

Ruralite

KLICKITAT PUD

MARCH 2025

Keeping the Lines Clear

KPUD's right-of-way maintenance improves power reliability and helps shorten outages **Page 4**

ALSO INSIDE >>

Net Metering Annual Review

Page 25

An Updated, Improved Bill

Page 28



Keeping the Lines Clear

KPUD's right-of-way maintenance improves power reliability and helps shorten outages



During outages, Klickitat PUD crews work diligently to restore power quickly and safely. However, their job becomes more challenging when overgrown vegetation obstructs rights of way—the designated areas where power lines run. Maintaining clear ROWs is crucial for both electric service reliability and public safety.

Why Right-of-Way Maintenance Matters

ROWs overgrown with trees, shrubs or other vegetation can cause significant issues.

- **Power outages.** Trees or branches contacting power lines can lead to outages affecting hundreds or even thousands of customers.
- **Delayed repairs.** When ROWs are obstructed, crews must navigate difficult terrain to access damaged lines, slowing down restoration efforts.
- **Wildfire prevention.** In Klickitat County's hot and dry summers, overgrown vegetation increases the risk of wildfires. Proactive trimming reduces this hazard.

"Removal of dead or dying hazard trees from within or outside of our right of way helps prevent trees from falling into the power line during winter storms and wind events, or when fire season is active," KPUD Engineering Supervisor Mark Garner says.

Planning for Safe & Reliable Power

When customers request new electric service, KPUD staking engineers carefully evaluate the best route for power lines. Factors such as cost, maintenance, emergency access and long-term planning are considered to ensure a reliable power supply.

"During the on-site visit with a

customer, they are made aware of the importance of a clean, clear ROW and understand how it impacts both the customers and KPUD if a ROW does not meet the requirements," KPUD Staking Engineer Nathaniel Hill says.

Keeping ROWs Clear: A Shared Responsibility

Maintaining clear ROWs is a team effort. KPUD crews—along with contract partners like Kemp West—regularly trim trees and clear vegetation to ensure safe and efficient power delivery. Customers can help by:

- Reporting vegetation concerns to KPUD's operations department at 800-548-8357, via SmartHub or through the KPUD website.
- Considering the height a tree will reach when it is fully grown before planting one near power lines.
- Allowing KPUD crews access for regular inspections and maintenance.

KPUD Line Superintendent John Starr, who oversees tree maintenance operations, emphasizes the importance of customer cooperation.

"Keeping ROWs clear allows us to maintain power lines safely and efficiently," he says. "It's a community effort that benefits everyone."

Power Lines Need Space

We love trees, but we also prioritize safe and reliable electricity. If planting a tree near power lines, opt for low-growing trees like flowering or fruit trees. If planting taller trees, plant them at a safe distance from power lines to prevent interference.

By working together, we can ensure a safer and more reliable power system for all KPUD customers. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our ROWs clear. ■

ABOVE: Left untouched, trees, shrubs and more can grow, disrupt access to power lines and even cause outages. **LEFT:** Clearing rights of way helps prevent outages and increase power reliability.

Why KPUD Trims Trees

Although most trees do not present a problem, some of them grow into or crowd power lines, poles or other utility equipment. This could cause service issues.

