

You May Qualify for a Discount on Your PUD Bill!

Grays Harbor PUD offers a discount to low-income senior and/or disabled Grays Harbor PUD customers. The discount ranges from 10% to 35%, depending on total household income.

Below is a chart of the income eligibility requirements, followed by a list of other eligibility requirements.

May 2013 - May 2014 Income Eligibility

% Of Discount	Minimum Income	Maximum Income
35%	\$0	\$14,363
30%	\$14,364	\$18,363
25%	\$18,364	\$22,363
20%	\$22,364	\$26,363
10%	\$26,364	\$30,363

To qualify for the program you must meet all the following requirements:

- You are a Grays Harbor PUD customer who is 62 years of age or older, **OR** a disabled citizen as defined under Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C., Chapter 7 or Labor & Industries (you receive an L&I disability pension).
- You live in a home served by the Grays Harbor PUD and receive an electric bill in your own name, or your electric bill is included in your rent.
- You are a full time resident of the District's service territory.
- You do not live in federally subsidized housing.
- Your total annual household income falls within the range eligible for a discount. To determine your total annual household income add your income from your Income Tax Forms, Social Security Award Letter(s), L&I Pension award letter(s), and/or Retirement Income(s), for everyone living in the household. Check the chart above to see if your total household income falls within the range eligible for a discount.

What to Do If You Qualify

Contact our Customer Service Department at 533-7610 or 1-800-562-7726.

You will need to provide the following when you apply:

- Picture Identification
- Proof of age & verification of income
- One of your PUD electric bills
- If applying on the basis of a disability, either a Social Security disability award letter or L&I Pension award letter.

This discount requires annual renewal, so watch for the reminder letter and make sure to renew each year to continue to receive the discount.

Commissioners Approve New Electricity Rates

At its December 16 public meeting, the Board of Commissioners for the Grays Harbor PUD approved a 3.75% increase in electricity rates. The increase will appear on customer bills beginning January 1, 2014.

Rising power supply costs account for the majority of the increase (3%), mostly due to the Bonneville Power Administration raising their rates this past October. Bonneville provides most of the PUD's power supply, and the increases in their power and transmission rates will cost the utility about \$1.5 million in 2014. Internal expenses, such as rising health care costs and increased labor costs due to succession planning, prompted the remaining 0.75% increase.

For the average residential customer using 1,200 kilowatt-hours of energy per month, the rate adjustment will result in an increase of about \$4.00 on a monthly bill. Customers with higher monthly usage will see a larger dollar increase on their bills.

Prior to July 2014, the PUD will evaluate the need for an additional rate adjustment of up to 1.75%.



10 Ways to Save Energy Without Spending a Dime

Budget conscious? Then check out some ways you can make your home more energy efficient without putting a dent in your pocketbook. You'll save energy, and that can save you money on your PUD bill.

1. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees.
2. Unplug chargers from the electrical outlet when not in use. Chargers use energy even if they are not plugged into an electrical device.
3. Turn off electronics when not in use. One way to do this quickly is to plug your home electronics such as your TV and DVD players into power strips and then simply turn off the power strips when the equipment is not in use.
4. Take short showers. This will reduce the energy used for water heating.
5. During the colder months, keep the draperies and shades on south facing windows open during the day to allow sunlight to enter your home and close draperies and shades at night.
6. Warm up your coffee in the microwave. Keeping your coffee warm on the coffee maker hot plate uses more energy.
7. Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are finished cooking or bathing.
8. Wash only full loads of dishes in the dishwasher. Most of the energy used by a dishwasher is for water heating, and making sure the dishwasher is full, but not overloaded, will make the most of each dish washing cycle.
9. Wash clothes in cold water using cold water detergents whenever possible.
10. Get a free energy audit from your Grays Harbor PUD! Our energy efficiency experts will come to your home or business and show you ways you can save energy. Just call Energy Services at 360-538-6383 to schedule your free energy audit!

Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Nichols Building, 220 Myrtle Street, Hoquiam.

January 2014

Monday - January 6
Tuesday - January 21

February 2014

Monday - February 3
Monday - February 17

Regular business meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. A one hour workshop (3:30 to 4:30 pm) will precede each business meeting, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend all commission meetings, special meetings, workshops and public hearings.

