Energy Efficiency Kit Giveaways Top 1600, Nearly 400K kWh Saved

As part of the ongoing efforts to help customer’s save money on power bills AND meet the utilities goals of power conservation, the Grays Harbor PUD has been providing energy efficiency kits to our residential customers. The three LED bulbs, energy efficient shower head and thermostatic shower valve have been a big hit with the customers who have stopped by our Energy Services office to pick them up. So far, 1663 kits have been handed out with an estimated savings of just under 400-thousand kilowatt-hours.

Several hundred kits still remain so if you are a PUD residential customer and have yet to pick up your kit (one per customer), be sure to stop by the PUD Energy Services office to fill out your coupon and start saving energy.

Phone Scammers Manipulate Phone Numbers in Latest Attempt

Telephone scammers are continuing their calls targeting both Grays Harbor PUD customers and non-customers, threatening to shut-off their power if payments are not immediately made on accounts that they claim are delinquent. PUD Customer Service staff have reported receiving calls from customers and non-customers who were contacted by phone scammers claiming to be from the PUD and able to manipulate phone numbers to make it appear as if the call is coming from the utility.

“While the methods of these scams are becoming more sophisticated, the scams still only work if you volunteer your personal information,” says Customer Service Director Katy Moore. “So far our customers have done the right thing by calling the PUD to report the scams and to check on their account status.”

Recipients of such fraudulent phone calls and mailings should under no circumstances agree to send money to the callers or give them bank account, credit card or other information. Rather, they are advised to contact PUD Customer Service at 360-532-4220 to verify the claim and to contact the office of their local law enforcement agency.

Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Nichols Building, 220 Myrtle Street, Hoquiam.

September 2018
Tuesday - September 4 (rescheduled from Sept. 3)
Monday - September 17

October 2018
Monday - October 8 (rescheduled from Oct. 1)
Monday - October 22 (rescheduled from Oct. 15)

Regular business meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. A one hour workshop (3:30 to 4:30 pm) will precede each business meeting, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend all commission meetings, special meetings, workshops and public hearings. Public comment periods are included at the open and close of every meeting.

Commission meetings may be cancelled and special meetings may be scheduled. Please visit our website (www.ghpud.org) for updated information.

ON-LINE BILL PAYMENT

Want to pay your bill on-line? Now you can pay your bill instantly without ever leaving home. Just go to ghpud.org, click the “Pay Bill/Smart Hub” button on the bottom left hand side of the screen and follow the instructions. If you have any difficulties using the online service, please call Customer Service at 1-800-562-7726 or you may email customerservice@ghpud.org.
PUD Booth and Displays Greet Fairgoers

The PUD staff, information, displays and giveaways were once again a big hit at the Grays Harbor County Fair. In a week where the weather ranged from oven hot to torrential downpour, the PUD booth was again one of the most visited vendor booths at the fairgrounds in Elma. Children and adults stopped to spin the prize wheel for a chance to go home with a flashlight, sunglasses or one of the many other prizes. PUD line crews put on a fine showing with Arc Trailer demonstrations and pole top rescue displays. As a new addition to 2018, the telecommunications department fiber display brought in many curious fairgoers to learn about the fast growing telecom portion of the utility. When the gates finally closed on Sunday, over 30 staffers had manned the PUD site and again put on a fine showing for our customers and fairgoers. Thanks to all who made 2018’s fair a success.
September is the Month of Preparation

September is National Preparedness Month and your Grays Harbor PUD is urging customers to take this time to make sure that outage preparedness kits, generators and other tools are ready for the winter months. While the PUD is proud of its system reliability, it also believes in the old adage: hope for the best, prepare for the worst. With that in mind, your outage preparedness kits should include:

- A flashlight and batteries
- A battery operated radio
- Candles and matches
- Non-perishable food
- Water
- A manual can opener

Should winter weather knock out power, the PUD has several methods of tracking power outages and following the efforts taking place to bring the lights back on. In addition to local radio and news coverage, outage updates are available on the GHPUD.ORG website, where you can also sign up for outage alerts, sent by both text and email. The PUD also provides outage updates and PUD information on the utility Twitter and Facebook accounts. If your power is still off once restoration efforts are complete, you are encouraged to call the outage reporting hotline at 360-537-3721 or 888-541-5923 to inform dispatchers that your home is still without power.
Commissioners Corner
by Arie Callaghan, District One

Many of the Commissioner Corner articles written by my colleagues and I have been about I-937 and the negative impacts it has on Grays Harbor PUD customers. I-937 is a citizen passed initiative, which mandates that PUDs with 25,000 customers or more must have a certain percentage of renewable power in their portfolio. Sadly, the initiative does not recognize hydropower as renewable power. As a result, the PUD spends millions of dollars every year to be in compliance and our customer owners shoulder that cost. In order to be in compliance, the Grays Harbor PUD has a share of several renewable energy projects, which qualify under the I-937 mandate.

One of these is a local wind project owned and operated by Coastal Community Action Program right here in Grays Harbor. This wind farm is located on the hills above Grayland and produces six megawatts of electricity, which goes directly on the Grays Harbor PUD grid. The commissioners and staff recently toured the facility, and I have to say it is impressive. While many have driven through Grayland and seen the windmills, you do not get the full effect of their size until you are standing at the base of one. Craig Dublanko, the chief executive of CCAP gave us a tour of the facility and had many stories to tell of what it took to get the project online. The vision and forward thinking of Dublanko and CCAP is most impressive. What makes this project different from the other power projects we are a part of, is that the dollars that it generates stay in the local economy, and are used to assist many low-income families in our community.

While I think it is our duty as commissioners to push back against I-937 and anything else which could have a negative impact on our customers or rates, this power project is different. It serves two purposes and is a bright spot and benefit to our local economy.