uses more energy, decreasing system efficiency and contributing to higher energy bills. Most heating systems are designed to automatically initiate auxiliary heat when needed and do not require manual setting.

During very cold weather, it is normal for a heat pump's auxiliary heat to kick on—typically, a light will show it has engaged. If auxiliary heat is being used even after the unit warms up, you may need to contact an HVAC service provider to troubleshoot.



Heat Loss Factor Increases as Temperatures Drop

In extremely cold weather, even a few degrees' difference in sustained outdoor temperatures can raise power use. The colder it gets, the harder heating units must work to maintain consistent indoor temperature.

Heat loss in extremely cold temperatures compounds quickly, and is quicker at lower temperatures. The greater the difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures, the more heat will escape. Heat is lost through insufficient insulation, leaky doors and inefficient windows.

The good news is heat loss can be combated with increased energy conservation. Visit www.klickitatpud.com/conservation to find a range of tips on conservation and winter preparedness.

Klickitat PUD also has free weatherization kits, as well as smart thermostats that can improve energy conservation.

If you are interested in any of these items, or a home energy audit, conservation programs or energy efficiency rebates, please contact energy services for more information. ■

Automatic Meter Reads

The successful rollout of AMI meters has improved consistency between reading dates and accuracy of reads.

This means reads are not estimated, which was the previous practice when reads were not received. Reads are pulled a few days before customer bills are issued to ensure time for an internal billing review.

Usage information is available to KPUD customers. As with many things, there is an app for that: SmartHub.

SmartHub can be downloaded to assist customers in the management of their Klickitat PUD account from their phone or other device. Among many other account management features, SmartHub has charts where customers can view their monthly or daily meter usage.



ADOBE STOCK GRAPHIC
BY VECTOR TRADITION



ADOBE STOCK ILLUSTRATION BY ALEUTIE

Don't Let Frozen Pipes Burst Your Bliss

Klickitat PUD operates 10 water systems throughout Klickitat County. To help prepare for winter weather, the PUD's water experts have tips to help you prevent frozen pipes—and minimize the impact if they do occur.

When freezing temperatures are in the forecast, run a small, steady stream of water from an inside faucet to help prevent your pipes from freezing. If pipes do freeze, running the faucet helps release built-up water pressure.

If you have a sink against an outside wall, open cabinet doors below the sink. This allows warm air to circulate.

If you will be away from your home for an extended time and your pipes are not winterized, do not turn off the heat. Leave the thermostat set to at least 55 degrees to keep pipes above freezing temperatures.

It may be useful to insulate pipes—especially those below your house, in exterior walls or in a basement, garage or attic. Make sure these areas are enclosed to keep the ambient temperature warm.

Consider covering pipes with UL-approved heat tape—a cable that emits heat to prevent pipes from freezing. Choose a version with a built-in thermostat to avoid overheating.

These measures are not guarantees against frozen

pipes, but they do help and are far cheaper than the costs of repairing frozen or burst pipes.

It is not just faucets and showers that are at risk of freezing. Follow these tips to keep all your pipes safe:

- Disconnect and drain your sprinkler system and any garden hoses.
- Occasionally run your washing machine on warm and turn on your freezer's icemaker to course water through the pipes.
- Cover exterior faucets with insulated covers and cut off the water supply.

Frozen Pipes

If you turn on the tap and no water flows, you may have frozen pipes.

If you cannot find the

location of the frozen pipe, call your water provider. If that is KPUD, call 509-773-5891 and an operator will be dispatched to check if your meter is frozen.

If it is not the meter, the frozen pipe blocking the system is somewhere within your home's plumbing, and you will be responsible to find and fix it. ■

Pipe Thawing Tips:

► Warm towels or blankets in the clothes dryer, then wrap them around the frozen pipe. Continue this process until water flows again.

► If you do not have a clothes dryer, consider using an electric heating pad, a portable space heater or a blow dryer to warm the pipe.

