

CONNECT



AUGUST 2023

ARE YOU CONSIDERING ROOFTOP SOLAR?

Approximately 30 PUD customers have additional generation beyond the metered power they receive from us. One of these types of generation is rooftop solar. A rooftop solar installation at your residence or business could be worth the investment, but it is a complicated matter that needs to be thoroughly reviewed before making a decision.

The PUD recommends you shop around and get quotes from 3-5 different companies and review agreements carefully. Ask questions about the terms, duration and how the companies benefit from your purchase or lease. Make sure the company provides you information about any available tax or rebate incentives.

Is rooftop solar worth it? That depends on many factors and will require you to do your research. If you decide you want to have rooftop solar, please contact the PUD. There are requirements and paperwork that need to be in place to keep everyone safe.

Some Things to Consider:

1. *Is your roof south facing and in good condition?*
2. *Will the location of the solar panels receive sun year-round and not be blocked by shadows from trees or other buildings? Our area averages about 175 sunny days a year, which means there are about 190 days with limited sunshine.*
3. *How much energy do you use?*
 - *If you monthly usage is not high, you likely won't financially benefit from the cost of installation.*
 - *The PUD has some of the lowest energy rates in the country at 0.0623 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Power costs should be factored into whether or not it makes sense to spend the money on solar installation.*
 - *Even with solar, you will still be billed the PUD's monthly service availability charge.*
5. *What is the cost of installation?*
 - *There are solar companies that will sell, loan, or lease a rooftop solar installation.*
 - *With a lease, the solar installer or another company owns the panels on your house.*
 - *The terms of these types of agreements can vary from 10 to 25 years. You will need to consider if you will be in your same home or business for 25+ years.*
6. *What about backup power and stored energy?*
 - *If you want rooftop solar to be backup power during an outage, you will need to buy additional equipment to do so. A battery system allows generation to be stored for later use.*
 - *These additional systems can be expensive and should be compared to the cost of installing a traditional backup generator.*

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CONNECT WITH US!

Website: www.popud.org

Main Line: 509.447.3137

North County: 509.446.3137

South County: 509.242.3137

Commissioners:

Curt Knapp: cknapp@popud.org 509.671.1111

Dave Rick: drick@popud.org 509.671.7952

Joe Onley: jonley@popud.org 509.671.1312



Come see us at the Fair this summer!

The Pend Oreille County Fair runs from Thursday, August 17th to Sunday, August 20th this year. The PUD will be in our same booth location as in year's past – please stop in and visit us. We plan to have staff on-hand to answer questions and open our photo booth so we can take pictures of you and/or your children to bring home. This year's theme celebrates utility workers and their trucks.

Follow us on Facebook for all the details.



Pictured: Wyatt & Allie, children of PUD Communications Manager, Amber Gifford.

**REMEMBER TO SUBMIT
YOUR PHOTOS TO
COMMUNICATIONS@POPUD.ORG
FOR ENTRY INTO THE PUD'S
2024 CALENDAR BY THE END
OF THE MONTH.**

Looking for Energy Assistance Options?

If you or someone you know could use energy assistance, the PUD and its partners offer several energy assistance programs for customers who are having difficulties paying their utility bills. The below outlines available assistance:

PUD's Neighbors in Need (NIN) Program - the PUD's NIN Program is funded by the PUD and its customers. Qualifying customers could receive up to \$250 to help with past-due balances. To see if you qualify for a NIN grant, please contact the PUD's Customer Service Team at 509-447-3137.

Rural Resources - to see if you qualify for a grant through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or other assistance programs, call or visit a Rural Resource office at:

- 509-447-9997 – 333211 Highway 2 #200, Newport, WA
- 509-442-3222 – 205 Houghton St, Ione, WA
- www.ruralresources.org

DSHS - Funding may be available through DSHS for disaster cash assistance, call or visit: 509-447-6214 – 1600 W 1st St, Newport, WA www.dshs.wa.gov

Family Crisis/Crime Victim Services: 509-447-2274 – 703 W 1st St., Newport.

Pend Oreille County Veteran's Assistance Program: Please call Marianne Nichols at (509) 447-6474.

For more Energy Assistance Information, please visit:
[Community Support & Assistance](#)

Extreme Heat Law – Washington State law (ESHB 1329), which became effective July 23, 2023, prohibits utilities from disconnecting electric or water customers for nonpayment on days for which the National Weather Service has issued or has announced it intends to issue a heat-related alert, and allows customers currently disconnected to request reconnection on such days. The PUD may require a customer seeking reconnection to enter into and maintain a payment plan. In order to request reconnection on a qualifying day, please contact our Customer Service Team at 509-447-3137.

