



THE PUBLIC NEWSLINE THE POWER NEWSLINE

Okanogan County PUD

September 2021

WISE landscaping

Water Conservation • Infrastructure Awareness • Safety from Wildfires • Energy Efficiency

Do you want your home to be safer and more efficient?

We at the PUD have created a four-part video series, blog and map that share tips to protect your home, save on energy and water and avoid danger from utility infrastructure. Here are a few tips to get you started:

Water

- Put sprinklers on a timer system
- Check sprinklers seasonally for leaks
- Use native, drought-resistant plants

Infrastructure

- Clearance for utility equipment should be at least 10 feet where possible
- Do not put anything on or against pad-mount transformers

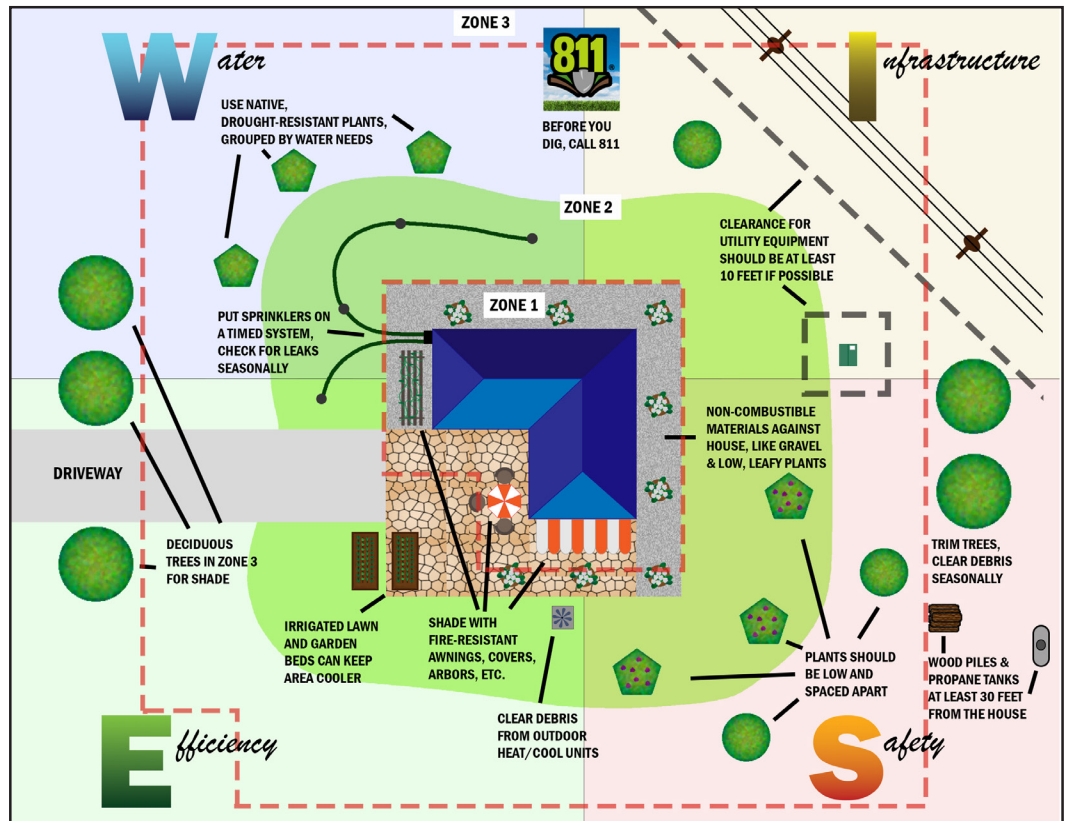
Safety

- Use non-combustible materials against the house, like gravel for beds and low, leafy plants
- Keep wood piles and propane tanks at least 30 feet from the house

Efficiency

- Use fire-resistant awnings, covers, arbors, etc., to provide shade near your home
- Keep areas cooler with irrigated lawn and garden beds
- Plant tall trees at least 30 feet from the house to provide shade

The WISE Landscaping map shares several tips for safety and efficiency.



In this issue: 2022 Budget (page 2) - Public Power Week (page 3) - & more!
Lea esto en español en nuestro sitio web: www.okanoganpud.org.

2022 Budget Planning Underway

Budget webpage shares additional information; meeting schedule set

The 2022 budget for the PUD has been drafted, and the staff and board will host public meetings to discuss all the details. What does that process look like?

1. PUD staff look at their priorities for the coming year, and prepare a draft budget to be presented to the board of PUD commissioners and the public. As a public not-for-profit, we seek to keep rates low while still funding proper maintenance needs and the increasing cost of purchasing power from our providers. Affordability and reliability is a constant balancing act.
2. The board and staff will discuss the budget for a few weeks, allowing time for adjustments to the draft. See the schedule at right for meeting times.
3. Every few years, the PUD also does long-term planning, such as a rate study, equity management study, cost of service analysis, capital plan, and more, so we know what our targets are and can anticipate big needs ahead.
4. As a public agency, all budget and rate decisions are ultimately up to your elected board of PUD commissioners.

