

# Tips to Beat the Heat

*Check cooling system before outdoor temperatures rise*

June is a great month to give your window-mounted air conditioner or heat pump the care it needs to keep you cool this summer. A few minutes of preventative maintenance on your cooling system this month can ensure you will have a comfortable home when you need it most.

## **Begin With the Filter**

Whether you have a window-mounted air conditioner or a heat pump, begin by checking your filters. If they are able to be cleaned, do so. If they are replaceable, replace them.

Filters should be cleaned or replaced every month if you have children, pets or live in a dusty or smoky environment.

Even if you do not have any of these conditions in your home, check the filter every 30 days for a few months to see how dirty they get over time.

When purchasing new filters, stock up on enough to last the summer.

## **Air Conditioners**

Remove the cover of a window-mounted air conditioner to gain access to the con-

densing coils, where dirt can accumulate. Clean the coils with a soft-bristled brush.

Next, turn on the unit and let it run a few minutes. Does the air smell musty?

If so, water may have accumulated in the base of the air conditioner unit. Dirt, dust or lint can also build up in the water pan, causing mildew and mold to grow.

Cleaning the water pan thoroughly should take care of the odor.

If water leaks from the front of the air conditioner, adjust the unit so it tilts slightly backward to allow for proper drainage.

## **Heat Pumps**

Check to be sure that your registers are uncovered before starting your cooling system.

Vacuum return air registers regularly. Clean any ductwork that attaches to the floor.

Keep air supply registers and all doors open at all times.

Never place a lamp, television or other heat-producing objects near the thermostat. This will cause the system to over cool.

Do not stack objects on or against the ductwork in the attic or under your home.

Keep a one-foot clearance between the outdoor unit and landscape plants. Allow space for service work to be performed.

Never cover the outdoor cooling unit. It is made to withstand outdoor conditions.

Have your system inspected twice a year by a qualified technician.

## **Test the Unit**

Finally, turn on your cooling unit. If it is not working, call and schedule repairs so you will be ready to keep your cool when temperatures rise. ■

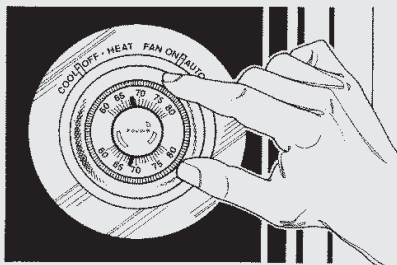
## **Hands Off for Greater Energy Savings**

Upon returning home on a hot evening, it is tempting to crank up the thermostat on the air conditioner or heat pump to cool the house as fast as possible. Turning your unit way up will not cool your home any faster. Instead, it forces your unit to work harder, stay on longer and use more energy.

Set your thermostat at 78 degrees (or lower) during the day when your home is occupied. Leave it alone until bedtime and then turn up the dial to 83 degrees.

If your home is unoccupied for several hours a day, remember to turn up the thermostat to 83 degrees before you leave and reset it to 78 degrees when you return.

When it comes to a thermostat, a little neglect can save you money.



## Pure Power Your Choice For Renewable Energy

Cascade Acupuncture in The Dalles is the first NWCPUD commercial customer to cover 100 percent of its electricity consumption through the purchase of Pure Power.

After the PUD's energy specialist Steve Holmes completed an energy audit of the facility and made recommendations about how to reduce energy costs, the customer also purchased high-efficiency lighting and high-efficiency heat pumps to heat and cool the building.

"They are green from front door to the back," says Holmes.

Currently, all the money collected for Pure Power goes toward the purchase of wind power generated from wind farms in Eastern Washington and Oregon.

With NWCPUD's Pure Power program, customers have a say in how much environmentally-friendly renewable energy is purchased by the PUD every year.

NWCPUD currently purchases one megawatt of wind power called Environmentally Preferred Power from the Bonneville Power Administration.

EPP is generated from 100-percent renewable wind power that does not pollute or affect fish or wildlife.

By supporting the use of renewable energy sources, our customers can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

When an individual or business purchases one or more blocks of Pure Power, we cannot guarantee electrons generated by a wind farm will be delivered to the home or business. However, we can assure you your contribution pays for more expensive renewable power to be put on the Northwest power grid, offsetting the need to generate more

non-renewable energy.

Each 200 kilowatt/hour block of Pure Power costs \$5 in addition to your regular electric charges. You can sign up for as many blocks of Pure Power as you wish.

The average household uses around 1,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity (five blocks) per month.

After signing up for the program, an additional line item will appear on the bill listing the monthly charge.

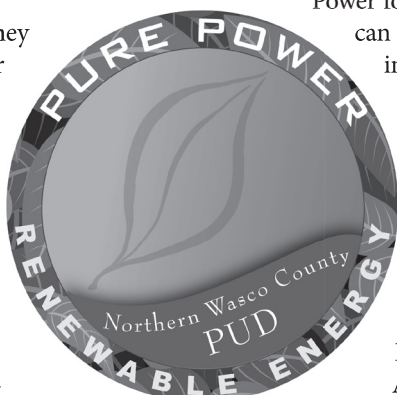
To date, 280 commercial and residential customers have signed up for the Pure Power program.

In addition to buying blocks of Pure Power for your business, you can partner with NWCPUD in spreading the word about renewable resources.

To sign up for the Pure Power program, call NWCPUD at 296-2226 or stop by our office at 2345 River Road in The Dalles.

An application also can

be found on our website at [www.nwasco.com](http://www.nwasco.com). ■



## Keep Poles Free of Posters and Advertising Flyers

Yard sales are a great way to make some extra cash. But when advertising your event, please do not post signs or flyers on utility poles.

The City of The Dalles sign ordinance No. 92-1153 prohibits the posting of unauthorized signs on utility poles, sign poles or public property.

Our line personnel climb and work around these poles day and night during all types of weather conditions. Sharp or protruding objects such as tacks, nails or wire can damage safety equipment and injure an employee.

Thank you for helping keep our personnel safe on the job. ■

# NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### June 4

#### Author Event for Young Adult Readers.

Meet 12 authors of books of interest to young adult readers, including two nominees for the Oregon Book Awards. Free BBQ and soda, book giveaways and other prizes., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Klindt's Booksellers, 315 East 2nd St.

For details, call Andrea at (541) 296-3355 or go to [info@klindtsbooks.com](mailto:info@klindtsbooks.com).

### June 4, 5, 18, 19

#### The Dalles Dam Tours.

Free one-hour tours of The Dalles Dam's power generation and fish passage facilities, Saturdays at 11 a.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Visitor center open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For information and to register for tours, call (541) 506-7819 or visit <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/locations/thedalles.asp>.

### June 18

#### Annual Garden Tour.

Tour gardens in Hood River during this annual event sponsored by the Wasco and Hood River County Master Gardeners.

For information and garden locations, call (541) 296-5494 or (541) 386-3343.

### June 21

#### Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting.

6 p.m., 2345 River Road.

### June 25-26

#### Relay for Life The Dalles.

The American Cancer Society's 24-hour fundraiser begins at 9 a.m., at The Dalles Wahtonka High School track, 3601 W. 10th.