

# HOTLINE



March / April 2024

## STEM CAREER ACADEMY: JUNE 24-28

Are your kids interested in STEM? Tri-Cities is hosting its STEM Career Academy on June 24-28, 2024. All students entering the 9th-12th grades and are 14-18 years old are welcome. They will explore the physics of producing hydropower, build a hydrogen car, race solar cars and fly your own drone. While completing these STEM challenges they will learn directly from engineers, plant operators, and other industry professionals. As the week unfolds, career options and educational pathways may inspire them to pursue a four-year college, community college and/or an apprenticeship programs.

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE!



## PUBLIC HEARINGS ON RATES

Franklin PUD will hold three public hearings to present information and take comments on a proposed rate action. Please visit our website for more information on the public hearing dates and times.

## GARDENING AROUND YOUR TRANSFORMERS

You may be considering hiding some unwanted sights in your yard, including a padmount transformer. These green metal boxes are essential to your electric service.

Fences, shrubs and trees located too close to padmount transformers can slow power restoration, make periodic maintenance difficult and create a serious safety hazard. If these items are in the way, Franklin PUD crews may have to remove them to gain access. Avoid that situation by taking the time to plan before planting shrubs or installing a fence near a padmount. In order to work safely on these units, Franklin PUD crews need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked). A minimum of two feet is needed on all other sides. This space is needed to disconnect the power source on padmounts that are energized and perform other repairs.



Franklin PUD offers Generation Green, a program to give customers an opportunity to purchase renewable energy generated from qualified alternative energy resources. For more information on this program, visit [www.franklinpud.com/rates-power-services/generation-green/](http://www.franklinpud.com/rates-power-services/generation-green/)

## FUEL MIX DISCLOSURE

Where your power comes from.

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Hydro       | 76.23% |
| Nuclear     | 9.69%  |
| Unspecified | 8.45%  |
| Natural Gas | 3.47%  |
| Wind        | 2.16%  |
| Total       | 100%   |

2021 Department of Commerce

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER



I've had the opportunity to represent you as your PUD commissioner for over 13 years. As I reflect, I wonder what good I may have accomplished over those 13 years. I believe that I've been a good steward in keeping your rates low and stable, and also keeping your lights on.

We have good leaders all around us that serve in a variety of elected positions, commissions, or volunteer committees. I am most impressed with the first PUD Commissioners that had the foresight and leadership to create the PUDs that exist today. Franklin PUD was one of the first formed in 1934, but it wasn't until 1947 that we "turned the lights on". Interestingly, the approval of PUD's providing "public power" in Washington State only passed with 54% in favor. Because of what those first Commissioners put in place; our electricity rates are estimated to be 2 to 3 times less than they would have been under private power companies. We should be forever grateful to those first PUD Commissioners who made that happen. Those first Commissioners risked and sacrificed a great deal for us and for the future economy of the Pacific Northwest.

Serving in your community, particularly in an elected position, is a sacrifice of time, energy, and to a certain extent anonymity. I greatly appreciate those willing to serve in elected, appointed, and volunteer positions. I greatly appreciate those that participate in Franklin PUD's Rate Advisory Committee donating their time and effort. These are the leaders that make things happen for our benefit. Serve on a committee, a commission, or run for an elected position. Our community needs your time, energy, and ideas. I'll continue to do my best to represent you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### NEW BUSINESS HOURS |

Lobby and drive-thru open at 7 am and close at 6 pm. Monday thru Thursday, and **closed on Friday.**

### COMMISSION MEETINGS |

Commission meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month starting at 8:30 AM.

### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME | MARCH 11

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you head to bed on March 11th.



Main: (509) 547-5591 | Toll Free: (800) 638-7701  
Outage Reporting: (509) 542-5300  
[franklin@franklinpud.com](mailto:franklin@franklinpud.com) | [www.franklinpud.com](http://www.franklinpud.com)  
Comments or questions? Email [publicaffairs@franklinpud.com](mailto:publicaffairs@franklinpud.com)

