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Green Power Programs

Ruralite magazine is a collaborative effort. Klickitat PUD (KPUD) is a member of Ruralite Services. Rural utilities from six western states, Alaska and Hawaii join forces to produce a cost-effective magazine focused on life in rural America.

Each magazine is personalized to each specific utility by exclusive use of eight of the pages. KPUD produces many of the articles in-house, as well as hiring writer Jeanie Senior for filling our pages with information unique to Klickitat County.

The collaborative nature of the magazine means some articles can miss the mark. Such was the case last month, when an article on green power indicated that customer support for green power programs is not in line with the legislative mandates being pushed for green power.

Reader Mike Gundlach from White Salmon correctly noted that renewable energy “is truly an all-American story ... cutting edge technology, forward thinking, entrepreneurial spirit, providing new and needed jobs to rural areas, providing additional sources of income to farmers and other landowners, it keeps America strong and independent, it doesn’t deplete non-renewable resources.”

KPUD was distinctive when the commissioners supported I-937, Washington’s renewable portfolio standard. Most other utilities either took a neutral position or stated opposition for any renewable mandates.

KPUD’s support comes from our position of being “ahead of the curve” in acquiring clean, cost-effective renewable energy. KPUD is proud of our fish-friendly McNary hydro project, the H. W. Hill landfill gas-to-energy project and the White Creek Wind project.

In this issue of Ruralite is an article touting the renewable aspect of hydropower. KPUD concurs that clean renewable hydropower has made Washington the nation’s leader in renewable energy.

However, we believe we cannot sit on our past successes. Electric loads are growing. New generation needs to be built. If we continue to follow the footsteps of Washington’s forward-thinking electric pioneers we can continue to be the envy of the nation, with an abundance of clean, renewable energy from hydro, wind, solar, landfill gas, tidal wave power and many other innovative forward-thinking technologies.

We can coexist with a clean environment and do our part to conserve fossil fuels. In this vein, I am pleased to announce KPUD has partnered with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to market our green tags. Information on how you can participate will be available soon. Look for information in next month’s Ruralite, or contact us here at the PUD.

Tom D. Svendsen, General Manager

WA-18