



WATT'S UP

Helping you achieve energy resolutions that really pay off.

Just like making New Year's resolutions you can make energy resolutions and while they won't make you look fabulous in that new swimsuit or add 10 years to your life, your reward will be a fatter wallet. The average household uses about 20 to 25 percent more electricity than it did 20 years ago. So....

Seal air leaks and add insulation to block heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. This alone can shave up to 20 percent off your heating and cooling costs. Turn down the thermostat on your heating system. For every degree you lower your thermostat in the winter you can cut your heating bill by 5 percent. Recommended temperature is 68 to 70 degrees. For cooling in summer months set your thermostat at 78 degrees. Flat screen TV's, cell phones, video games and iPods can really add up. Turn them off when not in use. Turn down your water heater to 120 degrees. Replace the five most used light bulbs in your home with Energy Star compact fluorescent bulbs.

Get rid of "ghost-loads", or devices that use energy even when they are turned off, such as TV's, DVD players, computers and printers. Always look for Energy Star models when buying electronics or appliances.

FINALLY, enjoy your savings!



...a PlayStation game console consumes up to 180 watts during idle mode. That equates to over 1,500 kWh during the course of a year. That is significant as studies have shown that 50 percent of users do not turn off their machines when not actively playing.

focus on household electricity consumption.



Calculate Monthly Operating Costs of Electronics =

Wattage x average hours of use per day
x 30 days x \$.044 kWh =
Divide by 1000

Example:

1500 watts x 4 hrs/day x 30 days x \$.044 cents = 7920
Divide by 1000 = \$7.92

Stretch Your Dollars



Your Energy Service Department has an array of efficient programs, measures and information to help stretch your hard earned dollars. Call 422-8427 or 422-8428.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.OKANOGANPUD.ORG**

FREE from FWEE

(Foundation for Water and Energy Education)

As a member of FWEE, Okanogan Co PUD is able to pass onto our customers a free membership to a new web page that has recently been launched. This web page, **Energy For Keeps**, provides students, teachers and others an excellent and extensive resource regarding how different energy sources generate electricity, historical resources, environmental impacts and new technology. Please go to www.fwee.org. Click on the link Energy For Keeps and follow the instructions to sign up and register.

A BIT OF HISTORY

DO YOU KNOW...Where the majority of your electricity comes from?

If you live in the Pacific Northwest, chances are you use electricity marketed and delivered by the Bonneville Power Administration—best known as BPA. Okanogan County PUD receives approximately 70% of our power from BPA. BPA is a federal agency headquartered in Portland, OR., that markets wholesale electricity and transmission to the Pacific Northwest's public and private utilities as well as to some large industries. BPA provides about half the electricity used in the Northwest and operates over three-fourths of the region's high-voltage transmission. While BPA is part of the Department of Energy, it is not tax-supported through government appropriations. Instead, BPA recovers all of its costs through sales of electricity and transmission and repays the U. S. Treasury in full with interest for any money it borrows. Because BPA markets energy and transmission at cost, rather than at market prices, it has traditionally provided some of the lowest cost electricity in the nation. This low-cost power has been a cornerstone of the Northwest economy. The agency provides a number of public benefits including incentives for energy conservation programs and research and development of renewable resources and promising technologies.

Congress and the Roosevelt Administration created BPA in 1937, just before completion of Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams in 1938 and 1941. They anticipated the need to market energy from these new power sources. One of BPA's early missions focused on electrifying farms and small communities with public power. These rural areas were not profitable for private utilities to serve. To deliver power, BPA began building transmission lines in the 1930's. The first line connected Bonneville Dam to Cascade Locks, just three miles from the dam. Major construction from the 1940's through the 1960's created networks and loops of high-voltage wire touching most parts of BPA's service territory. The system now includes more than 15,000 miles of line and 300 substations.

While BPA relies on hydropower for its main power supply, energy conservation plays an increasingly important role. In partnership with other Northwest utilities, BPA invests in energy conservation through projects that encourage the use of energy-efficient technologies. Many of those projects give us the ability to offer incentives and rebate programs, to you, our customers. For further information on incentives or rebate programs check out our web page or contact the Energy Services Department.

In the future, BPA will remain a large and important resource for Okanogan PUD. As of 2010, the BPA system is fully allocated. This means any added electrical load will have to come from other sources.

MORE TO COME

PUD TREE TRIMMING

Asplundh Tree Expert Company is contracted with the Okanogan County PUD for tree trimming and power line right of way clearance on our electrical distribution system. Beginning early 2010, crews will be trimming in PUD service areas including Pogue Flat and surrounding area and the Riverside area. Once completed, crews will begin trimming and clearing lines in the areas of Tunk valley, Conconully, Chiliwist, South Pine Creek and Crumbacher area, Hwy 7 South, Tonasket, Highway 97 South of Tonasket, Monse and Brewster Flats. Removing vegetation and trimming trees near overhead primary conductors is required by law and is necessary to provide our ratepayers the highest level of safety and reliability of electric service. If you have questions regarding power line tree trimming and right of way clearance, please contact Right of Way Superintendent, Roy Schilke at 422-8473 or roys@okpud.org.

SPRING REMINDERS



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM



CLEAR A PATH FOR YOUR METER READER.