

# UTILITIES & YOU

July 2019



Things are heating up  
in here...

## Enhance your online experience by connecting with us

The updated MyTPU.org launched in April to offer you a more intuitive and modern online experience when connecting with us. You can now also get a monthly email newsletter with utility content you care about delivered directly to your inbox. The new newsletter includes upcoming events, promotions, utility updates, and more.

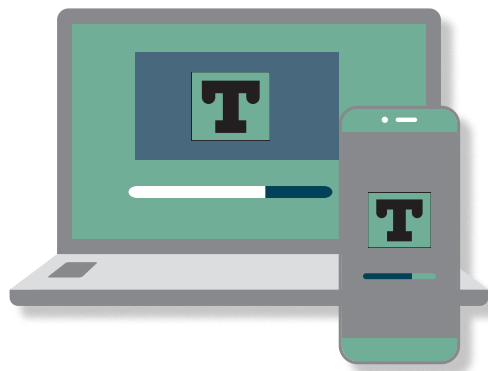
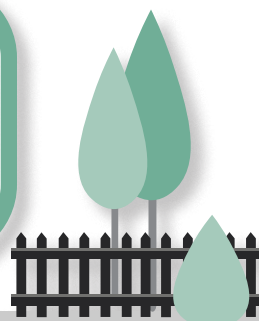
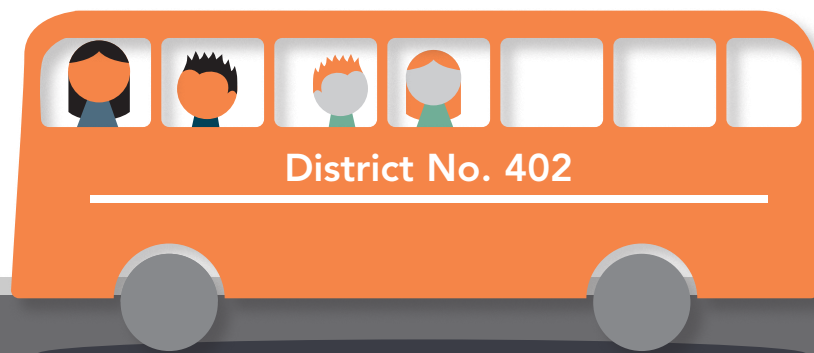
Your inbox gets full, so we commit to email you only when it is important. When you sign up, you can update your preferences and select the topics that interest you. Subscribe at [MyTPU.org/Email](https://MyTPU.org/Email). U\*

### THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

## First electric school bus in Washington state is cool for school

Gov. Jay Inslee joined Franklin Pierce School District (FPSD), Tacoma Public Utilities, community members, students, teachers, and officials from the district in a recent event to celebrate the unveiling of Washington's first electric school bus. The event marks a first step toward transforming the district's fleet to electric in the future. A TransAlta Coal Transition Grant made buying the first electric school bus possible. The district is working with our energy experts on school bus charging logistics, evaluation of power supply, route selection, and overall guidance for the new electric

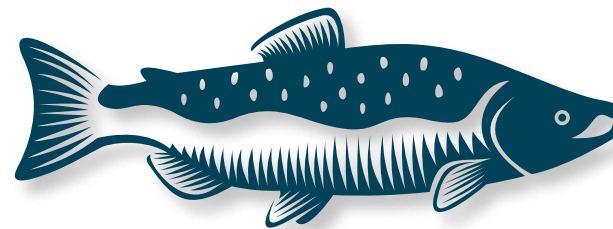
bus system. We will continue to partner with FPSD on grant applications with the hopes of funding an additional nine electric buses, two electric box trucks, and infrastructure for charging stations. These buses will help to reduce the district's operating costs, carbon footprint, and provide clean and healthy rides to school for kids. U\*



JUNE 1

## Summer water rates went into effect

Tacoma Water charges a slightly higher rate for water use above five units (about 3,700 gallons) from June 1 through September 30, during drier months when it costs more to provide you with water. The average person uses about 80 gallons of water per day. To help you keep costs down, look for ways to use less at home and in your yard. See our tips for lowering your water use during the summer at [MyTPU.org/WaterSmart](https://MyTPU.org/WaterSmart). U\*



