

UTILITIES & YOU

October 2019



Fall all over this...

Testing new advanced meters is underway

We recently created a special lab to test the functionality of our new advanced meters before installing them at your homes and businesses. Testing is now underway. Advanced meters will bring you many additional benefits over time, including monthly billing, remote electric service



**Faster Outage and
Leak Detection**

reconnection, more options to control your costs, improved reliability through faster outage and leak detection, and more flexible payment options. The project also enables us to transition to a modern digital utility, will make our services more efficient, and help the environment by reducing carbon emissions.

We have been highlighting the benefits of advanced meters during Public Utility Board meetings throughout the year. We hold Board meetings in the Tacoma Public Utilities Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. You can attend upcoming meetings on Oct. 23, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4 and provide feedback. For meeting topics and details, visit [MyTPU.org/PUBMeetings](#). **U***

SAFETY FIRST

Follow Washington's new Move Over Law

Our power and water crews work hard to keep your electricity on and water running. Ensuring they make it home safe to their families and back to work each day is crucial for our community. Washington state's new Move Over Law includes work zones, adjacent lanes of the roadway, and 200 feet before or after work zone vehicles. Help our crews stay safe while they work by slowing down and moving over while driving through work zones. **U***

Meet
your new

Public Utility Board

Earlier this year, the Public Utility Board underwent some membership changes. Woodrow Jones retired as chair after a long career with the City of Tacoma and tenure on the Board. Karen Larkin, a former City of Tacoma and Washington state employee, took over as chair. Bryan Flint, executive director of Sound Outreach, became vice chair, and Mark Patterson, an attorney with Vandenberg, Johnson & Gandara became secretary. New member Carlos M.

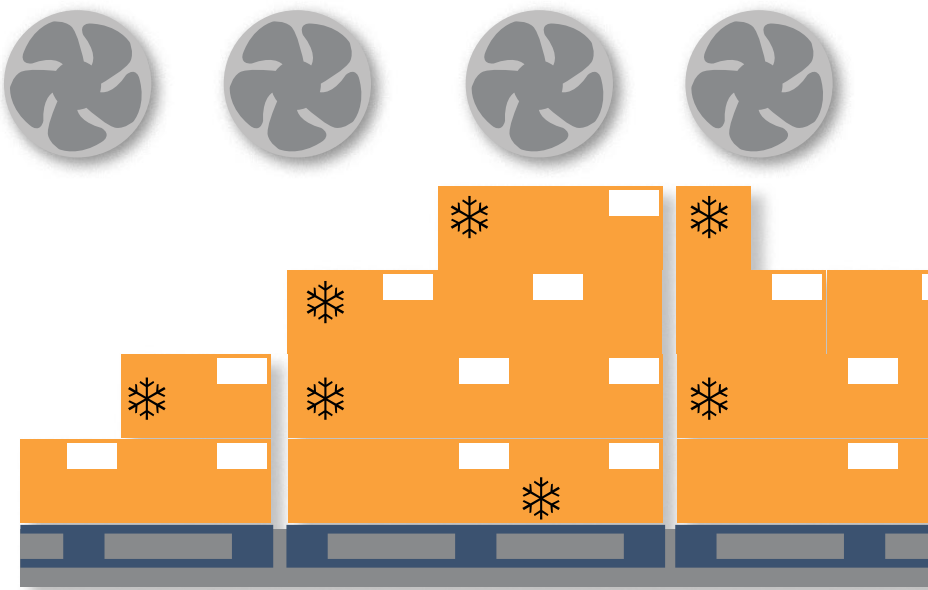
Watson, a realtor with Keller Williams, joined

Christine Cooley, the Water Resource Program manager for the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, as our newest Board members. The Public Utility Board is a five-person governing body for Tacoma Public Utilities. The Tacoma City Council appoints its members, who serve five-year terms without pay and weigh in on the high-level direction for how the utility serves our community. The new Board's priorities include implementing a series of strategic directives designed to focus the utility on long-term results. **U***



