



BUDGET PAY

Monthly Payment Plan (MPP) is a way to even out your monthly payments in order to avoid those high spikes that can sometimes occur during the winter months. Many people like to know what their electricity bill will run each month in order to stay within their budget. MPP averages your estimated total annual usage and divides it into 12 equal monthly payments. To be eligible for MPP, you must be a customer of Okanogan County PUD and your account must be current with a zero balance. MPP accounts are reviewed and adjusted annually in May. We do ask you to contact us if you wish to discontinue MPP or if you have made any big changes in your electricity usage. You can sign up for MPP by stopping by any of our convenient locations and sign up in person or give a call to the nearest PUD branch office. Phone numbers are located on the back of this newsletter.

Special points of interest:

- Need help budgeting your utility bill? Read the "Budget Pay" article on this page for advice.
- Spring is kite flying season. Read the safety article "Let's Go Fly a Kite" on this page.
- There's money to be saved in lighting. Read the article below titled "A Message to our Business Community".
- How to get in touch with your local PUD office. See the back page.
- Unravel the mysteries of heat pumps, temperature setbacks & automatic thermostats by reading the article on the back page.



LET'S GO FLY A KITE.....

but let's do it safely!

Fly kites in open fields away from power lines. If your kite should somehow drift near or into a line, do not touch the kite or string. Leave it alone! Call the PUD for help. Use dry, clean kite string to fly kites. Never use wire. Human bodies are good conductors of electricity since they are made mostly of water and water is a conductor. Another good reason why you don't want to be in the path of electricity!

A MESSAGE TO

OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Are you looking for ways to reduce your overhead without a large cash outlay? Does your interior and exterior lighting need an upgrade? Let us help. Call the Energy Services Department today. We're offering generous rebates for qualified commercial lighting system upgrades. We want to help you make your system as efficient as possible AND improve the quality of lighting at the same time. Financing is available for qualified applicants. Call today — 422-8427 or 422-8428.

We're on the Web ~ www.okanoganpud.org

OKANOGAN	BREWSTER	OMAK	OROVILLE	TONASKET	TWISP
1331 2 nd Ave N 509.422.3310	101 S Bridge St 509.689.2502	18 W 1 st St 509.422.8380	1500 Main St 509.476.3531	17 E 3 rd St 509.486.2131	201 Hwy 20 S 509.997.2526
PO Box 912 Okanogan, WA 98840-0912	PO Box 187 Brewster, WA 98812-0187		PO Box 1969 Oroville, WA 98844-1969	PO Box 585 Tonasket, WA 98855-0585	

The mission of the Okanogan County PUD is to provide dependable, not-for-profit public utility services governed by, and for the benefit of, our customers in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

HEAT PUMPS, SETBACKS & AUTOMATIC THERMOSTATS

What do these things have in common? All three can be great energy savers AND all three can waste a lot of energy if not operated properly. Pretty confusing isn't it? In this article we'll explain how they work and how to use them properly. This will help to insure they provide the benefits that are intended.

Heat is like a natural resource that is abundant in the air, water and soil around us. A heat pump transfers this heat through a simple process of a refrigeration cycle from one location to another. Heat pumps do not create heat like other types of heating systems. They simply move heat already available in the environment. This makes the heat pump at least two or three times more efficient than any electric, gas, oil, wood or other conventional heating system.

Depending on where the heat pump gets its heat, it is referred to as an air, water or ground source heat pump. An air source heat pump extracts heat from the outside air, even

when that air is colder than the air inside the house. It can do this because heat exists in all air down to absolute zero (-460 F.). Even cold winter air contains heat.

The heat pump circulates a liquid refrigerant through a heat-exchanger coil placed outdoors. This refrigerant evaporates at temperatures much colder than the outside air. The outside air heats the refrigerant in the coil to its boiling point and the refrigerant becomes a gas.

An electric compressor then squeezes the gas, raising its temperature even more. The hot gas travels through an indoor coil, where it releases heat into the indoor air.

The cooled refrigerant, on its return trip, passes through an expansion device that causes it to cool and liquefy, to the point where it is ready to absorb heat and start the cycle again. In summer this process can work in reverse, so the system works as an air conditioner.

A thermostat is used to con-

trol the operation of the heating and cooling system. The thermostat turns the heating/cooling system on and off to maintain a desired temperature automatically. Some thermostats, known as automatic or programmable thermostats, can change the desired temperature set points throughout the day, week and year based on a program built into the thermostat. They can also be set to automatically switch from heating to cooling and back as needed.

You can save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10% to 15% for 8 hours a day. Using a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating or air conditioning according to a pre-set schedule. As a result, the equipment doesn't operate as much when you are asleep or when the building is not occupied.

Typically, a 5 to 8 degree difference is about right. Adjusting the setback more than this might cause the system to

use more energy to bring the temperature back to the original setting than it would have if left alone.

Errors in programming can also lead to higher energy usage. Heating in summer and cooling in winter are obvious programming errors. Not as obvious are unneeded cycles during periods when they are not needed or desired. Take time to learn to program your thermostat and carefully run through the entire program to insure it is programmed right.

Be careful about manually adjusting a thermostat that controls a heat pump. This may cause the electric resistance heating to come on. This type of heating, which is often used as backup to a heat pump, is more expensive. The cost saving benefits of the heat pump are lost if this occurs.

We hope you find these tips useful. For more information contact the PUD Energy Services Dept at 422.8427 or 422.8428 or your heating and air conditioning contractor.