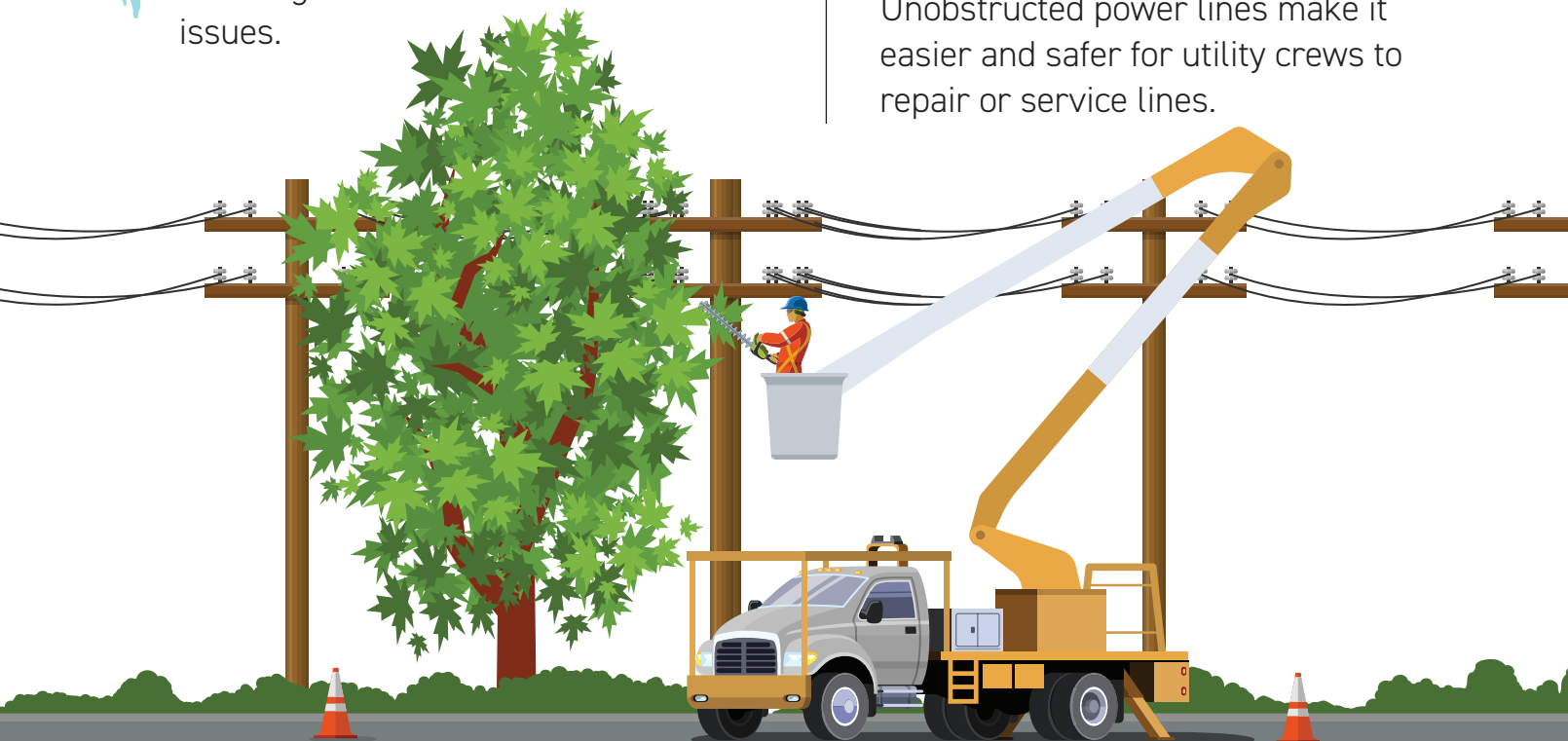
Unruly and overgrown trees can:

- ⚡ Cause outages.
- 🔥 Create fire hazards.
- ⚡ Break off and land on power lines.
- 💡 Cause lights to flicker during high winds.
- ❄️ Get weighed down with ice and cause issues.

Proper pruning techniques are used to preserve tree health, although sometimes a tree must be removed. This is a last resort, but it can be necessary if there are:

- 🌳⚡ Fast-growing trees directly under power lines.
- 🌳⚡ Trees that are leaning into lines.
- 🌳⚡ Trees that are declining, cracked or split.

Unobstructed power lines make it easier and safer for utility crews to repair or service lines.



Untangling Power Line

Myths vs Safety

Power lines deliver electricity to homes and businesses and are essential to our modern way of life. We see them everywhere, so we sometimes forget they can be potentially dangerous.

