

Your Utility News

WAHAKIAKUM PUD

PO Box 248, 45 River St.
Cathlamet, WA 98612

360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171
www.wahkiakumpud.org



February, 2024

Manager's Corner *Dan Kay, General Manager*



Happy 2024. I would like to begin by saying Thank You to the Commissioners, staff, and past management for working hard on your behalf. We are continuing to work on and build upon that previous work by focusing on people and infrastructure.

People are at the center of everything we do. The PUD was established by a vote of the people in 1936. We are a not-for-profit municipal corporation governed by the PUD Commissioners that you elect to represent you. Additionally, focusing on our employees and providing them with the proper equipment and training is imperative to delivering safe, quality customer service to the District's ratepayers.

Infrastructure is the foundation required to deliver reliable electric and water services. From substations to water plants, poles and transformers to pipes, valves and distribution lines, we are strengthening our infrastructure, conducting active vegetation management and continuing regular system maintenance. As a result, we have reduced the duration of power outages and reduced our distribution system losses in each of the water systems.

What is ahead for 2024? We have been successful in obtaining significant grant or loan forgiveness funding for several water system improvement projects. We will continue to work on mainline projects, extending and replacing water mainline throughout our water systems, and we will continue to explore a new water source for the residents of Puget Island. It is an exciting time at the PUD – serving our community is at the heart of what we do.

If you have any thoughts, questions, or want to discuss the PUD, please do not hesitate to email me at gm@wahkiakumpud.org or call me at 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171. We are here to serve you, our customers!

Attention Budget Pay Customers

If you are on the District's **Budget Pay Plan** this is a perfect time to review your actual account balance to ensure your budget payment is sufficient to cover your remaining winter bills. Your actual account balance is the difference between your actual cost verses what you have paid so far during this budget cycle.

Customers can find their **Actual Account Balance** on every monthly statement or call the District office at 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171 so we can assist you in reviewing your balance.

Commissioner's Column *By Commissioner Dennis Reid*



USE YOUR IMAGINATION AND
THINK AHEAD

When selecting trees for your yard imagine what those trees will look like in 15+ years. Large, mature trees like fir, cedar or maple can reach upwards of 80+ feet tall. Wahkiakum PUD's Vegetation Management Program requires large trees to be planted at least 50 feet away from overhead power lines. That may seem way too far away when you are planting, but if you plant large trees closer the tree limbs will wind up growing into the power lines and potentially causing power outages and dangerous conditions. Here is a quick rule of thumb to help with your landscape planning:

- ◆ Large trees = plant at least 50 feet away from overhead powerlines
- ◆ Medium trees (25 feet tall) = plant at least 25 feet away from overhead powerlines
- ◆ Low-growing trees (15 feet tall) = plant at least 15 feet away from overhead powerlines
- ◆ Keep a clearance zone of at least 10 feet away from ground-mounted transformers and waterlines to prevent disrupting underground facilities

Remember to call for a locate. Call [811](tel:811) or visit www.digsafewa.com anytime you are doing a project that involves digging. They will notify all of the various utilities located in your area to come out and mark their lines.

Next time you're thinking about making your PUD payment, thank you in advance for adding a donation for the REAP program to help your neighbors in need.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at dreid@wahkiakumpud.org or call me at 360-703-8532. — Dennis Reid

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, we accept

Visa, MasterCard, Discover & Electronic Check.



PUD Commissioners' Meeting Schedule

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

Meetings can be attended virtually. Meeting agendas and previous board meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.wahkiakumpud.org/board-meetings>.

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.

Curious about the District’s energy efficiency rebate program? Below is a guide to frequently asked questions.

Q: Does the PUD offer energy efficiency improvement rebates?

A: YES! Currently, Wahkiakum PUD offers its electrical customers rebates to retrofit windows, insulation, programmable thermostats, ductless heat pumps, air source heat pumps, lighting, packaged terminal heat pumps, variable refrigerant flow heating systems and heat pump water heaters.

Q: What is the purpose of the Energy Efficiency Rebate Program?

A: Wahkiakum PUD purchases its electricity from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Because of the increasing demand for electricity in the Pacific Northwest, and to ensure BPA can meet that demand, BPA has created a rebate incentive program to improve the energy efficiency of buildings in the Pacific Northwest. Wahkiakum PUD participates in BPA’s rebate program by offering rebates directly to our electric customers.

Q: Does new construction qualify?

A: To be eligible for the District’s energy efficiency rebates the structure must have a minimum of one year of active, electric services. Wahkiakum County has a significant amount of aging infrastructure. The current focus of the District’s rebate program is to focus on that aging infrastructure at this time.

Q: Can I self-install?

A: Most of the District’s energy efficiency rebate programs require installation by a licensed contractor. However, there are several District programs that can be self-installed. Customers can review specific installation guidelines at www.wahkiakumpud.org/rebates or contact a District representative at 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171.

Q: Do I have to select a contractor from a qualified contractors list?

A: Customers can select their own licensed contractor provided that contractor meets state licensing requirements to do that specific work in Washington State. If looking for a contractor, the District recommends visiting the Washington State Dept. of Labor & Industries website at <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/contractors/hiring-a-contractor/> to verify a contractor’s license eligibility.

Q: Do I have to be pre-approved to qualify for a rebate?

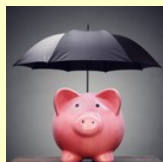
A: Yes. Participants must complete the pre-qualification application form and submit it to the PUD before equipment is installed. Pre-approval ensures funds are earmarked for the project and that the project meets District guidelines. Pre-approval is required for all utility rebate programs prior to installation and expires sixty (60) days after approval. Projects that require longer than sixty days to complete must obtain special approval from Wahkiakum PUD.

Q: How much are the rebates and how do I receive my rebate payment?

A: Rebate rates vary by program. The pre-qualification application form provides a list of program guidelines, rebate rates and a documentation checklist to guide participants through the rebate process. Once the project is complete and final documentation is submitted to the PUD a rebate check is issued to the participant.

Q: How can I get more information?

A: All District energy efficiency rebates can be found at www.wahkiakumpud.org/rebates or contact a District representative at 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171.



PENNY WISE: PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS

Heating and cooling your home can typically make up a big part of your utility bill. According to Energy.gov, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating by simply programming your thermostat to lower your temperature 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its normal setting while you are sleeping or away.

By learning how to use a programmable thermostat you can set your home to the perfect temperature for when you wake up or come home from work. And the best part is that you don’t have to sacrifice comfort!

Report an Outage

Monday—Friday 8am—4:30pm:
Call 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171

After hours, weekends or holidays:
Call Wahkiakum Co Sheriff’s and
speak to the dispatcher at
360-795-3312 or 360-465-2202

Payment Options

Payment can be made by check, e-check, cash, money order, Visa, MasterCard, Discover (debit or credit), autopay and ACH. Payment locations:

On The Web

www.wahkiakumpud.org

District Office (45 River St)

Monday—Friday 8am—4:30pm
(lunch closure 12:00—12:30pm)

Payment Drop Box

District office parking lot at
45 River Street, Cathlamet

By Phone

360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171



Holiday Closures

The District is closed for the following holidays:

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
- President’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Veteran’s Day
- Thanksgiving
- Friday after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day

Looking for a way to make a difference?



Consider donating to the Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP). District customers may elect to have REAP donations automatically included on their monthly statements and donations can be made in any amount.

100% of REAP funds stay in Wahkiakum County and provide assistance to local families in need.