

CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2021



Fun at the Pend Oreille County Fair



The PUD had fun seeing you at the fair in August. We appreciate all those that stopped by to participate in our photo booth and get hands-on with some cool line hardware and tools. Hope to see you again next year!

WHAT IS A MEGAWATT?

A megawatt is simply defined as 1 million watts, or 1,000 kilowatts. Residential customers are billed based on kilowatt hours. An average household in Pend Oreille County uses approximately 2,500 kilowatt hours in a month. All the homes in our county together use approximately 18 megawatts every hour. These amounts can vary substantially with weather, with a total usage for all of our residential customers around 28 megawatts each hour in the winter and 10 megawatts in the summer. The graphic to the right represents what 1 megawatt hour is capable of powering.

Low-Income Senior Discount

Qualified Pend Oreille PUD customers, based on their total annual household income and the age of the applicant, may receive a \$5 monthly discount on their utility bill. An application, age verification and income verification are required to receive the monthly discount. Customers will be required to re-verify eligibility upon request. The application along with qualifying criteria can be viewed here:

[Low Income Senior Discount.](#)



▶ WHAT CAN YOU POWER with one MEGAWATT HOUR (MWH)?

- Cool a refrigerator for **3 MONTHS** (150 kWh)
- Download **133,320 SONGS** (50 kWh)
- BREW 2,400** pots of coffee (200 kWh)
- Power a Traffic Signal for **3 MONTHS** (200 kWh)
- CHARGE **5,556 iPhones** (100 kWh)
- HOST **600** Super Bowl PARTIES (300 kWh)

MWH = 1,000 kilowatt hours

Based on a variety of sources. Numbers are estimations and may be rounded.

CONNECT



FALL TO-DO LIST: PREPARE FOR AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINTER

Your feelings about the approaching fall and winter may be mixed. We're all ready to escape the summer heat of Pend Oreille County, but diving right into the cold doesn't sound too favorable either. Fortunately, winter is still a ways off, and fall is a good time to decide how comfortable you'll be and how efficiently your home will run. Here are five ways that you can prepare for an energy-efficient winter this fall.



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.



4. 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: [Rebates.](#)

5. 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 five 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!

Main Line: 509.447.3137 • North County: 509.446.3137
South County: 509.242.3137 • TDD: 800.833.6388

Commissioners:

Curt Knapp: cknapp@popud.org 509.671.1111 Ric Larson: rl Larson@popud.org
509.442.3777 Joe Onley: jonley@popud.org 509.671.1312
Website: www.popud.org