## Learn more about the quality of your drinking water

By now, your copy of the 2018 Water Quality Report we publish each year has reached your mailbox. If not, it should arrive soon. In the meantime you can learn more about the quality of your drinking water online at [MyTPU.org/WaterQuality](https://MyTPU.org/WaterQuality). U\*



APPLY NOW

## 2019 renewable energy grant applications

Do you or someone you know work for a nonprofit, school, or government agency with interest in renewable energy? Each year, organizations that participate in Evergreen Options can apply for a grant from Tacoma Power for up to \$50,000 toward an on-site renewable energy project. Submit 2019 grant applications through July 31. Share this information with your employer, or favorite organization. Visit [MyTPU.org/EOGrant](https://MyTPU.org/EOGrant) or call 253-502-8363 for grant applications and more information. U\*

evergreen options

## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

# Avoid damaging utility lines and costly repairs

If you plan to dig or excavate this summer, the law requires you to call us before you do any work. We will come to your location and mark our underground lines with paint for free. Avoid cutting into, and damaging utility lines that could cost you a lot to repair.

Dial 811 or call 1-800-424-5555 to schedule an appointment a minimum of two business days in advance. U\*



\$500 REBATE

# Save on a new, efficient water heater

Most people don't think about their water heater until it fails, leaving little time to seek replacement options.

Upgrade your standard electric water heater to a more efficient option – a heat pump water heater. It delivers the same reliable hot water while using two to three times less electricity (60% less energy) and saves you water-heating costs.

A standard electric water heater uses more energy than a refrigerator, dishwasher, clothes washer, and dryer combined. That can cost you up to \$3,500 extra over the life of the water heater. Heat pump water heaters are energy efficient, which means they are better for the planet too. Many also offer a 10-year warranty so you can rest easy for years to come.

If your water heater is more than 10 years old, plan now and take advantage of our \$500 rebate. Learn more at [MyTPU.org/Rebates](http://MyTPU.org/Rebates) or call 253-502-8363. U\*

## GETTING THE JOB "DUNG"

# The scoop on Cushman elk populations

Counting piles of elk pellets is not likely on your task list. But for biologists in Natural Resources at Tacoma Power, it's an ongoing "to-doo."

As part of our federal license to operate our dams and generate clean, renewable hydropower, we protect 20,000 acres of wildlife lands around our four hydropower projects. This work includes monitoring 75 acres of elk forage fields we built on Cushman Hydro Project lands in Mason County. Removing trees, conditioning soils, and seeding the area with a desirable elk forage mix of native grasses established the

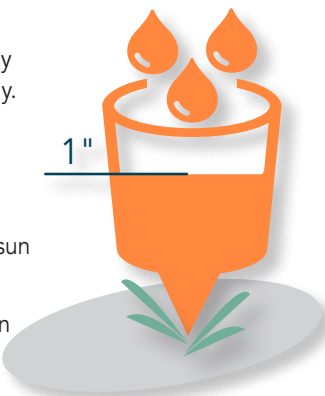
fields a few years ago. Biologists monitor the use of the fields via remote cameras and by conducting surveys, which includes counting groups of pellets. They track the number of pellet groups and patterns of field use then compare them against data from prior years.

Our goal is to attract more elk to the fields and help boost elk populations. We have seen an increase in use over the past few years. If that trend continues, we'll look into adding up to 125 more acres. U\*

# Sow the benefits of smart irrigation

July is Smart Irrigation Month, and the beginning of summer is a great time to use practices that maintain a healthy landscape without wasting water. Follow these simple tips to water less and save money:

- Minimize evaporation by watering early in the day.
- Don't overwater- most lawns only need 1 inch of water per week.
- Plant appropriately for sun or shade.
- Let your lawn go golden or dormant – it will bounce back in the fall.