Get a **FREE** energy use report for your home

You can learn ways to save money on your utility bills by finding electricity waste in your home and estimating its costs. The Tacoma Power Home Advisor Tool offers a free online energy calculator at MyTPU.org/Calculate. Answer a few questions about your home, and you will get a custom energy report that lists recommendations on ways to save electricity and money in your home. **U***



TACOMA PARTNERSHIP

Nation's “coolest” cold storage facility creates jobs and saves energy

Congressman Derek Kilmer, officials from Tacoma Power and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), recently joined NewCold executives for a visit to its newest highly automated 135-foot tall, high-bay cold storage warehouse in Tacoma – one of the two most energy-efficient in the country by more than 50%. The energy savings rebate, made possible by a partnership with Tacoma Power and

the BPA's Energy Smart Industrial program, helped make Tacoma an even more compelling place to locate its facility and bring 75 new jobs.

NewCold will save \$6 million over the next 10 years from reducing energy use by eight million kilowatt-hours per year. That is enough clean, renewable energy to power more than 600 average homes in our community. **U***



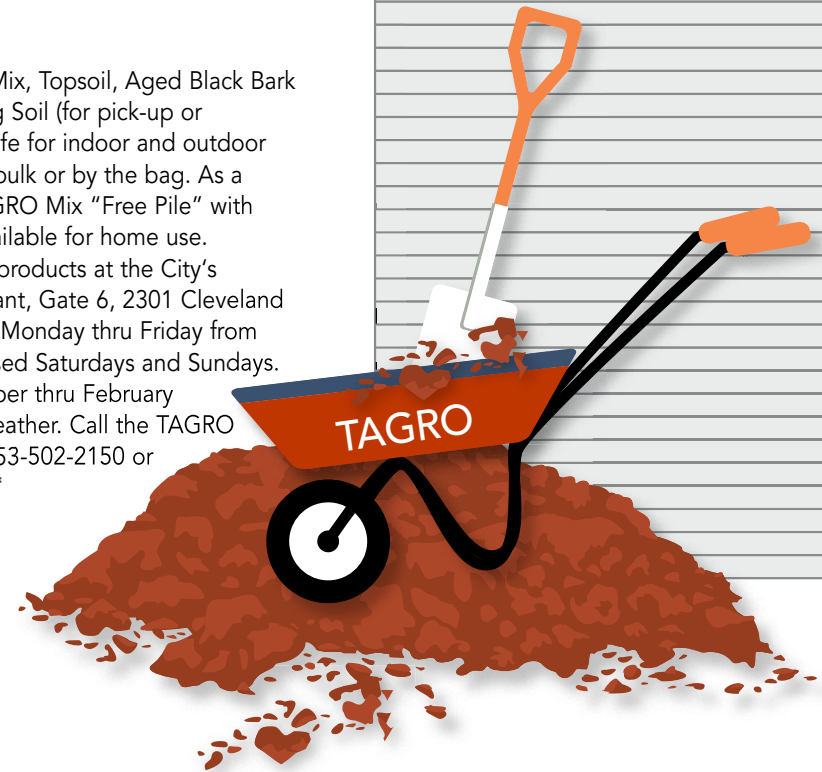
BONUS "FREE PILE" MIX

A green thumbs up for gardens with TAGRO

The City of Tacoma's award-winning line of TAGRO, short for "Tacoma Grow," products can help beautify your lawn and garden while protecting our environment.

The all-natural TAGRO products use biosolids and other weed-free gardening components proven safe and effective by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for use in landscaping, vegetable gardens, and indoor container gardens. People who use TAGRO products say their gardens grow faster, make lawns thicker, and trees taller.

You can try TAGRO Mix, Topsoil, Aged Black Bark and odor-free Potting Soil (for pick-up or delivery). They are safe for indoor and outdoor use and available in bulk or by the bag. As a bonus, there is a TAGRO Mix "Free Pile" with limited quantities available for home use. You can get TAGRO products at the City's Central Treatment Plant, Gate 6, 2301 Cleveland Way, Tacoma, 98421 Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed Saturdays and Sundays. Hours can vary October thru February depending on the weather. Call the TAGRO office for details at 253-502-2150 or visit TAGRO.com. U*



LED Lighting Sale


Lowe's Home Improvement | 2701 S. Orchard St.
Now through Nov. 4

For a limited time, save up to \$6 on two-packs of LEDs.

