

# CONNECT

NOVEMBER 2022



## WOOD POLE TEST & TREAT

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The Wood Pole Test & Treat Program is gearing up to begin again. The program tests for pole integrity and inspects equipment so that the PUD can appropriately maintain the system and provide reliable service. You'll likely see a PUD contract crew performing power pole test and treatment services in the southern portion of the county starting this November through the end of the year. The contractor crew has PUD signage on their vehicle, wears safety vests and hard hats, and carries identification. You may also see them driving an ATV. If the contractor is accessing private property to inspect PUD equipment, they will first knock on the door to identify themselves. The pole test and treat process involves the contractor drilling a hole in the pole, testing it, installing a metal tag and taking pictures for inventory purposes. If you have questions regarding this program or the work taking place, please contact us.



## PUD Recognized by YesVets Program

**The PUD will be closed Friday, November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day.**

**We thank all veterans as we honor the day to recall the sacrifices and hard fights that led to today's freedom.**

The PUD has been recognized by the Employment Security Department's (ESD) YesVets Program for hiring U.S. military veterans into its workforce for the third year in a row. YesVets is a Veteran Hiring Campaign that began in 2016 and encourages and recognizes employers who show their commitment to veteran employment. The PUD received the YesVets Employer of the Year Award in 2020 and has been nominated for the award again this year. Over fourteen percent (14%) of the PUD's workforce is comprised of veterans from all branches of the military. The PUD has employed veterans every year since the YesVets program's inception.

## HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**Our offices will be closed November 24th & 25th.**

**Convenient payment options during office closures:**

- Pay by Phone: 1-855-875-7209
- Online with SmartHub Acct or App: [SmartHub](#)
- Auto-Pay through SmartHub
- Pay Now (SmartHub acct not needed): [Pay Now](#)
- Drive-up Drop Box at the Newport Administration Building
- Payment Kiosk at Box Canyon Visitor's Center



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## FALL TO-DO LIST: PREPARING FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINTER

Your feelings about the approaching fall and winter may be mixed. We have had an amazing October, but we all feel the fall settling into Pend Oreille County. Hopefully winter weather is still several weeks away. Now is a good time to prepare and decide how efficiently your home will run during the wintry cold months to come. Here are several ways that you can prepare for an energy-efficient winter this fall.

### SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

Preventive maintenance should be a top priority on any HVAC fall to-do list. Over the summer, it's possible that your HVAC system has sustained some strain and even some potential damage. Professional HVAC contractors can conduct necessary repairs, clean parts within your system, replenish fuel and refrigerant levels, and much more.

### SEAL YOUR HOME

Your home makes up something

called a thermal envelope. The thermal envelope refers to anything that separates the air inside your home from the air outside. This may include the walls, doors, windows, insulation, and more. When breaches form in your thermal envelope, air escapes, reducing your energy efficiency.

Sealing your home's thermal envelope starts with identifying any potential leaks by looking for dust, dirt, and light coming through in areas it shouldn't. You can spray expanding foam in gaps around plumbing pipes and outlet boxes. Place an extra layer of caulk around windows and doors that may have a breach around them. Place some weatherstripping along doorframes.

### INSTALL A HUMIDIFIER

If the heat in your home is too dry, you may experience a drop in energy efficiency. Since dry air feels cooler, we're more prone to turn up the heat from the furnace when all we actually need is to increase the humidity in the home.

A humidifier will add moisture to the air and some even work in tandem with your furnace. You can set the humidity level that will give you the most comfort, health, and efficiency.

### INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT & RECEIVE A \$100 REBATE

You may have already heard about all the inherent benefits that come along with installing a smart thermostat (which is just a programmable thermostat with Wi-Fi connectivity). With a smart thermostat, you can have closer control over your temperature, and greater control generally leads to greater efficiency. The best part, we offer a \$100 rebate for installing a qualified smart thermostat. To learn more and download an application, click here: [PUD Rebates](#).

### THINK ENERGY SMART

The best way you can prepare for an energy-efficient winter is to develop an energy-efficient mindset. Since situations vary, think about areas in your life

where you could be wasting energy and address them yourself. There are a few general energy-saving habits that are easy to develop. On cool days, open up drapes and blinds to let the natural sunlight warm the room. Turn down your water heater setting to 120 degrees. Dress warm and use your fireplace often. When the weather gets colder and you're concerned about drafty windows, cover them with thick drapes, especially during the night, when cold air often seeps into the home. Investing in these simple ways to an energy-efficient winter will be well worth your time and money, especially with the utility bill savings that you'll enjoy.

### CONNECT WITH US!

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