

## Sign up for Budget Payment Plan

### How does the budget plan work?

Your monthly payments are based on your energy consumption during the past 12 months. Each June, the PUD does a recalculation of your budget payment. When your budget payment is recalculated, one of the following occurs:

- If you paid for more energy than you used, we recalculate your new budget payment using your credit balance, which may reduce your new budget payment.
- If your actual use was greater than what you paid while on the budget plan, your new budget payment may increase.

### When can I begin the budget payment plan?

You can choose to begin the plan at any time. However, June is the recommended month. Your account needs to have a zero balance.

### Will I know how much electricity I am using every month?

Your meter will continue to be read as usual. Each month you will receive an up-to-date statement of your account showing the budget amount due, as well as the actual amount of electricity used.

A summary of current charges is listed in the first section of your statement.

The second section, balance recap, is a running total of the actual balance on your account. These are the actual charges to your account minus your payments.

The third section, budget recap, outlines the status of your budget account. This is your monthly charge minus your monthly payments.

### What if I am unable to make a payment?

You must pay your budget payment in full by the due date of the bill each month. Otherwise you may be dropped from the budget payment plan. If you are unable to make your payment, please call the PUD's customer service department.

### What happens if I want to cancel my budget payment plan?

Your account will be reconciled at that time by comparing your actual consumption to what you have paid on the budget payment plan.

If you have paid for more energy than you used, your account will be credited for that amount.

If you consumed more energy than you have paid for, your next bill will reflect a balance due.

### Can I re-enroll in the budget payment plan?

If you have been removed from the budget payment plan for any reason, you must settle any past due charges before being allowed to re-enroll in the plan.

### Can I enroll in the budget payment plan and the automatic draft?

Yes, they are a great complement to each other.

### Is there a cost to join?

There is no charge to participate in the budget payment plan.

The budget plan does not include any non-metered services, such as street-lights, yard lights and wastewater basic fees. These charges will be added to your monthly budget amount.

If you are ready to enroll, call Klickitat PUD's customer service department.

Goldendale Office: (509) 773-5891 or (800) 548-8357;

White Salmon Office: (509) 493-2255 or (800) 548-8358 ■

## Avoid Hazards with Windows

Perhaps the best way to save energy and money on air conditioning on mild spring days is to shut off the equipment and open the windows.

An open window gives you a view of the outdoors, and invites sunlight and spring breezes into your home, but it can cause trouble if you are not careful.

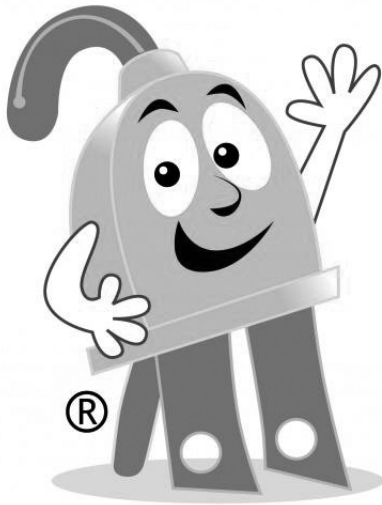
Protect your family during open-window season by:

- Keeping windows locked, even when they are open, and by locking them when they are closed.
- Locating beds and other furniture away from windows so a child cannot climb out of a window or get close enough to fall through one.

- Opening windows no more than 4 inches if you have small children in the house. Wider openings allow a child to fit through.
- Installing window guards that prevent a child from opening a window.
- Replacing dangling string cords on window blinds with stick-style openers to prevent a child from being strangled.
- Adding screens to all windows as a precaution against falling and to keep out bugs.
- Including a window as one of the escape routes in an emergency escape plan.
- Never painting, nailing or sealing your windows shut. You need to open them quickly in case of a fire.

# Stay Safe Around Electricity

This month, Klickitat PUD joins with the Electrical Safety Foundation International to kick off its annual effort to increase awareness of electrical safety.



The National Electrical Safety Month 2014 campaign features a comprehensive collection of new and updated resources regarding effective electrical safety awareness for communities, organizations, schools, and families. Visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) for information on these subjects.

## Power Strips and Surge Protectors

Power strips allow us to plug more products into the same outlet, which can be a help, but also a hindrance to safety, if used inappropriately. Power strips and surge suppressors don't provide more power to a location, just more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit into which it is connected. The circuit likely also still serves a variety of other outlets and fixtures in addition to the multiple electrical items you might be supplying with the power strip.

Keep these safety principles in mind

when using power strips and surge suppressors:

- Be sure you are not overloading the circuit. Know the capacity of the circuit and the power requirements of all the electrical items plugged into the power strip and into all the other outlets and light fixtures on the circuit.

- A heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them. Understand that surge suppressors only protect the items plugged into it, not back along the circuit into which it is connected.

- In the event of a large surge or spike, such as a lightning strike or power surge, the surge suppressor is a one-time-use protector and will likely have to be replaced. Consider purchasing surge suppressors with cable and phone jacks to provide the same protection to your phone, fax, computer modem and television.

- Not all power strips are surge suppressors, and not all surge suppressors can handle the same load and events. Be sure the equipment you buy matches your needs.

- For homes in areas with a high incidence of lightning, consider having a surge arrestor installed at your meter base for whole house protection. Contact Klickitat PUD for more information on installation and monthly cost of surge arrestors: (509) 773-5891 or (509)493-2255.

There is an open house in both the Goldendale and White Salmon PUD offices on Friday, May 16, to celebrate National Electrical Safety Month. Stop by one of the offices for free refreshments and electrical safety pamphlets. ■

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### May

- 2-3**—Goldendale Home and Garden Show, Klickitat County Fairgrounds, Goldendale
- 3**—Lyle Lions Club Breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m.
- 5**—Spring Band Concert at Trout Lake School, Trout Lake
- 5**—Cinco de Mayo
- 10-11**—Gun Show, Yakima Valley SunDome
- 11**—Mother's Day
- 11**—Free Day at Washington state parks; Discover Pass not required
- 12**—4-H Swine Pre-Show, 5:30 p.m., Klickitat County Fairgrounds, (509) 773-5817
- 13**—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 17**—Mount Adams endurance horse ride, Gifford-Pinchot National Forest
- 17**—Stars on Ice, Moda Center, Portland
- 17**—Klickitat Valley Health's health fair, Goldendale, (509) 773-4022
- 24-25**—Tractor Pull, Joe Sellers' Track, Goldendale
- 24**—Horse Show, 9 a.m., Hood River County Fairgrounds
- 26**—Memorial Day, observed—KPUD offices are closed
- 27**—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 30-31**—Bluegrass Festival, Fiddlin' Under the Stars, Ekone Park, Goldendale
- 30-6/1**—White Salmon Spring Festival, Rheingarten Park, (509) 493-1252

### June

- 1**—Lyle High School graduation, 2 p.m.
- 6-7**—13+ Mile Yard Sale, Klickitat County
- 7**—Lyle Lions Club breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m.
- 7**—Rose Festival Grand Parade, Veterans' Memorial Coliseum, Portland
- 7**—Glenwood High School graduation
- 7**—Klickitat High School graduation
- 7**—Columbia High School graduation, 11 a.m., White Salmon
- 9**—4-H sheep and goat pre-show, Klickitat County Fairgrounds
- 13**—Goldendale High School graduation
- 13**—Trout Lake High School graduation
- 13-15**—104th Pioneer Picnic and Rodeo, Cleveland Park, Bickleton
- 14**—National Get Outdoors Day—free entry to state parks; Discover Pass not required
- 14-15**—Glenwood Ketchum Kalf Rodeo, Glenwood