

Media release

COWLITZ COUNTY PUD

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Cowlitz PUD Launches 2008-09 Rate Discount Programs for Low-Income Senior and Disabled Customers

Low-income senior and disabled customers of Cowlitz PUD can now make an appointment to determine if they qualify for a discounted electric rate in 2008-2009. Lower Columbia Community Action (CAP) manages the low-income discount programs for the PUD.

The PUD offers discounted electric rates of up to 20 percent for qualified low-income customers who are age 65 or older — or are disabled and earn a disability income. During 2007-2008 a total of 646 PUD customers applied for and received a discounted electric rate.

To be eligible a customer must have been signed for Cowlitz PUD electric service for the past 12 months and meet certain income requirements based on household size. A senior or disabled customer in a one- or two-person household, with a gross annual household income ranging from \$14,000 to \$21,000, could receive a 10-percent discount. Those earning under \$14,000 annually could qualify for a 20-percent discount on their PUD electric bill.

A higher income threshold is applied for customers with larger households. The information is available at www.cowlitzpud.org or by contacting CAP or Cowlitz PUD. Customers can only participate in one of the rate discount programs, even if they meet the requirements of both.

Customers can apply for a discounted electric rate until December 1. PUD customers who believe they qualify must first call CAP at (360) 425-3430 and make an appointment to determine their eligibility for a rate discount.

Questions about the program can be directed to CAP or to Cowlitz PUD at (360) 423-2210 or WA toll free (800) 631-1131.

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