Commission meetings may be cancelled and special meetings may be scheduled. Please visit our website (www.ghpud.org) for updated information.

ON-LINE BILL PAYMENT

Want to pay your bill on-line? Now you can pay your bill instantly without ever leaving home. Just go to www.ghpud.org, click on "Pay Bill" from the menu on the left and follow the instructions on screen.

We're Tweeting!

Want to stay connected to your Grays Harbor PUD? Follow us on Twitter! Just go to Twitter.com, sign up for an account (it's free) and sign up to follow "GHPUD". You'll get the latest info from Grays Harbor PUD.

Stay connected



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Please remember to recycle.



Line Crews Participate in Festival of Lights

The PUD line crews were thrilled to participate in this year's Festival of Lights Parade in Montesano on Saturday, December 14. Crews spent countless hours hooking up over 10,000 lights to a PUD line truck and float, which featured Santa waving from atop the truck and a mock power line that crews could turn off and on. PUD Employee Association members accompanied the crews alongside the float handing out candy canes to the huge crowd of spectators. The float was honored with the Festival Sweepstakes Award, which means it was judged as the overall best entry!



KePiPhotography

Photo by Kerstin Pitz

Just for kids!

Learning about electricity can be fun!

Grays Harbor PUD has a new website just for kids. Just go to www.ghpud.org and click on "Energy Kids" or "e-smart kids" located at the bottom of the left hand menu.

- Games
- Activities
- Fun facts
- Special sections for teachers and parents!

Outage information is as close as your smart phone, laptop or notebook computer!

The PUD offers email or text message updates for power outages impacting 50 or more customers. There are two ways to receive outage alerts:

- Follow "GHPUD" on Twitter.com.
- Sign up to receive "Outage Alerts" through the PUD's website at www.ghpud.org.

Please call the PUD's Outage Information Line at (360) 537-3721 or 1-888-541-5923 to report a power outage or receive information about outages over the phone.



Commissioner's Corner

by Russ Skolrood, District 3 Commissioner

2014?

As my dad, who is in his 80s, often reminds me, "Time flies." It is hard to imagine that it is already going to be 2014 and my teenage daughter is going to graduate from high school. Grays Harbor PUD has been no different when it comes to the passing of time. The time has flown since I first became a Commissioner for this vital organization.

As we move into the New Year, I wanted to share some words of wisdom that I have learned lately while working at the PUD. The first comes from our new General Manager Dave Ward. He has often stated as we have worked on different issues at the PUD, "It's not a problem, it's an opportunity." This goes to the character of the man we hired to lead the PUD into the future. It is a contagious attitude that demands that you identify the issue and you work to find a solution. This sounds like a very simple process, but when you deal with the complex issues that face the PUD, it is often a daunting task.

With this new attitude in mind, we have been able to identify many issues and work toward long lasting solutions that will only make this organization stronger. While it has brought about a lot of change, it has also brought out the best in many of the employees at the PUD. People are stepping up and taking on more responsibility and ownership every day. How does that affect the ratepayers of Grays Harbor? When you work together and you start looking at problems as opportunities, you do a better job. I believe in the long run we do an even better job of bringing a safer, more reliable and cost effective electrical system to the ratepayers.

The other words of wisdom came from an employee team that was tasked with working on a new set of core values for the PUD. In a presentation to the Board, I was impressed with a statement from this group that pointed to the importance of looking ahead. They made the analogy that the rear view mirror in a car is a lot smaller than the windshield because when you want to move forward you need to make sure that you concentrate on what's in front of you and not spend as much time on what's behind you. Using this statement, they impressed upon me that while you learn from the past, if you really want to move ahead you need to concentrate on what is in front of you. The PUD is in the perfect position to do exactly that. We have a new administrative team. We have a new culture that embraces problems as opportunities, and we have a renewed focus on the future and developing a safer, more reliable and cost effective electrical system for the ratepayers of Grays Harbor.

It is exciting to look ahead at 2014. I believe that time will fly, but I also believe that with the right direction we will do an even better job for the ratepayers of Grays Harbor. Happy New Year!



ENERGY, an informational newsletter, is published monthly for families and businesses energized by Grays Harbor PUD.

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