Anyone with comments, questions or concerns can contact our staff or the board, or attend a public meeting in-person (if health and safety guidelines allow) or via Zoom. Meeting information is posted on our website and Facebook page.

SCAN ME



Keep up on the latest on our website, www.okanoganpud.org, which can be quickly accessed by scanning the QR code at left with your mobile device's camera. Check out the "Budget" page under the "About Us" tab.



What's going on at Enloe?

Please see our website for a recent Enloe Dam article describing the history, complexities and challenges, as well as our current dam safety project: www.okanoganpud.org/environmental/enloe-dam-project.



Scam Alert!



Beware of scammers, who claim to be utility companies and demand immediate payment over the phone. With shutoff moratoriums about to end, these calls are expected to increase. Please remember: **We will NEVER demand immediate payment over the phone.** If you are unsure if a call is legitimate, please hang up and call us!

PUBLIC POWER WEEK

Sept. 27-30

*It's booth week (see details below)!
ADULTS - LED bulbs if you didn't already get yours (while supplies last) and enter our toolkit drawing by Oct. 3 (see picture below)!
KIDS - we will hand out kids' packets and coloring contest forms, also due Oct. 3.*

Oct. 4-7

It's winners' week! We announce kids' coloring contest winners & tool kit drawing winners on our website and social media (winners will be contacted directly)!



**ENTER DRAWING & MORE:
WWW.OKANOGANPUD.ORG**

BOOTH LOCATIONS:

**Monday
Sept. 27**
2-6 p.m.
Brewster
Marketplace

**Tuesday
Sept. 28**
3:30-6:30 p.m.
Omak Civic
League Park

**Wednesday
Sept. 29**
2-6 p.m.
Twisp
Hark's Market

**Thursday
Sept. 30**
2-6 p.m.
Tonasket
Triangle Park

Public Safety Power Shutoffs?

Although Okanogan County is unlikely to have power turned off from supplier Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), severe weather during fire season could mean longer outages.

BPA has three transmission lines feeding the county, and made repairs where needed to alleviate fire safety concerns. However, when an outage does occur, BPA will take the extra time to visually inspect its entire transmission line before turning power back on. This will mean power will take longer to restore.

Local utilities and power producers like BPA and Douglas County PUD (Wells Dam) work closely to monitor conditions and increase fire prevention efforts.

Emergency Management Alert

Stay up-to-date on emergencies in your area through the Okanogan County Emergency Management Alert system. Sometimes, we get their help in spreading the word about outages or other power-related events.



Sign up or update your contact info and preferences on their website, under the Okanogan County website, www.okanogancounty.org/government/emergency_management.

Need Help With Bills?

The state's moratorium on disconnections due to non-payment will end Sept. 30. We have resources to help customers behind on bills!

1. Anyone can contact us to set up a payment plan for past-due accounts.
2. Partner agencies have funding for qualifying households, typically low-income.
3. Project Help can provide funding to those facing undue hardships in unexpected circumstances.

Contact us or Okanogan County Community Action (509-422-4041 or 877-641-0101)!

Okanogan County PUD

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Energy Efficiency Pays Off

Local businesses, agencies cash in

Tonasket School District

December 2020

HVAC upgrades to the schools qualified them for \$34,133.22. Pictured: Mike Larson (TSD Maintenance and Grounds Supervisor, Kim Johnson (PUD Energy Services Coordinator), and Steve McCullough (TSD Superintendent).

Mid-Valley Hospital

March 2021

Upgrades and replacements to ventilation, walk-in cooler and freezer, electrical, lighting and hot water piping earned the hospital \$48,425.44. Pictured: Sheila Corson (PUD Public Relations), Rebecca Christoph (MVH Director of Patient Care Services), Kim Johnson (PUD), and Megan Barton (MVH Executive Assistant).

Tonasket Blue Bird Warehouse

June 2021

A new engine room, refrigeration and scrubber upgrades and more garnered an \$80,000 check. Pictured: Brandon Cobos (CFO), Brent Craig (Refrigeration Manager), Nick Fleisher (Tonasket Warehouse Manager), and Larry Blakley (Facility & Food Safety Director).

The PUD manages incentive programs through funding by the Bonneville Power Administration, a major source of its electricity. Funding is available for a variety of projects - contact the PUD BEFORE beginning projects to pre-qualify.

Read more on our website: www.okanoganpud.org.



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Office hours Mon-Thurs

7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Send any comments, questions or suggestions for newsletter articles to Public Relations Coordinator Sheila Corson, sheillac@okpud.org, 422-8427.

www.okanoganpud.org

Find us on Facebook!