Myths abound when it comes to power line safety. To help protect our communities, Klickitat PUD believes it's crucial to end

power line misconceptions.

Understanding power line safety helps prevent accidents and protect lives.

KPUD promotes a culture of awareness and safety by encouraging everyone to play it safe with electricity. ■

01

I'm safe as long as I don't touch power lines.

Lines can energize the air around them. If too close, electricity can jump to you, leading to injury/death.

01

02

If birds can sit on power lines, it's safe for humans to touch them, too.

There's no difference in voltage in the distance between a bird's feet, so no circuit is created. Electric shock occurs if a person touches a line while touching the ground.

02

03

Wooden ladders are safe around power lines.

Wood is not a sufficient insulator. Only use nonconductive ladders around power lines and maintain a safe distance.

03

04

It's safe to trim trees near the power lines.

Branches could strike power lines and you at the same time, causing physical harm or death. This should be left to the professionals.

04

05

Power lines are insulated, so they're safe to touch.

Touching a power line, even if it appears insulated, can deliver an electric shock.

05

Net Metering Annual Review

KPUD's Net Metering Program enables customers to benefit from both the reliability of an electrical grid and the ability to generate their own renewable energy.

With 422 participants across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, the program has grown to the current subscription level of 3.655 megawatts with generating systems of solar, wind and hydro being utilized.

In 2023, we successfully met our mandated participation level, yet we remain committed to supporting renewable energy adoption by continuing to offer net metering.

Customers prioritize electricity from their renewable energy system first, reducing the amount supplied by KPUD. Depending on the system's size and electricity use, customers may generate surplus energy, which is tracked and banked as kilowatt-hour credits to offset monthly electricity usage.

KPUD's meter reader is headed your way for annual audits

Each year, as time and weather permit, KPUD conducts random audits of net meters. These audits verify readings and

check equipment to ensure accurate tracking of banked kWh credits for the annual true-up process.

To facilitate an efficient audit process, customers should ensure their meters are:

- Easily accessible.
- Clearly visible from the front.
- Not physically shielded to interfere with meter functionality.
- Located in an area that is not fenced or enclosed.

If a customer has a situation where KPUD is unable to gain access to the meter we encourage them to contact KPUD to discuss a resolution.

How are kilowatt-hour (kWh) credits applied?

If a customer records zero or negative kWh use, they will not be charged for the kWh portion of energy consumption. Instead, the surplus kWh amount will be credited to the associated meter's bank for use within the following year.

If, at any point in the net metering year, power consumption exceeds their system's generation, the customer is billed for the kWh use, minus any available banked kWh credits.

If banked credits are insufficient to

cover the total kWh use in a billing period, the customer is billed for the remaining kWh at their applicable retail power rate.

What are banked kWh credits?

Banked kWh credits represent excess energy generated by a customer that was not used during a given billing period. These credits are tracked in the net meter bank and can be applied to reduce kWh charges in future billing cycles. Typically, customers accumulate kWh credits in the summer and use them during the fall and winter months. Net meter accounts are subject to monthly basic fees and other applicable charges based on the customer's rate schedule.

