

Stay Comfortable at Home While Saving Energy

Heat pumps save money and energy compared to wall heaters, forced-air furnaces and electric baseboard heat. They will cool your home in the summer, too. A newer, more-efficient heat pump could save you 25 percent on your heating costs over the 20-year-old model you may now have.

Klickitat PUD offers rebates on energy-efficient air-source, geothermal and mini-split ductless heat pumps.

The higher the rating on the heat pump, the more efficient the heat pump runs. Heat pumps can be installed in either stick-built or manufactured homes that are properly weatherized. Minimum ratings to receive rebates on air-source heat pumps are heating seasonal performance factor 9.0, and seasonal energy efficiency ratio 14.

Geothermal heat pumps must be Energy-Star qualified and installed according to International Ground Source Heat Pump Association specifications. The purchase and installation cost of a geothermal heat pump system is often higher than that of an air-source heat pump, and delivers more energy per unit consumed than conventional systems.

Units must be installed by a Performance Tested Comfort Systems technician, who measures the airflow and ensures your unit is working to manufacturer's specifications. If duct work is in an unconditioned area, the ducts will need to be tested and sealed to reduce the amount of leakage due to holes and poorly connected ductwork. This sealing may qualify for additional KPUD rebates.

Ductless heat pumps are a less-expen-



A ductless heat pump—which includes a head mounted on the wall of this art studio—is controlled by its own remote. The owner may control the temperature of the room without affecting the temperature of the rest of the house.

Photo courtesy of GE

sive heating and cooling system. No ducts are required, so duct loss is eliminated. Ductless heat pumps are a solution for homes that rely on electric baseboard or wall heaters, but they can be installed in a stick-built home or manufactured homes with forced-air furnaces.

An indoor head is mounted directly on the wall, and connects to an outside unit by a lineset. More than one indoor head may be connected to the outside unit to provide more heating and cooling zones

in your home. Each head is controlled by its own remote and allows you to control the temperature of each zone. In traditional heating and cooling systems, you generally have one thermostat that controls the temperature of the entire home.

If you are thinking about upgrading to one of these systems, contact Klickitat PUD's Energy Services for more information on rebate amounts and specifications before you start your project. Call (509) 773-7622 or (800) 548-8357. ■

Reclosers protect lines and consumers from short circuits, and allow temporary faults to clear, which helps keep service energized to the customers without needless interruptions.

Photo courtesy of NRECA



Why Do My Lights Blink?

This is a frequent question heard at KPUD. Usually, blinking lights are the result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could be a lightning strike, an automobile striking a power pole, or an animal or tree branch coming in contact with an energized power line.

Because today's microprocessors are so sensitive, brief outages are more noticeable than they were in the past. Actually, when lights blink, it can indicate our equipment is operating properly. Blinking lights reflect the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for more than just a moment.

Klickitat PUD's distribution system includes special devices, called reclosers, which operate much like a switch or a self-resetting circuit breaker. Whenever there is a short circuit on the line, the recloser interrupts the flow of electricity. If the short circuit is temporary, which is often the case, the recloser permits power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service—meaning your lights blink.

Without this device, every short

circuit—temporary or otherwise—would cause the power to be off until Klickitat PUD could send a lineman to restore service. Usually, reclosers will operate automatically three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing a power outage. The recloser operation protects the lines from damage.

A word of caution: If you have lights blinking continually, it may indicate a problem, and you should contact our office. While we strive to deliver steady, consistent and high-quality power, sometimes circumstances beyond our control cause power disturbances. To protect your valuable appliances and sensitive electronic equipment, we recommend protective power quality devices.

An estimated 80 percent of power quality problems originate inside the home. Culprits include motors starting up or shutting down, improper electrical wiring and grounding, and overloaded circuits.

If you experience continuous blinks or improper power quality, please check the electrical equipment and wiring in your house first. Then give us a call. We are happy to help you. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August

- Every Saturday through October—Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ekone Park, Goldendale
- Every weekend—Free live music, Maryhill Winery outdoor terrace
- 2**—First Friday downtown activities, entertainment and late shopping, Hood River
- 2-4**—Oregon Jamboree Music Festival, Sweet Home
- 2-4**—48th Annual Trout Lake Fair; www.troutlakefair.org
- 3**—Lyle First Saturday breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m., Lyle Community Center
- 3**—Backyard Blues Bash at Pine Springs RV Resort, Highway 97, Goldendale
- 3**—14th annual Founder's Cup Golf Tournament, Hood River www.gorgefoundation.org
- 13**—Klickitat PUD commission meeting, 2 p.m.
- 14-18**—Skamania County Fair, Stevenson
- 15-17**—Columbia River Gorge Quilt Show, at Hood River Middle School, 1602 May St.
- 15-18**—Wasco County Fair and Tygh Valley Rodeo; www.wascocountyfairandrodeo.com
- 16-17**—Topenish Western Art Show; (509) 865-3262
- 16-18**—Bi-Mart Willamette Valley Country Music Festival, Brownsville, Oregon
- 17**—Senior Center Breakfast, 9 to 10 a.m., Goldendale
- 17**—Car show/picnic/concert, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Daubenspeck Park, Bingen
- 17-18**—Arts Festival, Maryhill Museum of Art
- 17-18**—Apple Valley Summer Fruit Festival and Country BBQ; www.applevalleystory.com
- 20-24**—Benton County Fair and Rodeo, Kennewick
- 22-25**—Klickitat County Fair and Rodeo, Goldendale
- 23**—Columbia River Gorge Quilt Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Hood River Middle School; www.gorgequiltersguild.org
- 8/23-9/2**—Oregon State Fair, Salem
- 24**—Willie Nelson Concert at Maryhill Winery Amphitheater, 7 p.m.
- 27**—Klickitat PUD commission meeting, 2 p.m.
- 8/28-9/1**—Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days, Walla Walla
- 8/30**—Taylor Swift Concert, 7 p.m., RoseQuarter, Portland; www.rosequarter.com
- 8/31**—Eagle-Indian Run/Walk, The Dalles; (541) 298-1119