

Hotline



Issue: March - April 2018

Cash in on Rebates

Before you start your spring projects, check for available rebates.

Franklin PUD is offering rebates to our customers for energy efficiency upgrades. Although weather has the biggest impact on your energy bills, upgrading to ENERGY STAR® appliances and improving your home's

efficiency with projects like insulation and new windows can greatly reduce electricity costs. Check our website for a full list of available rebates.

Trending Rebates:

- **Heat Pump Water Heaters** - Save 50% to 60% off water heating costs
Rebate: \$700 - \$800
- **Smart Thermostats** - Nest Gen3 or Ecobee
Rebate: \$100
- **Ductless Heat Pumps**
Rebate: \$1000 (single head)
\$1600 (4 head)
- **Heat Pumps**
Rebate: \$1000 to \$1500
- **ENERGY STAR® Washer or Dryer**
Rebate: \$50
- **Windows & Doors** - See website for details
- **Insulation** - attic, wall and floor
Rebate: up to 50% of installed cost

Working for You

Commissioners:

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

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Tim Nies

Hotline Editor:

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Senior Manager, Public Affairs



This Region Needs the Snake River Dams



Our Columbia and Snake Rivers represent the nation's single largest wheat export gateway, transporting over 50% of all U.S. wheat to markets overseas. This river system with its network of dams creates a marine highway and the third largest grain gateway in the world, moving significant quantities of wheat, soy, and corn.

A single barge tow is the equivalent of 538 tractor trailers which would otherwise be on the highway driving next to you. If that cargo had made its way to a rail line, it would have taken 140 rail cars to get the product to its destination. Barging is the most fuel efficient way to move cargo, has the fewest spills and accidents of any mode of cargo transport, and plays an important role in relieving surface transportation congestion and maintenance.

The Columbia/Snake River Dam system

has been under ever-increasing attack by outside influences over recent years from extreme environmental organizations. Their communications are based on misleading arguments and not science. Some argue that the Snake River dams are no longer needed for our region's goods. But the numbers tell a different story. Over 4.3 million tons of cargo were sent by barge on the Snake River in 2015. Without the Snake River dams, it would have taken 43,610 rail cars to carry this cargo, or over 167,000 semi-trucks. Barging through the four Snake River dams is a critical transportation link for our region, our irrigators, and our farmers that are customers of Franklin PUD.

These dams produce a lot of energy with no greenhouse gas emissions. This gives the Northwest an environmental edge unmatched elsewhere in the country. To showcase our rivers and dams, Franklin PUD is teaming up with the Pasco Chamber of Commerce to host a "RiverFest" later this fall. The goal is to spotlight the positive benefits of the river system and offset the misleading influence of outside interests in our area. We will focus on hydropower, dams, salmon, transportation, irrigation and recreation on our rivers. Plans are being discussed now, so stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

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 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 my surge protector is old and needs to be replaced. True or False?

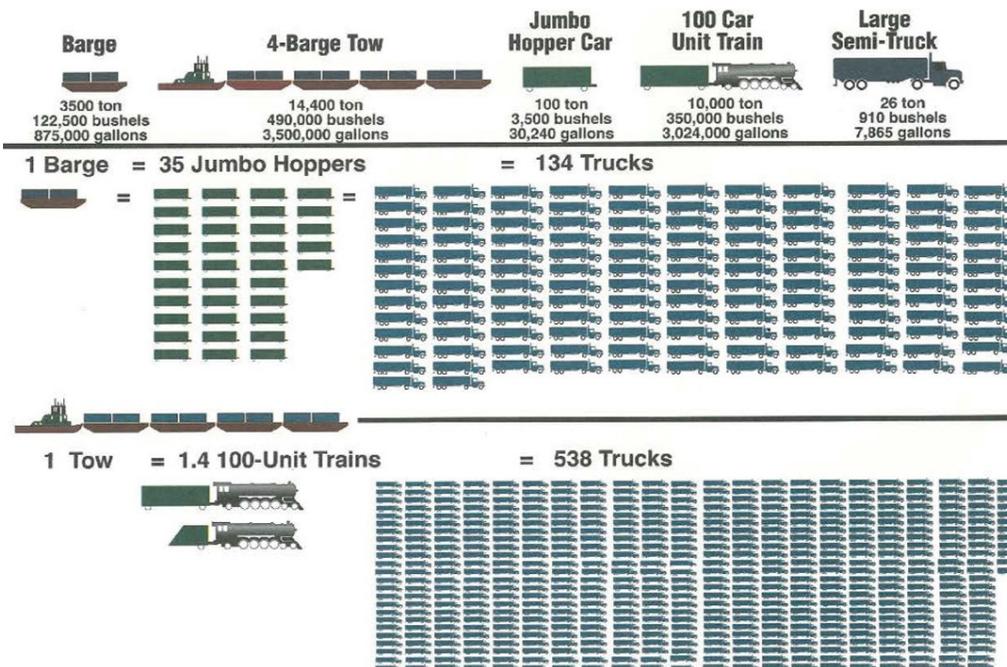
A: True. Simply put, over time a surge protector is going to wear out. Some will give you a warning when they do. Many won't. If you know you've had a serious electrical event (like lightning blew out a transformer down the street), it's probably worth replacing your surge protector just in case.