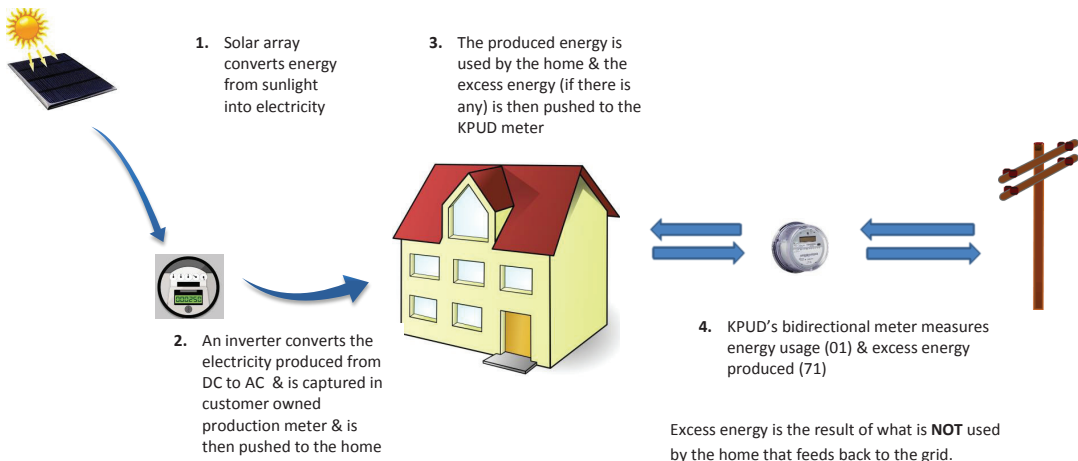
What happens if I generate more than I consume during the net meter year?

According to Washington state law, any unused banked kWh credits accumulated from the previous net meter year will expire March 31, and new accumulation begins April 1.

For more information about net metering with KPUD, contact our Energy Services Department at 509-773-7622 or visit www.klickitatpud.com/conservation/netmetering. ■



How Net Metering Works



Excess energy is the result of what is NOT used by the home that feeds back to the grid.

KPUD's meter and customer's production meter generally do not show the same reads

An Updated, Improved Bill

Beginning in February, the Klickitat PUD bill had some new updates. They are minor, and we want to point out how you can use the improvements.

Beyond updating the KPUD logo, the new bill expanded the SmartHub options, removed outdated self-read meter details, and added common explanations to improve customer access to relevant data.

Residential and small general customers will notice a new line within the “DETAILS OF CURRENT CHARGES” section. The

new line is called Demand Charge and shows monthly demand. This is similar to how demand is reflected on bills for commercial rate classes—but for residential and small general customers, it will say zero cost.

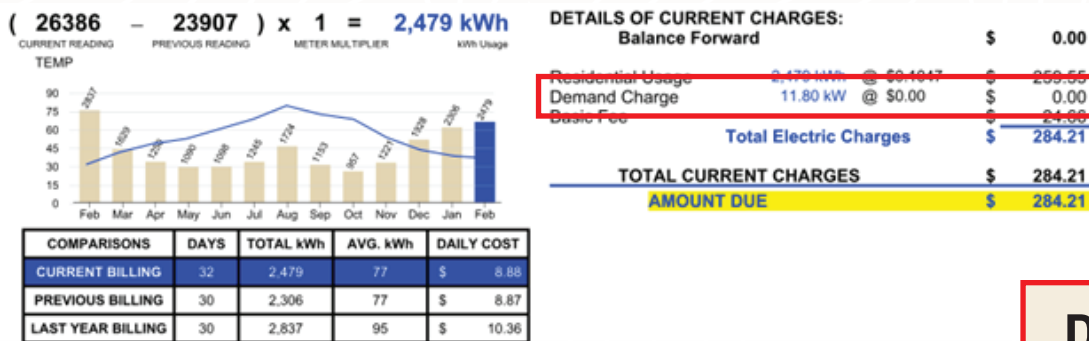
Customer demand reflects the average peak within the highest 30-minute period of the meter’s use within the month. It is measured in kilowatts, and shows total electric consumption at a single point. The higher the kilowatts the more electricity is being used.

The lower section of the bill was

updated as well. This part of the bill, called the Remit Slip is returned to KPUD with check payments to ensure payments are applied correctly.

Self-read meter customers previously entered monthly meter reads in this section to submit their reads. With the completion of the AMI project, we no longer have self-read meters and the need for this feature.