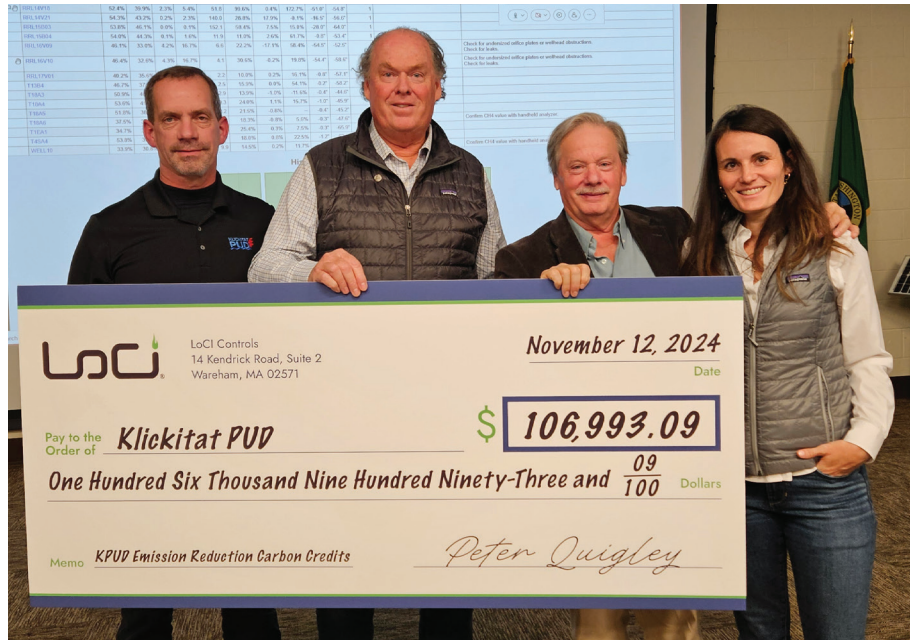
Klickitat PUD Leverages Innovative Partnership to Generate Carbon Credits

Klickitat PUD, in collaboration with LoCI Controls, has successfully implemented a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate revenue through the sale of voluntary carbon credits.

By optimizing the H.W. Hill Landfill gas project, the partnership has significantly increased gas capture efficiency and reduced methane emissions.

In August 2024, the first sale of 39,414 carbon credits yielded net proceeds of \$106,993.09—directly benefiting the PUD and its customers. This achievement was made possible through strategic partnerships with Klickitat County and Republic Services.

By embracing innovative technologies and sustainable practices, the PUD demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship and financial responsibility. ■



From left, KPUD’s Kevin Ricks, LoCI Controls’ Peter Quigely, KPUD Commissioner Randy Knowles and LoCI Controls’ Nicole Neff holding a check celebrating the two organizations’ work on a carbon credit program.

Electric Rates



Beginning January 1, 2025, Klickitat PUD will implement new electric rates.

The KPUD Board of Commissioners approved the rate change on December 10th, 2024, in combination with the 2025 budget adoption.

The proposed rate increases are equivalent to a 4.5% revenue increase:

- 3% power cost driven
- 1.5% inflationary

Percentages vary between rate classes and customer usage trends.



On average, residential customers can expect a monthly payment increase of 3.5 percent, which on average equals an increase of about \$5.15 per month.

White Salmon: 509-493-2255 Goldendale: 509-773-5891 www.klickitatpud.com

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Taking steps to help your home heating system run more efficiently can reduce energy use and lower your winter bills. Check to see if any air vents around your home are blocked by furniture, curtains or other items. Obstructed vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and can increase pressure in the ductwork, causing cracks and leaks to form. If necessary, consider purchasing a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture or other obstructions.

Source: energy.gov

Welcome to KPUD

Two new KPUD hires have made impacts in our community

Klickitat Public Utility District is thrilled to have Lacie Seaman and Vicente Fuentes join our engineering department over the past two years. Please join us in welcoming them to our team.

Lacie Seaman

Lacie Seaman started as KPUD's engineering support assistant in February 2024. She brings a passion for community service and a background that reflects her dedication and versatility.

In her role at KPUD, Lacie works with the staking engineers, assisting new and existing customers with service installations and upgrades. Her work helps ensure the seamless delivery of essential services to the community, reflecting her commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction.

A proud Goldendale native, Lacie graduated from Goldendale High School in 2008. She spent 15 years in the veterinary field before pursuing a career change. Her move to KPUD was driven by her desire for a role with more opportunities for growth and professional development.

Outside of work, Lacie and her family share a deep love for rodeo and horses. When they're not spending time with their horses, they enjoy camping and outdoor adventures, making the most of the natural beauty the area has to offer.

