Many washing machines use 40 or more gallons of water a load, whether the washer’s stuffed full or loaded with only a couple of socks. Save up for a full load and make your water work efficiently. Or remember to set your machine for a lesser load, if it can be adjusted.

Water rates help pay for three main areas:

- Capital Projects
- Operating Costs
- Debt Service

Planned capital projects for 2017 include the construction of the E Division Street reservoir and booster pump station in Mount Vernon, Phase II of the Judy Reservoir to Mount Vernon Transmission Line, and potential watershed land purchase at our Gilligan Creek intake.

Rate Increase

On January 1, 2017, an 8.5 percent rate increase went into effect for all PUD water customers. The increase is approximately $3.59 per month for the average residential customer. For residential accounts, your meter is read every two months. The amount of water you consume is measured in cubic feet. One cubic foot of water equals 7.48 gallons. Water rates are billed in units of 100 cubic feet of water used (1 unit equals 748 gallons).

Simple Winter Water-Saving Tips for 2017

Every drop counts! Save water this winter with these conservation tips:

1. Winter is the perfect time for making plans to add or modify your landscape to use less water. Consider low-water gardens that attract wildlife, such as butterflies or birds. Or work around themes such as fragrance, edible, ornamental or native plants.

2. Check indoor fixtures for leaks and fix right away. A small leak left unattended can account for hundreds of gallons of good, clean water lost. Leaks of 1/32 inches, or the size of a No. 2 pencil lead, can result in 6,000 gallons of water loss per month.

3. Consider replacing an existing toilet with a high-efficiency model, which uses 1.28 gallons per flush or less. Save water and protect the environment by choosing WaterSense labeled products in your home and business.

4. Insulate your water heater and water pipes. If your water tank is new, it’s likely already insulated. If you have an older hot water tank, check to see if it has insulation with an R-value of at least 24. If not, consider insulating your water tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25%–45% and save you about 7%–16% in water heating costs—and should pay for itself in about a year. Doing so will also will cut down on the amount of water that goes down the drain while waiting for hot water to flow. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around $20.

5. Install a low-flow showerhead. Skagit PUD sells high-efficiency showerhead and faucet aerator kits for just $11. Having a high efficiency showerhead is a very practical way to reduce water consumption during bathing. It not only reduces your water bill, it reduces your sewer and energy bills as well.
Skagit PUD is governed by three commissioners that are elected by the residents of Skagit County and serve six-year terms on a nonpartisan basis.

The PUD Commissioners establish policy, approve budgets and expenditures, establish rates for services, retain the utility management, and provide oversight of the utility. PUDs are self-regulated and as such, are not regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Water service is provided on a non-profit basis, reflecting the actual cost of service.

As with any decision before the Board, citizens have numerous opportunities to comment on actions concerning the utility. As elected commissioners, they have a responsibility to ensure that provided services are financially feasible and in the best interests of the customer.

As a Skagit PUD customer-owner, you have the ability to voice concerns during every commission meeting. We hold open meetings the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., where members of the public can observe and participate in decisions made by the Board of Commissioners.

Skagit PUD welcomes Eron Berg to its Board of Commissioners. Berg was elected in November 2016. He replaces outgoing Commissioner James Cook, who served on the board for 12 years.

Since 2007, Berg has worked as the city supervisor/attorney for the city of Sedro-Woolley. As is typical in smaller cities, Berg is also responsible for risk management, human resources and the city’s wellness program in addition to the day-to-day management of the city. Berg has been involved with local government since 1996, serving in a variety of capacities including council member and mayor of La Conner.

Berg believes the role of good government is to impact individuals and communities both today and for future generations. He is particularly engaged in listening to the needs of the community and completing projects that fit those twin objectives of short-term and long-term benefit.

With 20 years of experience in local government, Berg says he will work with residents at every opportunity to make the PUD stronger.

“Open, honest and professional commissioner meetings with clear leadership to set the direction and support for the PUD staff is my plan.”

Working on a long-term solution to ensure adequate water for agriculture, restoration of water to rural Skagit County and the development of rural high speed internet are some of Berg’s top priorities.

Berg’s prior professional organization service includes a term as governor of the Washington State Bar Association where he also served as the treasurer, and a couple of terms as president of Youthnet, a local non-profit that operates an alternative high school and foster child placement agency.

Berg graduated from Western Washington University and the University of Washington School of Law.

Berg and his wife, Shasta, have two sons, Sterling and Padden, and two daughters, Zinnia and Darby. They live in downtown Sedro-Woolley.

Where does all the water go?

Typically, U.S. households consume at least 30 percent of their water by lawn sprinkling. Inside, toilets use the most water. The average person flushes over five times per day (household or work). That totals nearly 2,000 flushes per person annually. The average five-minute shower takes between 12 to 25 gallons of water. On average, each American uses about 80-100 gallons of water a day.