

# Your Utility News

Wahkiakum PUD  
PO Box 248, 45 River Street  
Cathlamet, WA 98612  
360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171



*Winter Edition*

## Manager's Corner *By David Trambie, General Manager*



David Trambie

In an effort to provide the most reliable electric and water service at the most reasonable cost, Wahkiakum PUD is replacing all of our manually read electric and water meters with Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology. We selected AMR metering due to its reasonable cost, proven technology and our ability to use our existing labor force for all required installation.

As our crew works throughout Wahkiakum County to provide necessary maintenance to your power and/or water meter, there will be a minor inconvenience as we must temporarily shut off the power and/or water to work safely on our metering equipment. Currently our utility requires 104 man hours per month to read our meters. When fully implemented we should be able to read our entire county in 8 hours. In addition to the reduction of vehicle expenses, the labor savings will allow us more efficient use of our staff and enable our utility to be pro-active in our maintenance programs such as scheduled water pipe replacement, line maintenance and tree trimming.

## From Your Commissioners



*By Commissioner Dennis Reid*

Did you know that because you are served by public power (Wahkiakum PUD), you have the cleanest (greenest) power in the country and possibly the world? This is because over 95% of that energy comes from hydro-power and nuclear generation. Public power in Washington also has some of the lowest rates in the country for the same reasons.

Two things are important for maintaining this clean power and low rates. First is retaining local control (elected commissioners) of the public utility districts. And the second is protecting the hydro-power system by saving the dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Please remember that you are welcome to attend the PUD board meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 8:30 AM. Also, feel free to contact me at [dreid@wahkiakumpud.org](mailto:dreid@wahkiakumpud.org).



### Looking For a Way to Make a Difference?

Our Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP) is accepting donations now to help local families struggling to pay their utility bills. Donations can be made by phone, at the utility office, with your monthly statement and by logging into your account at [www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org).

***All donations remain here in Wahkiakum County.***

Thanks to your generosity, limited income Wahkiakum County residents can apply to receive the help they need to pay their heating bills this winter. Donations from people like you fund this important program.

### Your Commissioners'

#### Meeting Schedule:

8:30am 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 45 River St., Cathlamet

### Auto Pay and E-Billing - Making Life Just a Little Simpler

**Auto Pay:** When customers sign up for this option we'll continue to send a monthly statement and when the payment is due we will charge your Visa, MasterCard or Discover debit or credit card, eliminating the need to write a check.

**E-Billing:** When customers sign up for this option it eliminates the need to wait for the statement in the mail. We will email the current statement balance with a link to view your statement, make payments, view account history and more.

**To sign up** for either of these programs contact Wahkiakum PUD at 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171.

*The mission of Public Utility District No. 1 of Wahkiakum County is to provide the most reliable electric and water service at the most reasonable cost along with quality customer service to the District's ratepayers. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**“Frequently Asked”  
Corner**

**Q. What can I do around my home this winter to help reduce my electric or water consumption?**

According to U.S. Dept. of Energy, space heating & cooling and water heating accounts for approximately 68% of a home’s energy use, making these some of the largest energy expenses in any home. In addition to investing in home improvements such as energy efficient windows, insulation and ductless or air source heat pumps (*we have rebates for all of those!*), here are a few simple suggestions from Energy.gov that might help this winter:

*The average household uses 64 gallons of hot water per day.*

**SPACE HEATING:** A great way to lower electric consumption is to install a **programmable thermostat** designed for your heat source. If you set the thermostat to 68°F while you're awake then turn your thermostat back 10° for 8 hours while you're asleep or away from home you may save as much as 10% of electric consumption if the setback period is eight hours or longer. Using a **ceiling fan** is another idea. When the weather turns cold, spin the fan clockwise to push air down to trap heat inside. To reduce the amount of air that leaks in and out of your home, **caulking and weatherstripping** are two simple and effective air-sealing techniques. Caulk is generally used for cracks between stationary house components and weatherstripping is used to seal components that move, such as doors and operable windows.

**WATER:** Fixing a **leaking faucet** that drips once per second can waste approximately 1,661 gallons per year—nearly 5 gallons of water per day dripping down the drain! Insulating water pipes with pre-slit foam **pipe insulation** is another easy and inexpensive way to avoid wasting water down the drain while waiting for your hot water.

**TO LEARN MORE** on how to save energy and improve the comfort of your home, start your Energy Action Month to-do list and save money and energy all year long by visiting [energy.gov/energysaver](http://energy.gov/energysaver).



**Our Website**

[www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org)

**Our Office**

We are located at 45 River Street in Cathlamet. For your convenience, there is a Payment Drop Box for after hours payments available in our parking lot.

**Office Hours**

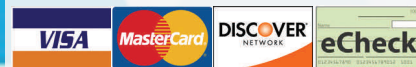
Monday—Friday  
8:00—4:30 PM (we are closed 12:00—12:30 PM for lunch)

**By Phone**

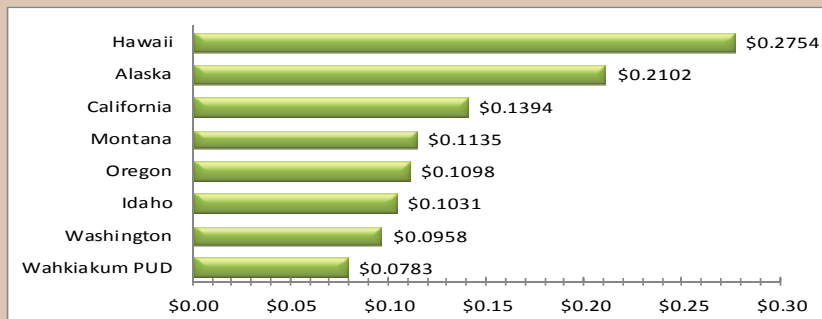
360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171

**Payment Options**

We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, check, e-check, cash and money orders in our office. We also accept payments by phone, in our Payment Drop Box in our parking lot and at [www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org).



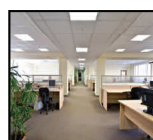
Ever wonder how Wahkiakum PUD residential electric rates stack up to Washington State average electricity rates? And how does Washington State compare to our neighboring states in and around the Pacific Northwest<sup>1</sup>?



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration’s Data for October 2016 | Release Date: December 23, 2016

**Wahkiakum PUD now offers Air Source Heat Pump rebates!**

Wahkiakum PUD is now providing \$500-\$1,600 in rebates to convert or upgrade single family homes in Wahkiakum County to a new Air Source Heat Pump. This is the newest addition to the PUD’s energy efficiency portfolio of programs designed to help reduce energy consumption in Wahkiakum County. In addition to Air Source Heat Pump rebates, we also offer incentives for ductless heat pumps, insulation, windows, and non-residential lighting.



**Holiday Office Closures**



*Wahkiakum PUD will be closed to recognize the following holidays:*

- New Years Day**
- Martin Luther King’s Birthday**
- President’s Day**
- Memorial Day**
- Fourth of July**
- Labor Day**
- Veteran’s Day**
- Thanksgiving Day**
- Friday after Thanksgiving**
- Christmas Day**

**Reporting an Outage**



During normal business hours, call 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171. For After Hours Outages call Wahkiakum Co Sheriff’s Office at 360-795-3212 or 360-465-2202