The Power Line

Douglas PUD Customer Newsletter

October 2025

Cozy Up and Save! Your PUD's Guide to Fall & Winter Energy Savings

As the days get shorter and the temperatures drop, keeping your home warm can take a bite out of your budget. But with a few simple steps, you can stay cozy all season long without the high energy bills!

1. Seal the Leaks: Stop Drafts in Their Tracks!

Before you turn on the heat for the first time, take a walk around your home to check for air leaks. Cold drafts around doors and windows can make your heating system work overtime.

- Caulk & Weatherstrip: Use caulk to seal small gaps and cracks around window frames. For larger gaps around doors and operable windows, apply weatherstripping. These simple and affordable DIY projects can make a big difference in keeping warm air inside.
- Insulation Drapes & Window Film: For an extra layer of protection, consider installing thermal or insulated drapes. When closed at night, these curtains can create an insulating barrier against cold windowpanes. Alternatively, you can apply a transparent plastic window film to the inside of your windows, which can create an air pocket that reduces heat loss.

2. Smart Thermostat Settings

One of the easiest ways to save on your heating bill is by adjusting your thermostat. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F from its normal setting for 8 hours a day.

- Optimal Settings:
  - Daytime: Set your thermostat to 68°F while you are home.
  - Night & Away: Adjust it to a lower temperature while you are asleep or away from home.

Consider investing in a programmable or smart thermostat to automatically adjust temperatures for you.

3. Check and Change Your Air Filter

A clean air filter is essential for an efficient heating system. A dirty filter blocks airflow, forcing your furnace to work harder and use more energy.

- Check Your Filter: Pull out your air filter and hold it up to the light. If you can't see light through it, it's time for a change!
- Change It Regularly: While many manufacturers recommend changing filters every 90 days, your home's circumstances may require more frequent changes. If you have pets, live with smokers, or have a large family, you may need to change your filter every 30-60 days.

Taking these small, proactive steps now can lead to big savings and a more comfortable home throughout the fall and winter seasons. More energy-saving tips linked below.

We want to hear from you!

As part of Douglas PUDs efforts to comply with the Clean Energy Transformation Act we are seeking to identify vulnerable populations to ensure equitable transition in our Clean Energy Implementation Plan.

Vulnerable populations are communities that experience a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to: Adverse socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and Sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.

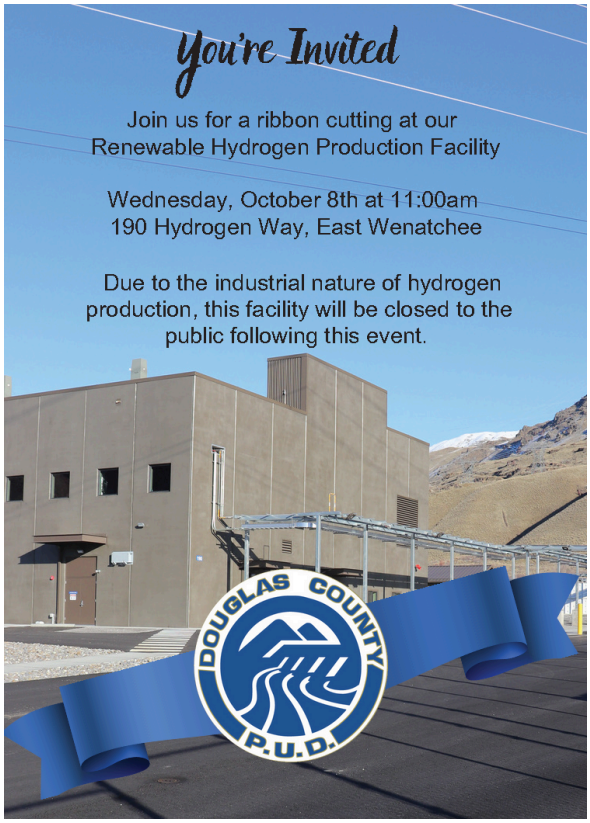
What populations in our community do you think need the most help as we design programs to lessen their burden? Fill out the quick survey on our website linked below.

¡Queremos saber de usted!

Como parte de los esfuerzos de Douglas PUD para cumplir con la Ley de Transformación de Energía Limpia, buscamos identificar a las poblaciones vulnerables para garantizar una transición equitativa en nuestro Plan de Implementación de Energía Limpia.

Las poblaciones vulnerables son comunidades que experimentan un riesgo acumulativo desproporcionado por las cargas ambientales debido a: factores socioeconómicos adversos, como el desempleo, los altos costos de vivienda y transporte en relación con los ingresos, el acceso a alimentos y atención médica, y el aislamiento lingüístico; y factores de sensibilidad, como el bajo peso al nacer y las mayores tasas de hospitalización.

¿Qué poblaciones de nuestra comunidad cree que necesitan más ayuda a medida que diseñamos programas para reducir su carga? Complete la encuesta rápida en nuestro sitio web vinculado a continuación.



Public Power Week!

It's the first week in October, so that means it's Public Power Week! A time when we celebrate local control and not-for-profit service at Douglas PUD. The utility is governed by three Commissioners elected by our customers. They set policy and assign the manager to direct the operation of the utility. Douglas PUD strives to provide reliable low cost power and lightning fast fiber optic service delivered to homes and businesses all over Douglas County. This week our Facebook page will feature just some of the many benefits of Public Power. Be sure to follow along and let us know why you value Public Power too! Also, Wednesday, October 8th is World Hydrogen Day. We are celebrating by inviting our community to cut the ribbon on our Renewable Hydrogen Production Facility and learn about how and why we are producing hydrogen.