

# Hotline



Issue: January - February 2018

## Winter Tips to Keep You Warm

And help save a few dollars on your heating bill

Winter is upon us and we want to provide some helpful tips that can make a difference in your winter heating bills.

### INSULATE:

It's never too late to keep those cold drafts under control and weather stripping and window coverings are easy to install. Checking your home's insulation and sealing the "envelope" - the outer walls, ceiling, windows, doors and floors - is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve comfort, reduce energy waste and make the most of your energy dollars. During the winter months remember to insulate pipes and external spigots and let faucets drip to prevent pipes from freezing.

### PREPARE FOR OUTAGES:

You never know when bad weather will cause a power outage. Keep a flashlight handy. Call Franklin PUD when you have an outage. When an outage occurs, turn off and unplug sensitive electronic equipment. Turn on an outside light so the line crews can see when power is on at your house. Never plug personal generators into the home electrical system. Power can reverse flow out onto the high-voltage lines, causing a safety issue for Franklin PUD line men.

Have at least a three day supply of food, water, medications, toilet paper, dry fire wood and fuel available. Maintain a good first aid kit.



### SOLID LIGHTING SOLUTIONS:

Want to cut your electric bills, yet not be left in the dark? Incorporate energy-efficient lighting practices and technology into your every day living.

No need to use bulbs with a twist, (the compact florescent bulbs); light-emitting diodes (LEDs) can help you switch on the savings. LEDs are at the forefront of solid-state lighting; small packed electronic chip devices. Two conductive materials are placed together on a chip (a diode). Electricity passes through the diode, releasing energy in the form of light. LEDs offer several benefits including they last longer, they use substantially less energy and have no mercury content, and LEDs are more environmentally friendly. They also perform well in cold climates, especially outside.

## HydroPower Facts. *Did you know?*

**HYDRO  
POWER  
FLOWS HERE**

**FACT: 4,361,000 tons of cargo moved on the Snake River in 2014 by barge**

That is the equivalent of: 302 four-barge tows; OR,  
43,610 rail cars; OR,  
167,000 semi trucks.

**FACT: The Columbia River is the third largest grain export gateway in the world**

#1 in U.S. wheat exports  
#2 in U.S. soybean exports

## Winter Weatherization Workshop

Reserve your space for Franklin PUD's Winter Weatherization Workshop. Spend the evening learning how to get your home ready for the cold winter months. Our energy efficiency experts will be on hand to answer questions and guide you towards the right products to make your home as comfortable and energy efficient as possible. Weatherization kits will be given out to Franklin PUD customers at the workshop. One per household.

*Join us...*

**Tuesday, January 23, 2018  
Connell Community Center  
211 E. Elm Street, Connell  
5:30pm - 7:00pm**



**Wednesday, January 24, 2018  
Franklin PUD Auditorium  
1411 W. Clark Street, Pasco  
5:30pm - 7:00pm**

Please **RSVP online** by going to [www.franklinpud.com](http://www.franklinpud.com), and clicking on **Energy Services**. Space is limited to the first 50 Franklin PUD customers.

## Working for You

### Commissioners:

Stu Nelson, *President*  
Roger Wright, *Vice President*  
Bill Gordon, *Secretary*

### General Manager:

Tim Nies

### Hotline Editor:

Debbie Bone-Harris  
*Senior Manager, Public Affairs*



## Q&A

### Ask Our Energy Experts

Do you have questions about energy efficiency in your home? If so, our energy experts have the answers. Visit our website at [www.franklinpud.com](http://www.franklinpud.com) and click on Energy Efficiency, or for detailed information, give our Energy Services department a call at 509-546-5967.

**Q: People have told me that in the winter time I should switch my heat pump over to emergency heat. True or False?**

**A: False.** Simply put, most modern systems can run in heat pump mode down to zero degrees before becoming less efficient than the electric furnace back up. Heat pump users save approximately 40% over electric furnace users. Switching off your heat pump to use emergency heat can be very costly for winter heating bills.

**Q: Is it really a big deal to close crawlspace vents in winter months? True or False?**

**A: True.** It really *is* a big deal. Air movement accelerates heat loss. Two things happen when you leave your crawlspace vents open through the winter months that can make significant impacts on your heating costs.

1. Cold wind blows through your crawl space pulling heat away from your underfloor and moving it outside.
2. Cold air from your crawlspace can move through the interior of your home. When cold air is pulled in from the floor your warm air is lost to the attic. When your crawlspace is buttoned up tight this kind of air movement is greatly reduced.

