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WATT'S UP

Air Conditioner Tune-Up

Now's the time of year to make sure your air conditioning system is ready for the hot summer months ahead. Here are some tips that will help insure your AC doesn't let you down on the hottest day of the year.

Was the system working okay when you stopped using it last year? Or did you promise yourself you were going to look into getting a new system because the old one just isn't cutting it any longer!

Even if it did work fine last summer, you should still consider having the system professionally serviced before the air conditioning season starts. Air conditioners, like any other piece of equipment, benefit from regular scheduled maintenance. This in turn will help keep operating costs down and increase the life of the equipment.

While doing your spring yardwork, clear away leaves and other debris from the outside unit. Make sure tree branches, larger plants and other obstacles are at least three feet away otherwise airflow through the system might be affected. Proper airflow is critical to the efficient operation of your system. Poor airflow leads to higher operating temperatures, which in turn leads to higher operating costs and early equipment failure.

Take time to get your AC ready. It will pay off when the temperature heads towards 100°.

KEEPING COOL... WHAT'S THE REAL COST?

It might surprise you to know that buying a bigger room air-conditioner won't necessarily make you feel more comfortable during the hot summer months. An air conditioner that's too big for the area it is suppose to cool will perform less efficiently than a smaller, properly sized unit. This is because air conditioners work better if they run for relatively long periods of time than if they are continually switching off and on. Longer run times allow air conditioners to maintain a more constant room temperature and remove excess humidity. Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer, preferably around 78 degrees. Don't start your air conditioner at a colder setting than normal. It won't cool your home any faster. Keep lamps and TV sets away from the thermostat. When purchasing an air conditioner always look for an Energy Star model.

LOW COST COOLING

High cost of air conditioners and heat pumps got you down? Can't figure out how you can afford to stay cool this summer? You might want to consider an evaporative cooler. They're perfect for our hot, dry climate! Also called swamp or desert coolers, these systems rely on the natural cooling effect of evaporating water to cool the air. Evaporative coolers have come a long way since they were first dubbed with the name "swamp coolers". Check them out. You might be pleasantly surprised! For more information contact your local retailer or go to http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/space_heating_cooling/index.cfm/mytopic=12360.



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Customer Information System

By now you've probably noticed your PUD bill has changed. On March 3rd the PUD changed over to a new Customer Information System (CIS) which includes, among many other things, a new look to your bill. We hope you like it!

For the most part, the changeover to the new software system has gone well. As can be expected, there have been a few bugs to work out along the way. In the end, it should all be worthwhile as we will be able to offer improved service including many new features. Bear with us and stay tuned for new options and services!

Okanogan PUD Electric System Inventory

Who are these people and what are they doing in my backyard?

Okanogan PUD has contracted with an organization called Southeastern Reprographics Inc. (SRI) to conduct this field work on and under our existing power poles, meters and transformers. In the process of completing this work they will be required to visit all District equipment locations. They will be using GPS – Global Positioning Satellite equipment to collect field data. This project will be ongoing for the next 10 to 12 months. It is our hope that they may do so with your understanding and cooperation.

Should you have any questions or comments please contact either:

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