Do you have a significant outdoor project planned this fall? Before you break ground, consider making a phone call first. **Call Before You Dig** is a free service that prevents dangerous and costly accidents by helping you stay clear of underground utilities. Skagit PUD customers are reminded to use this service every time they dig, whether planning a major construction project or landscaping your yard.

Call 811 or (800) 424-5555 at least 48 hours before digging or excavating. You can also visit www.callbeforeyoudig.org and make a locate request online.

The service will contact all of the appropriate utilities in Skagit County for you, including Skagit PUD. Utility representatives will respond and mark the locations of their underground utilities.

This service is available 24 hours a day. When calling, be prepared to give the following information:

1. Your name and phone number.
2. The location of the site where you plan to dig. A street address and specific directions are necessary. The site must be marked with white spray paint, so we know exactly where you will dig.
3. The type of work you plan to do.
4. The date you plan to begin.

The service will contact all of the appropriate utilities in Skagit County for you, including Skagit PUD. Utility representatives will respond and mark the locations of their underground utilities.

**Payment Plans Available to Address COVID-19 Hardship**

In April 2020, Gov. Jay Inslee issued a proclamation banning energy, water, and telecommunication companies from (1) disconnecting residential customers due to nonpayment, (2) refusing to reconnect residential customers who were disconnected for nonpayment, and (3) charging late fees or reconnection fees. At this writing, the statewide moratorium expires on September 30, 2021.

We know these are challenging times for some of our customers, and Skagit PUD wants to continue supporting those that need help. As a critical service provider, we’re offering our customers the option of enrolling in a payment plan for past-due accounts. Offering payment plans is in addition to other steps the PUD has taken to help customers during the pandemic, including:

- Paused disconnections for nonpayments.
- Waived penalties and interest fees totaling more than $140,000.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Water’s Incredible Journey**

Would you be believe that your last drink of water could have once been used by a dinosaur? Water on earth today has been here for millions of years. Because of the water cycle (hydrologic cycle), water moves from the earth to the air to the earth again. It changes from solid to liquid to gas, over and over again.

**What is the water cycle?**

The water cycle keeps the amount of total water on the globe constant. Water from oceans, lakes, rivers, ponds, puddles, and other water surfaces evaporates to become clouds. The clouds make rain, snow, or sleet that falls to earth to make rivers and streams, some of which seeps into the ground to form groundwater. All of this water flows to the ocean to start the cycle over again. Before returning to the ocean, some of this water is taken for drinking water and then is discharged as wastewater. The cycle is never-ending.

**Hit the Ale Trail**

Join us on the Skagit Farm to Pint Ale Trail. Collect passport stamps and win prizes! Skagit PUD is helping sponsor this fun event. Grab your passport at one of 13 Skagit Valley breweries. Collect all the stamps and score a souvenir pint glass.
**Call before you dig**

Water lines are marked in blue.

Getting these lines marked can keep customers from hitting or cutting off power, water, phone, cable, sewer, or gas lines with digging equipment. Within two feet of the spray-painted marks, you should take special care and dig by hand. Accidental contact with any of these lines can result in serious injury.

Each year, the PUD receives more than 3,000 of these location requests countywide. This service is dedicated to protecting citizens and construction personnel who work around utilities while safeguarding your community’s underground infrastructure.

Work safely this season. Remember to call before you dig.

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**Payment Plans Available to Address COVID-19 Hardship**

> CONTINUED FROM FRONT

- Provided customer assistance funds to eligible customers.
- Established a Customer Assistance Program to assist families in need with their utility bills.

It’s essential for all customers impacted by COVID-19 who are having difficulty paying their utility bills to contact us and enroll in a payment plan. Customers need to contact us, if they haven’t done so already, as the PUD plans on resuming disconnections of accounts that are past due and charging penalties and interest.

Please visit our website at SkagitPUD.org for information and a list of COVID-19 utility assistance programs or call customer service at (360) 424-7104.

Customers may also help families struggling to pay their water bills through the PUD’s Customer Assistance Program.

Customers can donate using an online form, using the CAP donation line included on their bill, or sending a check payable to Skagit PUD “CAP,” 1415 Freeway Drive, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

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**Cut indoor water use and save**

Did you know that a five-minute shower uses less water than filling the bathtub? The average shower lasts eight minutes. Since a standard showerhead has a water flow of 2.5 gallons per minute, each shower uses 20 gallons of water!

For only $11, Skagit PUD sells a water efficiency kit that contains a multi-mode massage showerhead and ultra-efficient faucet aerators. Install these items today for more efficient and enjoyable showering with better faucet flow.