Commissioner's Corner

# Challenges Continue for Our Industry



**Stu Nelson**  
2018 President

As your new President, I wanted to summarize some of the challenges Franklin PUD, and other utilities across our region will be facing as we move into 2018 and beyond. As electric utilities across the region strive to position themselves for the ever so quickly evolving electric industry, we are looking forward to building upon the decades of experience and success that Franklin PUD has brought to you - our customers. Like other utilities, the power and transmission businesses at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will be impacted by industry change. Our job will be to identify the risks and opportunities ahead, and to promote strategic action at a rate that can match the pace of this new era.

At the beginning of this 2017 when the new Administration took office, it was not a surprise that the first budget included a proposal to privatize the transmission assets of BPA, and of the Western and Southwestern

Power Administrations. Franklin PUD supported regional partners opposing the privatization of BPA that would have raised rates, undermined regional control and jeopardized service and reliability.

Now 2018, the Administration has also presented a fresh opportunity to realign the Columbia River Treaty. This treaty was ratified by the U.S. and Canada in 1964 to govern Columbia River flows for flood control and power generation. After nearly 50 years, both nations are examining its future. The Treaty must be modernized to reflect the current value of power and flood control operations. Negotiations have been slow to get started, to say the least. But the latest letter from several Congressional members stated that, unless discussions commence quickly, they will call for a notice of intent to terminate the power provisions of the Treaty. With the groundwork laid, and a new lead negotiator in place, it is hopeful that an official negotiation, and a more positive resolution for power consumers is within reach.

## Charging Ahead with Electric Vehicles

There are several reasons why there is a growing interest in electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are becoming more affordable, battery technology is improving, and there is a push to decrease greenhouse gases caused by carbon emissions from vehicles. Franklin PUD joined other local utilities, Energy Northwest, and TRIDEC, to form the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Transportation Alliance (EVITA) to advocate for a sustainable electric transportation infrastructure.

The first step for EVITA was to apply for a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) grant for a pilot project for electrical vehicle fast charging stations to be installed along Washington interstate and highway corridors.

WSDOT awarded a \$405,000 grant to the EVITA project. The proceeds of the EVITA grant will be combined with public and private matching funds and in-kind contributions to install nine fast charging stations linking eastern and western Washington. Two of the



charging stations will be served by Franklin PUD and will be located in Connell and Pasco.

Through EVITA and this project, Franklin PUD will be better prepared to meet our customers' needs as they shift to using electricity to power their vehicles and to provide a charging system for those coming to the Tri-City region from the west side and other areas.



Franklin PUD offers Generation Green, a "green power" program to give our customers an opportunity to purchase renewable energy generated from qualified alternative energy resources. This program, which provides a **voluntary option** to customers, is mandated by the State

of Washington through RCW 19.29A.090.

**The amount you pay is above and beyond what you already pay for renewable energy already included in Franklin PUD rates.**

For more information on this program, go to our website at [www.franklinpud.com/index.php/energy-efficiency/generation-green/](http://www.franklinpud.com/index.php/energy-efficiency/generation-green/).



follow us @franklinpud

## New Professional Engineer at the PUD

Franklin PUD is pleased to announce that Rosa Mitchell has passed the Washington State Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Exam. Mitchell joined Franklin PUD as an Engineering Intern in 2012 and graduated from Washington State University Tri-Cities with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering in 2013. Shortly thereafter, she was hired by Franklin PUD as an Electrical Engineer where she earned the additional four years of professional-level experience needed to earn her title as Professional Engineer. Rosa is excited for her future career as a professional engineer and wants to continue to be a part of Franklin PUD's Engineering team to help provide safe, reliable, affordable power to its customers. **Congratulations Rosa.**

## Employees Donate Time to Bikes for Tikes

Franklin PUD employees donated their time to help with the "Bikes for Tikes" annual bike build at the Benton Franklin Fairgrounds. Local Union 598 Plumbers and Steamfitters lead the local Bikes for Tikes program in an effort to provide bikes and helmets to children in need in our community.

Franklin PUD encourages its employees to get involved in our local community. 1700 bikes were donated and assembled.



## Fuel Mix Disclosure

A report of where your power comes from.

Generation Type	% of Total Generation	
	WA State*	Actuals
COAL	3.99%	-
HYDRO	79.96%	76.28%
MARKET PURCHASES	-	10.25%
NATURAL GAS	3.85%	1.42%
NUCLEAR	8.96%	8.96%
WIND	2.94%	2.94%
OTHER	0.30%	0.15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: WA State Dept. of Commerce, Franklin PUD - actual purchases of generation for 2015.

