

# CONNECT

NOVEMBER 2026

## HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED: OUR VETERANS AT PEND OREILLE PUD



This Veterans Day, Pend Oreille PUD is proud to recognize seven of our own who answered the call to serve our country and continue to make a difference here at home.

**Joshua Bean** - U.S. Army  
**Rusty Gill** - U.S. Air National Guard  
**Bryant Kramer** - U.S. Navy  
**James Massey** - U.S. Army  
**John Petrich** - U.S. Navy  
**Nik Reed** - U.S. Marines  
**Dave Rick** - U.S. Merchant Marines

While their paths through military service were different, all eight now share a commitment to serving the people of Pend Oreille County.

We're proud to have all these men on our team and appreciate both their military service and the work they do for our community today.

This November, we also extend our appreciation to all veterans throughout Pend Oreille County.  
**Happy Veterans Day from all of us at Pend Oreille PUD!**

## Keep the Heat In and the High Bills Out

With colder weather here and heating systems working overtime, now is a good time to make a few simple changes around the house. Small adjustments can help keep your home comfortable while keeping winter energy costs in check.

- **Set your thermostat wisely.** Lowering your thermostat a few degrees while you're asleep or away can help reduce heating costs. If you have a heat pump, check the manufacturer's recommendations before making large temperature adjustments.
- **Seal up drafts.** Check around doors and windows for air leaks. A little weatherstripping or caulk can go a long way toward keeping warm air in and cold air out.
- **Let the sunshine in.** Open blinds and curtains during the day to take advantage of natural sunlight, then close them at night to help hold in the heat.
- **Use space heaters safely.** Heat only the room you're using and keep space heaters at least three feet away from curtains, furniture and anything that can burn. Always plug them directly into a wall outlet, never an extension cord or power strip.
- **Check your furnace filters.** Clean or replace filters regularly. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can make your heating system work harder than necessary.
- **Keep vents and registers clear.** Make sure furniture, rugs and curtains aren't blocking airflow. This helps your heating system distribute warmth throughout your home.
- **Watch your hot water use.** Heating water takes energy, too! Shorter showers, fixing leaky faucets and washing clothes in cold water when possible can help trim your monthly bill.

You don't have to make big changes to see a difference. A few small habits can help keep your home warm, your heating system running smoothly and your energy costs more manageable throughout the winter.

**For more energy-saving tips and information on available programs, visit [www.popud.org](http://www.popud.org).**



## Decorating Early for the Holidays? Be Safe and Energy-Wise!

Whether you're already hanging Christmas lights or waiting until after Thanksgiving, a few simple choices can help make your home festive without adding unnecessary costs to your electric bill.

- **Make the switch to LED lights.** LED holiday lights use significantly less electricity than traditional incandescent strands, last longer and produce less heat. They're an easy way to brighten your home while using less energy.
- **Put your lights on a timer.** There's no need to keep the neighborhood glowing all night! A programmable timer or smart plug can automatically turn your holiday lights on and off, saving energy without you having to remember. For outdoor decorations, be sure to use a timer rated for outdoor use.
- **Get creative with natural decorations.** If Clark Griswold's decorating style isn't quite your thing, try using fresh greenery, pinecones, ribbons and ornaments to create festive wreaths and garlands. You can even add solar-powered spotlights for a little extra sparkle without adding to your electric bill.
- **Decorate safely.** Check light strands for damaged wires or broken sockets before hanging them. Use outdoor-rated lights and extension cords for exterior displays, and avoid overloading electrical outlets.
- **Try battery-powered decorations.** Battery-operated LED candles and small decorative lights can add a warm holiday glow to areas without nearby outlets. Rechargeable batteries can also help cut down on waste.

You don't have to sacrifice holiday cheer to save a little energy. With a few thoughtful decorating choices, you can keep your home merry, bright and energy-wise all season long.



## Holiday Office Closures

**PUD offices will be closed Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, November 26 for Thanksgiving. We wish our customers a safe and happy holiday season!**

## HAVING TROUBLE PAYING YOUR BILL? HELP IS AVAILABLE

If you're having trouble keeping up with your electric bill, you're not alone, and help may be available.

Pend Oreille PUD's Neighbors in Need program offers qualifying customers up to \$250 in assistance toward past-due balances. Additional help may be available through Rural Resources, DSHS, Family Crisis/Crime Victim Services and the Pend Oreille County Veterans Assistance Program.

If you need help or aren't sure where to start, our Customer Service Team can help point you in the right direction.

Call 509-447-3137 to learn more about available assistance or visit [www.ruralresources.org](http://www.ruralresources.org) for additional resources.

## CONNECT WITH US!

**Main Line:** 509-447-3137  
**North County:** 509-446-3137  
**South County:** 509-242-3137  
**TDD:** 800-833-6388  
**24-Hour Automated Phone Line:** 844-971-1058



**Commissioners:**  
Curt Knapp: cknapp@popud.org 509.671.1111  
Dave Rick: drick@popud.org 509.671.7952  
Troy Moody: tmoody@popud.org 509.991.1327  
**Website:** [www.popud.org](http://www.popud.org)

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Tue, Nov 3 - Newport  
Tue, Nov 17 - Newport

### Office Closures:

Wed, Nov 11 - Veterans Day  
Thur, Nov 26 - Thanksgiving