At the Grays Harbor PUD, our strategic planning and services are centered around our core values of:

*Our Customers and Our Community*

*Safety*

*Open Communications*

*A Quality and Team-Oriented Work Environment*

*The Highest Level of integrity*

*Professional Growth and Development of Our Employees*
Created by a vote of the people in 1938 and opened in 1940, the Grays Harbor Public Utility District serves over 42,000 customers on the Southwest Washington coast. The utility employs over 160 staff members who provide energy and telecommunication utilities to residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

The public is represented by a three member board, made up of Commission President Russ Skolrood, Vice President Arie Callaghan and Secretary Dave Timmons. The commission meets on the first and third Mondays of each month in the Dennis G. Nichols Building. The meetings are open to the public with the commissioners free to be questioned and happy to provide answers to our customers.

Our mission: Serve our community with high value utility services at the lowest practical cost.

The Grays Harbor PUD Board of Commissioners (from left to right: Commissioners Dave Timmons, Arie Callaghan, and Russ Skolrood).
Reliability, value and safety—the focus of PUD operations

Reliable, high value service and a safe environment for both customers and staff are at the heart of the Grays Harbor PUD mission. In 2018, the PUD met that high standard by replacing over 700 utility poles, mowing and trimming trees along mile after mile of PUD transmission and distribution rights of way, and quickly responding to storm related power outages impacting thousands of customers. The PUD also continued the utility’s tradition of leadership in operations training by joining with nine other utilities in the purchase and installation of a distribution system training lab.

In Engineering, a fully staffed department implemented new software and completed over $11 million in capital project planning. The utility meter shop completed 163 audits and worked on over 5800 meters while carrying out 642 customer service orders. The utility’s 36 substation facilities were maintained by a department that oversaw the replacement of three high voltage circuit breakers, maintenance work on two substation transformers, relay and breaker work at three substations and work on over 1200 service transformers.
Good PUD fiber— the key to a healthy economy

The Grays Harbor PUD has been a telecommunications utility since 1998. In the years since its creation, the utility system has grown from a tool for inter-utility communications to an engine for economic growth and recovery. The PUD offers wholesale telecommunications service to nearly a dozen internet service providers, meaning the utility provides the infrastructure and the ISPs provide the web service and access to residential and commercial customers. As it has grown, the telecommunications department has gone from a new addition to a valuable utility asset, most recently posting revenues of a half-million dollars in 2018.

The past year has seen a number of notable achievements for the PUD telecommunications department. Amongst them, the successful connection of the Seabrook development; the completion of system improvements for the Montesano and Hoquiam School Districts, Department of Corrections and Grays Harbor Transit; the state funding of the East County fiber expansion; and continuing work to improve fiber connections for the Quinault, Chehalis, Shoalwater and Hoh tribal centers.
2019 budget focuses on strengthening the PUD system

On November 19, 2018, the Grays Harbor PUD Board of Commissioners approved a $126 million budget for 2019 that reflects an improving financial situation and a dedication to improving the utility infrastructure.

The budget calls for the PUD to spend $9.1 million on capital projects. Nearly three quarters of every dollar spent on capital improvements will go to the replacement of aging equipment, including aerial and underground transmission and distribution lines, hundreds of utility poles, and substation transformers and circuit breakers. In 2019, the utility plans to invest $2 million into the PUD transmission system, $3.95 million into the distribution system and $1.4 million into its substation network. The remainder of the proposed capital budget is dedicated to general plant improvements, including telecommunications, facilities, IT systems, fleet and tools, which will see a total investment of $1.75 million.

Roughly 56% of the budget will go to power purchases from the Bonneville Power Administration, and renewable energy contracts including the Nine Canyon Wind Project, the Coastal Energy Project and Sierra Pacific Industries. Utility operations and maintenance costs make up just 21% of the district’s spending.
The PUD’s commitment to safe and reliable utility services goes beyond the day to day operations of the utility system. The PUD has taken an expanding role in advocating for policies and partnerships that benefit both the local and regional communities.

In December, the PUD and Port of Grays Harbor Boards of Commissioners held their first ever joint meeting to discuss both telecommunication and energy projects that will benefit not only the two organizations but also the local economy. The PUD’s relationship with Greater Grays Harbor Inc. has strengthened its position to advocate for local issues.

The PUD also enjoys strong relationships with state and federal legislators. In 2018-2019, work with the 24th and 19th District legislators lead to capital project funding and the consideration of the local impacts of state policies. Work with Representative Derek Kilmer and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, through organizations like the Washington State PUD Association, American Public Power Association and Public Power Council, continue to benefit both the PUD and the region as a whole.
Taking an active role in the community we serve

The Grays Harbor PUD employs over 160 staff members, nearly all of whom are in one way or another involved in the Grays Harbor community. From involvement in city government and local charities, to volunteering their time for work and community events, PUD staff believe in being civically engaged.

In addition to annual events like the Grays Harbor County Fair and Home and Garden Show, PUD staff tell the utility story at school career days, display the power of electricity with the utility arc trailer and lend a hand at community service events through the PUD Transformers, a utility volunteer group that assists local organizations.
Utility Contacts (area code 360)

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