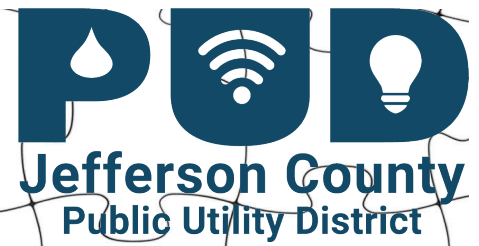


**November 2024
Newsletter**



*Don't let your money go
right out the window!*

The Right Fit

Piecing together the energy efficiency puzzle
(and saving money, too!)

Keeping the inside of an older home comfortable is a bit of a puzzle—one that can be solved by piecing together key efficiency upgrades while saving money through rebates in the process. Over time the investment in your home can save you hundreds or even thousands on electric bills, while also helping conserve energy on our growing grid.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provides the PUD \$900,000 in funding every 2 years to be distributed as rebates for energy efficiency upgrades by customers. Since 2019 funding has helped an average of 405 local projects annually.

Rebate incentives help cover upgrades for older homes including energy efficient appliances, heat pumps (up to \$1,200), heat pump water heaters, insulation upgrades, window replacements, and weatherization. Ducted and ductless heat pumps offer some of the biggest savings and are 3-4 times more efficient than conventional

models and can save thousands over the life of the unit. Likewise, the BPA offers up to \$1,100 on qualified heat pump water heaters (which are up to 50% more efficient than traditional water heaters). Water heating is

the second largest source of energy use in the home. Rebate restrictions do apply, and you can view a full list of available rebates and a list of participating installers by visiting: jeffpud.org/rebates. The energy cost burden impacts low-income homeowners the most and additional rebates are available for income-qualified households.

Rebates: A Grassroots Approach to Large-Scale Energy Conservation

Paying customers to not use power may seem like an odd business plan for a power provider, but the power saved annually easily outweighs the immense expense of new substations, transmission lines, and generation facilities. For utilities, infrastructure cost is passed to utility customers in the form of higher wholesale power rates which, in turn, affect rates. Jefferson PUD hosted the regional BPA energy efficiency roundtable in October which brought together BPA program managers and western Washington utility providers. Discussions help the BPA and utility energy efficiency teams gauge program effectiveness and future goals. JPUD General Manager, Kevin Streett kicked off the event noting, "We have a lot of infrastructure needs here in Jefferson County to keep up with demand—every dollar saved on efficiency projects, big or small, counts."

Home efficiency upgrades are an important piece of the energy puzzle for our region, and you can save on your project now!

**Electricity demand in
Washington state is
expected to grow by 30%
over the next decade.**



BPA offers big rebates on energy efficient heat pumps, both ducted (top image) and zonal ductless.

More info: jeffpud.org/rebates

(360) 385-5800 jeffpud.org 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

Do we have a leak?

What to do if you think you have a water leak and ways to prevent them.

Hose Spigots & Faucet Covers

Install foam faucet covers to each hose bib. Hose covers extend the heat from the home slightly to keep the hose spigot from freezing. Installing anti-siphon spigots also reduces line freeze.

How can I detect if my home has leaks?

One of the best methods for identifying water leaks (if you are on a PUD water system) is to use your SmartHub portal under the water tab. SmartHub allows you to see monthly usage totals and gallons-per-day and lets you compare it with the previous year and beyond. This data is key to identifying if a leak has occurred. Notice a big difference in usage? Call our customer service at (360) 385-5800 and ask for our water team!

Where is your water meter?

It's a great idea to know where your water meter is located (your water provider can let you know if you cannot find it) and understand the basics of checking your meter. Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

Outage Essentials

Flashlights

Have multiple flashlights and extra batteries on-hand and at known locations throughout the home. Check batteries every 6 months.

Portable Phone Charger

Adding a portable battery to your emergency kit ensures your essential electronics stay charged for updates. Always remember to keep your battery charged and ready!

Fridge & Freezers

An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours, and an unopened freezer will keep foods frozen for 24-48 hours. Try not to open either until power returns.

Keep up to Date

Follow Jefferson PUD on Facebook & Nextdoor for all the latest outage updates.

Have you signed up for paperless billing? It's quick and easy with your SmartHub account!

Jeff Randall
Commissioner D1
jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

Ken Collins
Commissioner D2
kcollins@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-1475

Dan Toepper
Commissioner D3
dtoepper@jeffpud.org
(360) 302-0448

Kevin Streett
General Manager
kstreett@jeffpud.org
(360) 385-8360

2025 BUDGET: Approved

PUD budget season has come and gone with the board approving a \$54.7M 2025 budget. Here are some key takeaway's. Full budget available on: jeffpud.org/budget

- **RESP Loan** - A \$5M loan was approved by the Board to provide on-bill financing for residential energy efficiency projects with rollout planned for early-2025.
- **Capacity Charge** - Finalization of a new service connection capacity charge is underway. Funds generated aid essential infrastructure projects.
- **Wildfire Mitigation Plan: Approved** - The Wildfire Plan was submitted to the WA State Dept of Natural Resources and acts as a working document to address fire safety concerns and plan mitigation efforts such as tree trimming and clearing.
- **Rate Study** - The FCS Group is currently reviewing PUD infrastructure work plans for recommendations.

Generator Safety

Generators can be a great addition to your home during outage situations and proper use is essential for your safety and the safety of line crews!

Do Not Plug a Generator into Wall Outlets

Generators plugged into wall outlets present electrocution risks to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. Plugging into wall outlets bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices, potentially destroying electronics or starting a fire.

Add a Professionally-Installed Transfer Switch

For the main home system, have a UL-listed, double-throw transfer switch professionally installed. The transfer switch keeps your generator from backfeeding power to the grid and protects against damage when power is restored.

Proper use of Extension Cords

The longer the extension cord and the larger the electrical load, the larger the diameter of the wire must be. Undersized cords can damage an appliance or lead to fire.



Always TURN OFF before refueling!