Visit [MyTPU.org/WaterSmart](http://MyTPU.org/WaterSmart) for more information. U\*



SEPT. 21

**ZOOM ZOOM**

# Test drive an electric vehicle

Tacoma Power invites you to join us at LeMay – America's Car Museum for our National Drive Electric Week Ride and Drive Event. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat., Sept. 21, local dealerships will provide test-drives of various plug-in electric vehicles in one location. Charging companies, electric bike dealers, and other EV owners will also attend for you to ask questions about charging equipment and alternative electric transportation. You can also learn more about reducing carbon emissions from our energy experts. U\*



TACOMA RAINIERS

# TPU Night and EV Tailgate at Cheney Stadium

Saturday, July 13

## Hit it home for a good cause

Let's play ball! Join us for TPU Night at the Tacoma Rainiers, July 13. When you purchase a TPU Night ticket, \$5 is donated to our Senior Assistance Fund, helping seniors in our community who struggle to pay their utility bill. Your TPU Night ticket gets you entry into the game, a T-shirt, and a meal. We will celebrate your support for seniors with a check presentation on the field near the end of the game.

If you have an interest in electric vehicles, come meet other drivers at TPU's tailgate before the game in the South parking lot at Cheney Stadium from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Learn more about the event at [MyTPU.org/HomeRun](http://MyTPU.org/HomeRun). U\*



## U\* readers know where to go for assistance

Congratulations and thanks to the 233 people who correctly answered the trivia question published in the April 2019 issue of U\*. We do offer payment assistance through our Customer Solutions office if you are income-eligible. U\*

## U\* trivia – Answer and win!

**A portion of the ticket sales from TPU Night at the Rainiers supports which assistance program?**

Be one of 50 randomly chosen customers with the correct answer, and you will get a free prize. To enter, submit your answer by July 31 either online at [MyTPU.org/Trivia](http://MyTPU.org/Trivia) or by mail to U Trivia, 3628 S. 35th St., Tacoma, WA 98409. Include your name, phone number, and mailing address. U\*

## U\* Calendar

All events take place at the Tacoma Public Utilities Auditorium, 3628 S. 35th St., Tacoma, unless otherwise noted.

### JULY

4 Independence Day | TPU offices closed.

10 Public Utility Board meeting  
6:30 p.m.

13 Electric Vehicle Drivers' Tailgate  
Cheney Stadium | 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**TPU Night** at the Tacoma Rainiers  
Cheney Stadium | 7:30 p.m.

24 Public Utility Board meeting  
6:30 p.m.

### AUGUST

10 **FREE** Workshop Electric Vehicle 101  
10:30 a.m. to noon | The EnviroHouse  
3510 S. Mullen St., Tacoma  
**Registration required. | 253-573-2426**

14 Public Utility Board meeting  
6:30 p.m.

28 Public Utility Board meeting  
6:30 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

2 Labor Day | TPU offices closed.

11 Public Utility Board meeting  
6:30 p.m.

21 Tacoma Power's National Drive Electric  
Week Ride and Drive Event  
LeMay – America's Car Museum  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

25 Public Utility Board meeting  
6:30 p.m.

For a complete list of where to find us at community events, farmers' markets, and workshops, visit [MyTPU.org/Events](http://MyTPU.org/Events).

## You make the call

Area code (253)

Report a power outage.....	502-8602
Start or stop service.....	502-8600
Order Click! Cable TV.....	502-8900
Home weatherization.....	502-8363
Fishing recreation.....	502-8690
Fish & wildlife programs.....	502-8008
Education programs.....	502-8224
Power conservation.....	502-8363
Water conservation.....	502-8723
Report a water emergency.....	502-8384

### Bill Payment Assistance

(available for limited-income customers)

- Electric bill assistance
  - City of Tacoma residents.....572-5557
  - Pierce County residents.....855-798-4328
- Click! Cable TV discounts.....502-8900
- TPU Utility Bill Assistance.....502-8400

## Changes coming to the Public Utility Board

This summer, you will see new faces and say goodbye to some long-time members of the Public Utility Board. Karen Larkin will take the helm as Board Chair. Woody Jones will retire, and Carlos M. Watson will join. Learn more about your Public Utility Board members, how they are appointed and work to ensure you get the most value out of your electricity and water service. Visit [MyTPU.org/PublicUtilityBoard](http://MyTPU.org/PublicUtilityBoard). U\*





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**THE END**



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