



CONNECTED

The Newsletter of Cowlitz PUD

Volume 10, No. 11

Change-A-Light 2007: Save Now on Energy Efficient CFLs

An easy way to save electricity just got a little easier on your wallet, as Cowlitz PUD, BPA and other utilities in the region have teamed up to offer energy saving Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) at some very special prices.

During our Change-A-Light 2007 promotion you'll find great deals on ENERGY STAR® CFLs. Two separate CFL promotions are now underway, but we recommend shopping before December 15 to make sure you get the best selection and prices. No coupons are required.

As the chart shows, a low wattage CFL can replace a higher wattage incandescent light and provide the same amount of light. Less wattage means you save energy and lower your electric bill.

CFLs also last longer, meaning you don't have to continually change bulbs. They are especially good to use in those hard-to-reach places – like high ceilings and inside bathroom fixtures.

CFLs work in both indoor and outdoor applications. If you have never used them before, we suggest you give them a try. Cowlitz PUD has talked to hundreds of customers who use CFLs – and they report they are glad they made the change.

Special prices on a large selection of CFLs are now available at:

Home Depot – Longview
Lowe's – Longview
Wal-Mart – Longview
Fred Meyer – Longview
Searing Electric – Longview
Rite-Aid – Longview, Kelso
Hi-School Pharmacy – Woodland
True Value – Kelso, Woodland, Castle Rock
Costco – Portland (Airport) and Vancouver



Incandescent bulb wattage	CFL wattage	Annual kWhs saved with CFL	Annual cost savings w/CFL	Lifetime kWhs saved w/CFL	Lifetime cost savings w/CFL
40	13	39	\$2.00	216	\$11.06
60	18	61	\$3.12	336	\$17.20
75	22	77	\$3.94	424	\$21.71
100	30	102	\$5.22	560	\$28.67

Savings figures are based on a bulb being used for four hours per day, a bulb life of 8,000 hours and Cowlitz PUD's residential electric rate of 5.12¢ per kWh. Energy Star CFLs have a minimum life of 6,000 hours, but can normally be expected to last longer.

Construction Complete at White Creek Wind Project



From the Oregon side of Interstate-84 in the Columbia River Gorge, you can see the White Creek Wind Project. This photo was taken just east of milepost 129, which is between John Day Dam and the town of Arlington, OR. From the freeway look north over the river to the hills of Klickitat County, WA, and you'll get a great look at the state's newest wind farm – from which Cowlitz PUD has rights to 46 percent of the electricity produced.

All 89 wind turbines are spinning and electricity is flowing at the White Creek Wind Project. The wind farm will power the equivalent of 38,000 Pacific Northwest residences. Cowlitz PUD will purchase 46 percent of that output for the next 20 years.

The final unit was installed at the rural Klickitat County site in late October, ending 15 months of work on roads, transmission lines, substations and other related construction.

Cowlitz PUD and three other Washington consumer-owned utilities – Klickitat PUD, Lakeview Light & Power and Tanner Electric Co-op – initiated the project. White Creek is the largest wind project developed by public power in the U.S.

Cowlitz PUD expects to use its share of the White Creek power locally as soon as 2012, when load growth needs and new state-mandated renewable power standards take effect. In the meantime our share of the output will be sold into the Pacific Northwest power market.

Cowlitz PUD is the only one of the four utilities required to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standards set forth in I-937, which was passed last fall by Washington voters.

The new law calls for utilities to use non-hydro renewable energy sources for at least three percent of power resources in 2012, nine percent in 2016 and 15 percent by 2020. Based on future load forecasts, Cowlitz's White Creek share will help it meet the 2012 renewables requirement and most of the 2016 level.

White Creek - QUICK FACTS

Location: On 9,500 acres of ranch land, 21 miles east of Goldendale, WA. It is just northwest of Roosevelt, WA, which is across the Columbia River from Arlington, OR.

Construction: Began in July 2006 on roads, electric transmission lines, two sub-stations and other infrastructure. Wind turbine assembly began last June and was completed in late October. All 89 units will be commissioned and producing electricity in November.

Equipment: Siemens Power Generation supplied, installed and commissioned the 89, 2.3-MW wind turbines and associated towers and other equipment at the project.

Shipping and Delivery: Siemens shipped towers, blades and other components to the Port of Longview from May to September 2007. The cargo was trucked to the project site.

Power production capability: The installed capacity is 205 megawatts (MW). Based on a one-third capacity factor the projected annual output is 68 average MW. It will power an estimated 38,000 residences.

Power output shares: Cowlitz PUD - 46 percent; Klickitat PUD and Lakeview Light & Power - 26 percent each; Tanner Electric Cooperative - two percent.

For more information about the White Creek Wind Project go online to www.cowlitzpud.org and check out the Hot Topics section under the "In the News" link.

What's Happening

Handbook of the Streets®

Now Available –

It's Unique...It Works...It's Proven



This 35-page, pocket-sized community resource guide provides one-stop, comprehensive service provider information for low-income and homeless people in Cowlitz County. Updated and printed quarterly to maintain accuracy, it is given out free to those in need. For further information or to obtain copies contact the Emergency Support Shelter at (360) 425-1176 or sherriet@cascadenetworks.net. Handbook of the Streets® is copyrighted material owned by The Alliance–West.