Q: What does the term "joules" mean?

A: Surge protectors offer protection in amounts called joules. Think of this like a reservoir of protection. If a product has 1,000 joules of protection, that means it can take ten 100 joule hits, or one 1,000 joule hit. Generally, the more joules the better.

Q: Are all surge protectors the same?

A: No. Power strips and surge protectors (also called surge suppressors) are different. Typically, power strips are cheap, multi-outlet products that are merely an expansion of a wall outlet. Surge protectors offer some level of protection against power spikes. How much and how well vary considerably so be sure to read the labels when purchasing surge protectors.

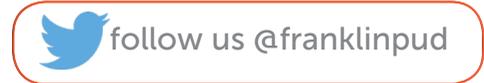


Franklin PUD is a member of the Pacific Northwest Waterway Association. Head to www.pnwa.net to check out fact sheets about our river system.

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509.547.5591 or 800.638.7701

Commissioner's Corner



Planning for the Future



Roger Wright
Vice President

Recently your Franklin PUD Commissioners, management and staff updated Franklin PUD's Strategic Plan.

Why is a Strategic Plan important? I believe it's important that we have a long-term plan to measure our success against. If you don't have a long-term plan, you make short term decisions. When you make short term decisions, you usually make the wrong decisions.

The point of our Strategic Plan is to identify the areas that we believe we need to focus on, as well as identifying things we feel are important to stay abreast of our ever changing industry requirements. We want our customer-owners - you - to know we are working to protect our electric system, to keep costs down as much as possible, and to maintain our infrastructure and electric system to serve you well into the future.

Our areas of strategic priority include:

Safety First - We are committed to getting everyone home safely, every day including our customers and employees. We work in a high-risk industry and we need to always stay vigilant in all we do.

Reliability - We are focused on always making sure we "keep your lights on" but we also recognize the responsibility to keep business, data systems, and communications ongoing. We take this very seriously and are proud to report that Franklin PUD performs very well when compared to any national standard. For 2017 an average customer was without power for 18 minutes all year, or less than .003% of the time.

Rates - Your Commissioners are committed to keeping rates as low as possible while remaining financially sound. Approximately 70% of our budget is power purchases which we have little control over. However we are focused on keeping our rates stable and controlling all of our costs.

Customer Service - We consider this one of our highest responsibilities. You are an owner of Franklin PUD and the reason for our existence.

Our Employees - Franklin PUD staff are the best qualified employees in the business. This is a competitive industry and we want the best employees working here to serve you.

Your Commissioners understand the importance of making the right decisions on your behalf. **Thank you for letting us serve you.**



Before you start an energy efficiency project, call us.

We have seen an uptick in companies trying to sell our customers energy efficiency products and services with inflated claims of performance. Don't be fooled. Some of these products will not bring the promised savings, but rather end up costing you a pretty penny without any or little energy savings.

Before you start any project, call us!

Our energy experts can help point you to reputable installers. We can answer any questions, and even come out to your home to give you a fair assessment of your home's efficiency.

Our Energy Efficiency department offers rebates on proven energy efficiency upgrades. Check our website for available rebates, stop in, or give us a call at 509-546-5967. We're here to help.

Stay Away from Downed Power Lines



At Franklin PUD, safety is our number one priority. We take pride in handling outages as quickly and safely as possible. When high winds blow limbs or trees into power lines, or snow falls on our infrastructure, we are here with one purpose - to serve you.

During a large storm downed power lines are always a concern. Fallen lines can be very dangerous as they may carry electric current

that can instantly injure a person or even cause death.

Always keep your distance and always assume a fallen wire is energized and dangerous.

There is no way for you to determine whether downed power lines are energized or not because we can't smell, see, or hear electricity. Downed power lines will not always be arcing or sparking like you see on TV. Objects like telephone or cable lines, fences, or even tree limbs can become energized just by coming into contact with a power line. In addition, de-energized lines can become re-energized during power restoration efforts or by improperly installed generators.

If you see a downed line, stay away, and keep others away as well. Call 911 and Franklin PUD at 509-542-5300 to report dangers so we can send our crews out to safely handle the job.

Look for the Energy Star Label



When shopping for appliances and electronics, look for the Energy Star label. The designation means products meet the highest standards of energy-efficiency. Energy Star appliances and electronics can save you hundreds of dollars worth of electricity during their lifetime. For example, Energy Star rated next-generation clothes washers slash water use by 45% and energy consumption by 25% when compared to older models.

Fuel Mix Disclosure

A report of where your power comes from.

Generation Type % of Total Generation
WA State* Actuals

Generation Type	WA State*	Actuals
COAL	2.09%	-
HYDRO	83.34%	80.60%
MARKET PURCHASES	-	3.90%
NATURAL GAS	3.92%	2.70%
NUCLEAR	10.43%	10.30%
WIND	-	2.40%
OTHER	0.22%	0.10%

Total 100% 100%
Source: WA State Dept. of Commerce, Franklin PUD - actual purchases of generation for 2016.



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/.