Most customers focus on the front page of the bill. However, there is a lot of useful information provided on the back of the bill, as well. ■



Demand Charge

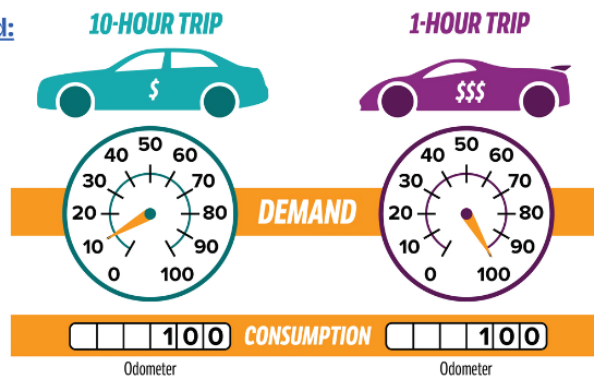
Residential and small general customers will now see a demand line on their bills. This line will show \$0 charge and highlights peak energy use during the billing cycle. This is an effort to increase customer awareness of demand, since efforts are traditionally focused on kilowatt-hour consumption.

DEMAND EDUCATION

a series

Understanding Demand:

A car’s speedometer is like a demand meter; an odometer is like an energy meter. The demand on a car driving 100 miles in an hour are higher than driving 100 miles over a ten-hour period.



Flip Your Bill Over For Useful Info

The reverse side of your KPUD bill has all sorts of information that can make your life easier

Contact Us

Customers can contact Klickitat PUD using whatever method they prefer, including a QR code to easily find the KPUD website.

SmartHub

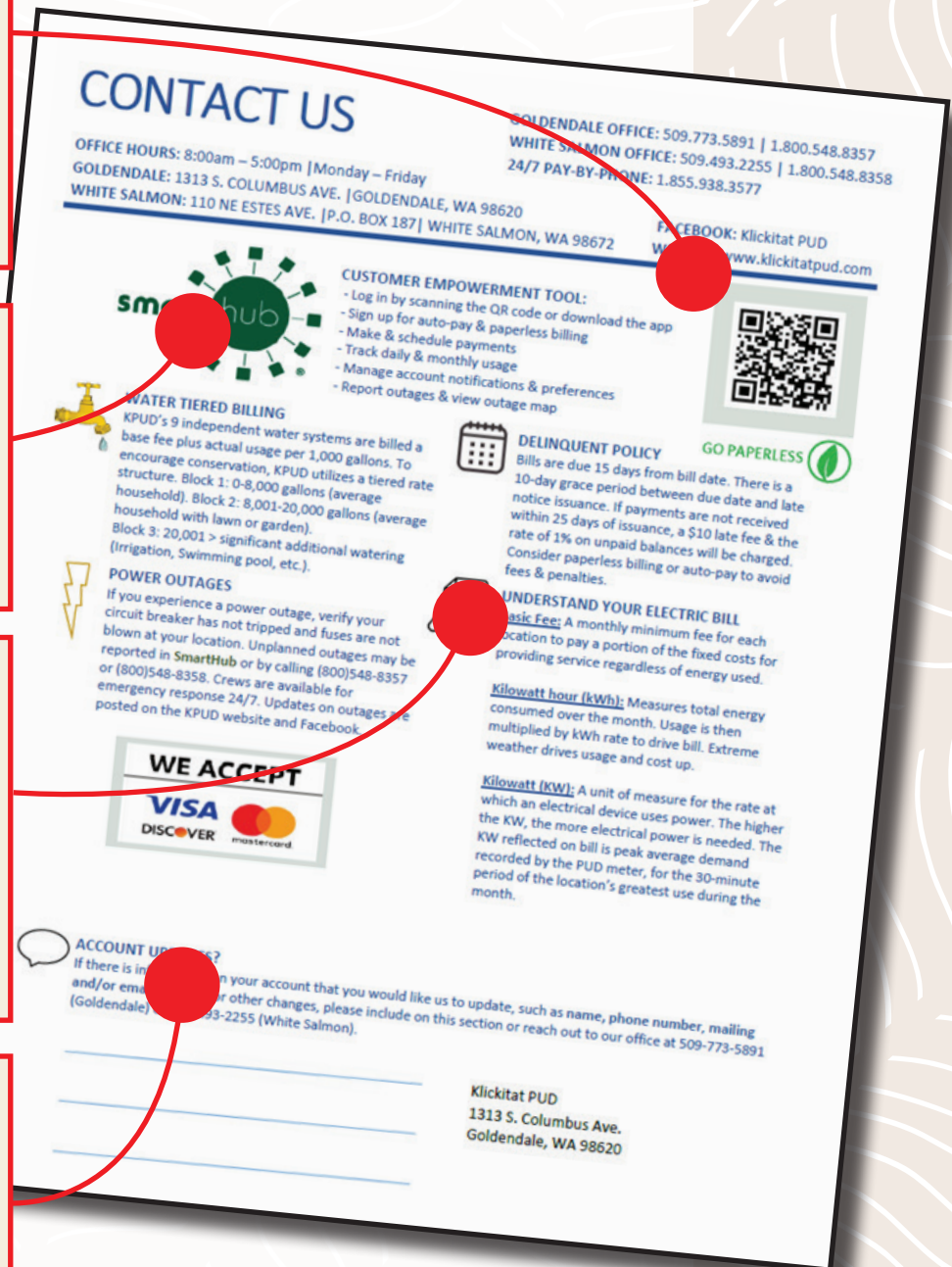
SmartHub, our customer empowerment tool, has many features that improve access to information, programs and account management tools.

