

Budget Plan Improves Money Management

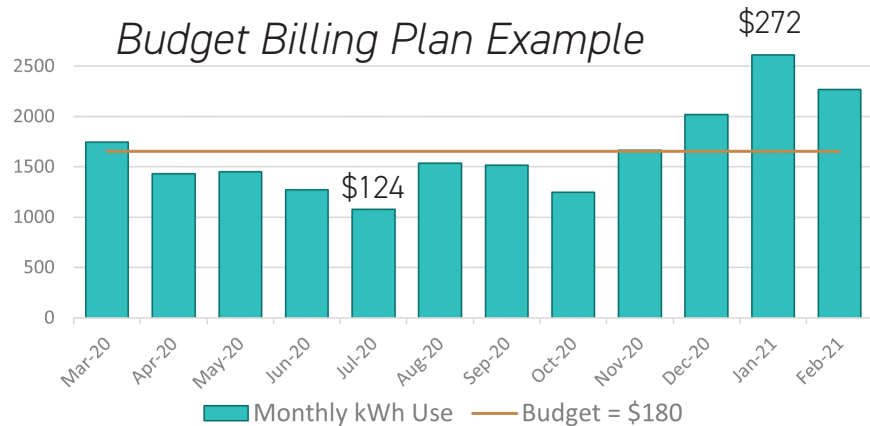
A consistent monthly utility bill helps stabilize personal budgets while on a fixed income

Fluctuating power bills can strain a budget and be frustrating and hard to manage. This is especially true for utility bills, which vary based on seasonal use, whether it is heating or cooling driven.

Klickitat PUD offers a budget program to provide consistent monthly bills based on your prior 12-month average use. Spring is the best time to sign up for KPUD’s budget plan to get on track prior to high use seasons (typically summer and winter). Once enrolled in the budget plan, customers will pay monthly, and rural customers will need to continue to submit meter reads.

The PUD will recalculate your budget payment each May, with the new payment amount beginning in June. This year, budget amounts will increase more than in previous years because of the 2023 rate increase. Payments were not recalculated at the beginning of the year, so the balance going into the recalculation may be higher. When the budget payment amount is recalculated, one of the following will occur:

- If you paid for more energy than you used, we will recalculate your new budget payment using your credit balance, which may reduce your new budget payment.
- If you used more energy than you paid for while on the budget plan, your new budget payment will increase to recover the shortage and your use assumption will increase going forward.
- If you would like to know where you sit with your actual balance compared to budget balance, the **Information Only-Account Balance** on your bill reflects the amount which will become due if you disconnect your service or chose to get off the budget plan. The Information Only-Account Balance line is an important



indicator to help gauge whether your budget amount is in line with your use.

For more information or to enroll in the budget plan, contact customer service. Call the Goldendale office at 509-773-5891 or 800-548-8357, and the White Salmon office at 509-493-2255 or 800-548-8358.

SmartHub is available 24/7 for customer account management, which includes enrolling in the budget plan. The budget plan pairs well with autodraft, so sign up on SmartHub and avoid late fees and penalties. ■

Budget customer reminders:

- ▶ Check your May bill for your new budget amount. Budgets were not recalculated in January with the rate increase, so new budget amounts may be higher than normal.
- ▶ Contact KPUD if you would like to pay off the Information Only- Account Balance to reduce your new budget monthly amount.
- ▶ The new budget amount will be billed beginning in June.

All of this information will be on your statement in the upper right-hand corner. Below is an example for reference.

BILLING SUMMARY	
Total Previous Balance	\$ 180.00
Payments	\$ -180.00
Balance Forward	\$ 0.00
Information Only - Account Balance	
Budget Amount Due	\$ 180.00

MESSAGE FROM KLICKITAT PUD	
<p>Your monthly budget amount has been recalculated. Starting next month your monthly budget amount will be \$170.00.</p>	