Due to an editing error, this article ran last month in Connected with an incorrect logo. We regret the error. As space is available each month in Connected, Cowlitz PUD may offer a brief listing promoting activities (on a first-come, first-served basis) for public, non-profit groups or events with wide interest in Cowlitz County. Send your request to: whatshappening@cowlitzpud.org.

YOU CAN PAY YOUR PUD BILL ONLINE

www.cowlitzpud.org

Debit or credit card (Visa/MasterCard)

Automated Metering - *Is the PUD's new metering system secure?*

The PUD's advanced metering infrastructure project is well underway. Approximately 1,500 automated meters are installed and being tested. If all goes well, and so far it has, another 11,000 meters will be installed in 2008.

By 2011, every customer will have a new meter that communicates on a real-time basis with computers in the PUD office, via a signal over power lines. It will allow us to read your meter automatically from the PUD office. One day you'll be able to monitor your electric usage online and set your monthly billing date.

We have been asked by a few customers if this new system is secure. One customer wrote a commentary in The Daily News claiming the new system will allow the PUD to know when people are taking a shower or flushing the toilet. Those claims are not true.

Customer privacy and security has been a priority to the PUD for 67 years and will always continue to be. Our

Commission Activities



October highlights:

- **Met with the Beacon Hill Sewer District Board to discuss an inter-local agreement** to provide for BHSD to assume day-to-day operations of the PUD water system in January '08.
- **Approved the sale of the PUD's surplus property at 975 Hemlock St., Longview to the highest bidder.**
- **Approved staff recommendations to purchase a 6X6 Digger Derrick line truck and an underground cable puller.**
- **Held a workshop to review the PUD's 2008 Capital Budget request.**

Upcoming PUD Board meetings:

Tuesday, November 27

Tuesday, December 11 (budget adoption)

These public meetings are held in the PUD Auditorium, 961 12th Avenue in Longview at 2:00 p.m. Please check our website for up-to-the-minute Board agendas, meeting dates and times.

automated metering project team has visited several utilities using this technology and has studied every aspect of it, including security, for over two years.

There are two parts to automated metering – the new metering system and our existing customer information system, which has a long track record of secure operation. These two systems are separate and confined to their own servers, behind the PUD's security firewall. Any information passing between them is done using secure protocols. Bottom line is we have installed the system with security in mind by implementing various layers of security within our network and out to the substations. We are absolutely confident in the protection design the system provides you.

When we're close to installing your new meter, we'll send a letter a few weeks in advance. In the meantime, give us a call or email us at customercomments@cowlitzpud.org if you have a question.

From the General Manager's Point-of-View...

Whether you're a skeptic or a true believer, we are all wrestling with the issue of climate change and carbon emissions.



Our state legislature just passed a climate change bill that will significantly impact the electric utility business by effectively eliminating coal as a resource option. This follows the voter-approved initiative mandating a portion of a utility's resource portfolio come from renewables. The Oregon legislature has adopted similar legislation and industry observers expect federal legislation to follow soon.

Fortunately, the Pacific Northwest already has relatively low carbon producing electric generation resources. That's due to our abundant hydroelectric resources and a rapidly growing renewables sector. The region has also been a leader in energy efficiency efforts over the past 20-plus years.

These conclusions were recently demonstrated in a Northwest Power and Conservation Council report titled "Carbon Dioxide Footprint of the Northwest Power System." The report shows that under normal water conditions in 2005, the Pacific Northwest produced 540 pounds of CO² per megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity generated, compared to 990 pounds for the entire western U.S. The number is even bigger on a national basis.

If you follow the issues, you're aware that some people in the region wish to remove four Snake River dams. This would result in a loss of 1,020 average megawatts (aMW) of electricity (comparable to Seattle's needs) and 2,650 aMW of peaking capacity. That power is needed to back up wind generation when the wind isn't blowing.

The Council assumed that if these resources were lost, the primary replacement would be natural gas-powered generation. Why not conservation and renewables? Simply because we will need all the conservation and renewables we

can get our hands on to meet load growth as is. Assuming the dams were replaced by gas plants, the Council found the increase in CO² would be 4.6 million tons per year. And of course power costs would go up.

But that's not all. Those pushing for dam removal also push for changes in river operation, which has reduced the amount of power generated by the dams. One proposal is called "summer spill." The Council reports if summer spill at the Snake and Columbia River dams ended, there would be about 550 aMW of additional hydropower generated which would displace fossil fuel sources, thus reducing carbon emissions by 1.4 million tons per year. However, in 2006 a federal judge ordered more summer spill. This additional spill reduces power generation by about 380 aMW, and increases CO² production by 0.7 million tons.

So although the region's carbon generation is comparatively low, under law we are supposed to go lower (back to 1990 levels) and increase our reliance on renewables and not use coal. But at the same time, groups continue pressing for removal of zero-carbon hydro facilities and changes that reduce the output of existing dams due to fish concerns. Make any sense to you?

As the Council paper stated "...the scenario analysis shows that policy choices that are made for purposes other than CO² reduction (in this case fish and wildlife) can also have significant effects on CO² production; enough to negate policies such as renewable portfolio standards. Such unintended consequences often go unexplored in important policy debates that focus narrowly on only one objective."

The Council is right on. We can't run the river primarily for fish, remove dams, reduce carbon, and have an adequate supply of electricity for a growing economy at rates people can afford. We have some hard choices to make.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Skeahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Brian Skeahan, General Manager

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