Common Explanations

This section defines basic electric bill components and tiered water billing, as well as the delinquent policy and what to do during a power outage.

Account Updates

If you have account updates that need made, do so by returning the Remit Slip.





WA-18

Board of Commissioners

Dan G. Gunkel
President

Douglas B. Miller
Vice President

Stoner W. Bell
Secretary

.....
Jim Smith
General Manager

Gwyn Miller
Chief Administrative Officer

Kevin Ricks
Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Mike DeMott
*Director of Finance
and Power Management*

Brandy Myers
*Customer & Accounting
Services Manager*

Mike Nixon
Operations Manager

Brandon Johnson
Engineering Manager

www.klickitatpud.com

.....
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

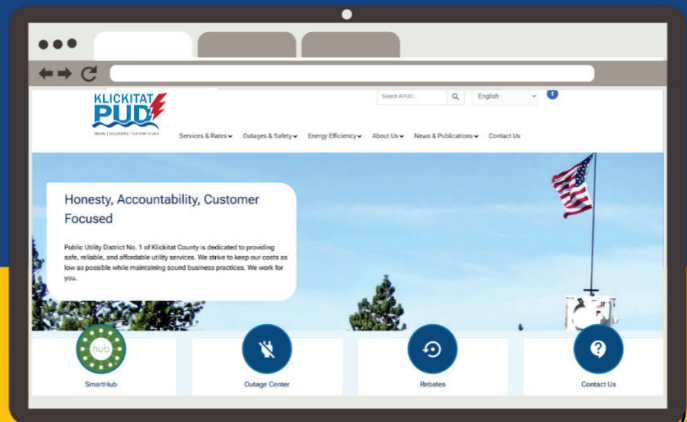


NEW KLICKITAT PUD WEBSITE!

Behind the scenes at Klickitat PUD, we've been hard at work finding the best way to bring our customers the latest and greatest online experience. We're confident you'll like the result! We invite you to visit our new website at www.klickitatpud.org to explore options and programs that may not have been readily accessible.

New Website Features:

- Clean, modern design & optimized for mobile use
- Simplified, categorized content with streamlined menus for easy navigation
- Outage Center with real-time updates
- One-stop contact form with enhanced messaging capabilities
- Multiple language options available



www.klickitatpud.org