

Sign Up for Klickitat PUD's Budget Payment Plan

How does the budget plan work?

Your monthly payments are based on your energy consumption during the past 12 months for the location. Annually, the PUD will recalculate your budget payment. Typically this recalculation will take place each June. However, due to recent rate increases, budget payments will not be recalculated for the remainder of 2013.

When your budget payment is recalculated one of the following will occur:

- If you paid for more energy than you used, we will recalculate your new budget payment using your credit balance, which may reduce your new budget payment.
- If your actual use was greater than what you paid while on the budget plan, your new budget payment may increase.

When can I begin the budget payment plan?

You can choose to begin the plan at any time. However, June is the recommended month, and your account needs to have a zero balance.

Will I know how much electricity I'm using every month?

Your meter will continue to be read as usual. Each month you will receive an up-to-date statement of your account showing the budget amount due, as well as the actual amount of electricity you used.

A summary of current charges is listed in the first section of your statement. The second section, balance recap, is a running total of the actual balance on your account—actual charges to your account minus your payments. The third section, budget recap, outlines the status of your budget account, monthly charge minus monthly payments.

What if I am unable to make a payment?

You must pay your budget payment in full by the due date of

the bill each month. Otherwise, you may be dropped from the budget payment plan. If you are unable to make your payment, please call the PUD's customer service department.

What happens if I want to cancel my budget payment plan?

Your account will be reconciled at that time by comparing your actual consumption to what you have paid on the budget payment plan.

If you have paid for more energy than you used, your account will be credited for that amount.

If you consumed more energy than you have paid for, your next bill will reflect a balance due.

Can I re-enroll in the budget payment plan?

If you have been removed from the budget payment plan for any reason, you must settle any past due charges before being allowed to re-enroll in the plan.

Can I enroll in the budget payment plan and the automatic draft?

Yes, they are a great complement to each other.

Is there a cost to join?

There is no charge to participate in the budget payment plan.

The budget plan does not include any non-metered services, such as streetlights, yard lights and wastewater basic fees. These charges will be added in to your monthly budget amount.

How do I enroll?

If you are ready to enroll, please call Klickitat PUD's Customer Service Department.

Goldendale Office: (509) 773-5891 or (800) 548-8357

White Salmon Office: (509) 493-2255 or (800) 548-8358 ■

Window Replacement Rebates Available

Spring is a great time to get your home retrofitted with new energy-efficient windows. Replacing old windows with Energy Star-qualified windows lowers household energy bills by 7 to 15 percent.

Consider replacing windows if:

- Your home feels drafty in cold weather or uncomfortably warm from heat penetrating your windows in warmer weather.
- Your heating and cooling bills are high.
- You are concerned about how safe or secure your windows are.
- The glass in your windows is cracked or the operating hardware is in need of repair.
- Your windows are difficult or impossible to open or close.
- Your old windows require constant work—puttying, painting and recaulking them.

In warm weather, Low-E coatings reflect outside heat away from your windows, while still allowing light in. This reduces the amount of time your home cooling system needs to run.

In cold weather, the Low-E coated glass reflects heat back inside, so your home stays warmer. This reduces the time your heating system needs to run, saving you money and energy.

Defining the Ratings

The U-factor measures how well a window prevents heat from escaping. The rate of heat loss is indicated in terms of the U-factor (U-value) of a window assembly. The lower the U-value, the greater a window's resistance to heat flow and the better its insulating value.

The solar heat gain coefficient measures how well glass blocks heat in sunlight. The SHGC is the fraction of solar radiation admitted through a window—both directly transmitted and absorbed—and released inward or how much heat gain is blocked by the window. The lower a window's solar heat gain coefficient, the less solar heat it transmits in the house.

If you are a Klickitat PUD customer who heats your home primarily with electric, you may qualify for incentives to replace your windows with more energy-efficient ones.

To qualify, the existing windows must be single or double pane in either wood or aluminum frame, and upgraded to double-pane windows in vinyl frames with a U-Factor of .30 or lower.

Talk to our energy services department to see if your home qualifies for incentives before you start your project. Call (509) 773-7622 or (800) 548-8357, ext. 622. ■

Observe National Electrical Safety Month

Klickitat PUD celebrates Safe Drinking Water Week and National Electrical Safety Month.

Customers are encouraged to visit the KPUD offices in Goldendale and White Salmon for free refreshments and brochures during an open house Friday, May 17.

Safety Reminders

As we celebrate electrical safety month, we would like to remind our customers to inspect their homes to make sure they are

free of electrical accidents waiting to happen. The key to preventing potentially fatal accidents is awareness.

- Plugs should fit fully and securely into outlets, but should not be forced.
- To protect children, make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets.
- If an outlet or switch wall plate is hot or discolored by heat, shut off the circuit and have it checked by a professional.
- Have additional outlets installed where you need them, instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May

2—Spring band concert, 7 to 9 p.m., Glenwood High School Auditorium

3-5—Goldendale High School Rodeo, Klickitat County Fairgrounds

4—Pink Saddle's 5th anniversary open house, 10 a.m., Goldendale

4—Klickitat PUD customer meeting with Ponderosa Park, 9 a.m., KPUD Meeting Room

4—Lyle First Saturday Breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m., Lyle Community Center

5—Cinco de Mayo

11—Goldendale Farmers Market

11-12—Jackpot Rodeo, 12:30 p.m., Arlington Rodeo Grounds

12—Mother's Day

14—Klickitat PUD commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale office

17—Klickitat PUD open house in celebration of National Electrical Safety Month and Safe Drinking Water Week

18—Klickitat Valley Health's Family Health & Wellness Fair, 7 a.m. to noon, Goldendale High School. For info, email mbcondon@kvhealth.net

18—Goldendale Senior Center Breakfast, 9 to 10 a.m.

18—Goldendale Farmers Market

18—Klickitat PUD Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale Office

18-19—High Prairie Firehouse Sale, 783 Centerville Hwy. For info, visit www.highprairie.us

25—Goldendale Farmers Market

27—Memorial Day – Klickitat PUD offices are closed

5/31-6/1—White Salmon Spring Festival, Rheingarten Park

June

1—Bickleton High School graduation, 3:30 p.m.

1—Lyle High School graduation, 2 p.m.

1—Glenwood High School graduation, 8 p.m.

7—Goldendale High School graduation, 7:30 p.m.

8—White Salmon, Columbia High School graduation, 11 a.m.

8—Klickitat High School graduation, 1 p.m.

8—Wishram High School graduation, 11 a.m.