HOW-TO TIPS

Get your yard ready for the winter chill

Fall is a great time to think about preparing your yard for colder weather. If you maintain a healthy landscape now, it may reduce your water bill and save you money later. [Follow these tips to help you start:](#)

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- Put your garden to bed by cutting back, cleaning, planting, and protecting it.
 - Adjust and slow your irrigation system to prevent overwatering during colder months.
 - Fertilize lawns to improve root structure to help them withstand next summer's hot weather.
 - Plant trees and shrubs so roots can establish over the winter.
 - Remove your hose timer from the hose bib, so it does not freeze.

Learn more about outdoor yard care and watering tips at MyTPU.org/WaterSmart. U*



"Chew" to blame for 181 power outages

The numbers are in, and last year's number one cause of unplanned outages in our service area was animal-related. More than wind, ice, tree limbs, and even cars, squirrels, birds, and other rodents accounted for 181 outages in 2018, nearly a third of all unplanned outages.

Tacoma Power is not the only utility provider with a tail problem.

In 2018, squirrels alone accounted for 244,117 power outages across the nation. Since the American Public Power Association (APPA) started tracking the issue in 2015, research shows squirrels have been more successful at cutting power than any cyberterrorist!

We follow APPA's recommendation, using vegetation control to help curb the problem. Tree trimmers tackle more than 770 miles of power line maintenance each year, removing branches that give wildlife access to our lines. U*

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Giving provides that warm and fuzzy feeling

Each year, our employees volunteer to buy toys, clothing, and other personal necessities, and to wrap gifts and raise funds for people in need. We proudly support the local Salvation Army's Holiday Giving Tree and Comprehensive Life Resources Adopt-A-Family campaigns as part of our award-winning community

service program, Community Connection. In 2018, our employees volunteered over 1,800 hours with nonprofit organizations and gave more than \$380,000 in cash, products, and volunteer time. **U***



Would you like to help others in need?

You can donate to our low-income assistance program by checking the box on the lower left side of your utility bill. **U***

U* readers know how to help

Congratulations and thanks to the 264 people who correctly answered the trivia question published in the July issue of *U**. The ticket sales from TPU Night at the Rainiers support our Senior Assistance Fund, which provides one-time \$100 utility bill assistance to seniors in need. **U***

U* trivia – answer and win!

Which rascally critter causes more unplanned power outages than any other animal?

Be one of 50 randomly chosen people with the correct answer, and you will get a free prize. To enter, submit your answer by November 30 either online at 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***



Send comments and suggestions to:

u@cityoftacoma.org



* City of Tacoma employees and their immediate family members are not eligible to win. One entry per household.



U* Calendar

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

OCTOBER

23
Public Utility Board meeting | 6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

11
Veterans Day | TPU offices closed
13
Public Utility Board meeting | 6:30 p.m.
28 & 29
Thanksgiving holiday | TPU offices closed

DECEMBER

4
Public Utility Board meeting | 6:30 p.m.
25
Christmas holiday | TPU offices closed

For a complete list of where to find us at local events, festivals, and farmers' markets, and our free workshops, visit MyTPU.org/Calendar.

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 and 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 residents572-5557
 - Pierce County residents..... 855-798-4328
- Click! Cable TV discounts 502-8900
- TPU Utility Bill Assistance502-8400



Prepare now for power outages

Although we have one of the most reliable power supplies in the country, it's always a good idea to prepare for and know what to do if your power goes out.

What do to if you lose power

- Report a power outage by calling 253-502-8602.
- Track outages via our outage map at MyTPU.org/OutageMap.
- Do not use a natural gas or propane grill indoors. These fuels give off dangerous fumes.
- Never plug portable or auxiliary generators into a wall outlet.

For more tips on preparing for power outages, go to MyTPU.org/OutageMap. U*

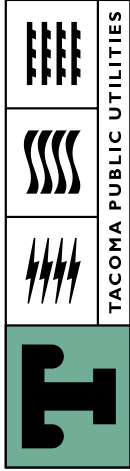


UTILITIES & YOU

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