Vicente Fuentes

Vicente joined KPUD in November 2023, bringing a wealth of knowledge and diverse experience. As a project engineer at KPUD, he plans and manages projects that ensure essential services run smoothly. Collaborating with various teams, he focuses on keeping projects on schedule, within budget, and aligned with the needs of our community.



From left, Lacie Seaman, with her family Stratton, Schafer and Tyler.

Vicente's goal is to implement practical solutions that enhance reliability and create a positive impact for KPUD customers.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Washington State University Vancouver. He has experience in geotechnical engineering, manufacturing engineering, data centers and now the utility industry. Notably, his prior work with high-voltage components made him a perfect fit for KPUD, where he's excited to broaden his expertise and tackle new challenges.

In summer 2023, Vicente and his family relocated to Goldendale from Forest Grove, Oregon, to live closer to family and to raise their four children in a more rural setting. Vicente says his transition to Klickitat PUD has been a warm and welcoming experience, thanks to the PUD's supportive atmosphere.

Outside of work, Vicente enjoys woodworking, leatherworking, fishing, snowboarding, practicing guitar and exploring videography. When not working or honing his skills, Vicente and his family love traveling to the coast, cooking and tackling home DIY projects. ■



Vicente Fuentes joined KPUD as a project engineer in 2023.

WINTER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

The Winter weather is quickly approaching. Follow these tips to conserve energy and prepare for the upcoming weather changes.

WATER HEATER

Consider setting your water heater temperature to the recommended 120 degrees.

AIR FILTERS

Change out your HVAC filters to help keep energy costs down.

SEAL UP DRAFTS

Make sure your windows & doors are properly sealed.
*Weather stripping helps keep the cold drafts out.

FRIDGE & FREEZER

Allow food to cool before placing in the fridge or freezer.

WATER CONSERVATION

Instead of handwashing dishes, utilize a dishwashing machine, as this requires less water. Be sure to fix water leaks right away, as leaks can lead to water waste.

*Available in the Winter Weatherization kit.

Pick up your Winter Weatherization kit today!



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and Power Management*

Brandy Myers
*Customer & Accounting
Services Manager*

Mike Nixon
Operations Manager

Brandon Johnson
Engineering Manager

www.klickitatpud.com

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Goldendale Office

1313 S. Columbus Ave.
Goldendale, WA 98620
509-773-5891
800-548-8357

White Salmon Office

110 NE Estes Ave.
P.O. Box 187
White Salmon, WA 98672
509-493-2255
800-548-8358



WA-18

2024 in Review

The past year marked another successful construction season for Klickitat PUD. As residential installations slowed this year, KPUD took the opportunity to focus on critical capital improvements that will strengthen our infrastructure and improve service reliability for our customers across Klickitat County.

Our engineering team was busy throughout 2024, designing and managing a series of projects aligned with our long-range plan. Major accomplishments include:

- Expansion of the EE Clouse substation in Goldendale. This expansion replaces aging Bonneville Power Administration infrastructure and helps reinforce electric service for the central region of Klickitat County.
- Replacement of an aged power transformer at the Wishram Substation.
- Upgrades to power lines in areas that have experienced significant load growth. Key areas include Snowden (Bristol Road and Tunnel Road), High Prairie and locations northwest of Goldendale near Thompson Road.
- Continued fire mitigation efforts by converting power lines from overhead to underground in the Klickitat Canyon near Pitt.
- Completion of underground power line replacements in Dallesport, which will provide more reliable power for the area.
- Reconstruction of several miles of the Dot Road transmission line near Bickleton.
- Deployment of over 14,000 advanced metering infrastructure meters, enhancing service capabilities for our customers.

In addition to these larger projects, KPUD completed smaller system improvements across Klickitat County. One such project involved working with Eagle Electrocutation Solutions LLC to retrofit power poles and reduce the risk of eagle electrocution.

Approximately 120 poles were successfully outfitted with materials that cover energized parts, protecting eagles and other wildlife from electrocution. These grant-funded system improvements were free to Klickitat PUD and its customers, and will benefit reliability while reducing the risk of wildfire ignition.

I am grateful for the entire KPUD team and their hard work, dedication and commitment in bringing these projects to fruition. Thanks to their efforts, we're meeting our objectives, staying on track to implement our capital improvement plan and ensuring a sustainable path for reliable power.

Brandon Johnson
Engineering Manager