

Lewis County

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lewis County PUD Closes 2025 with Record Achievements and Clean Accountability Audit

A commentary by Lewis County PUD General Manager David Plotz

To the Board of Commissioners, dedicated staff, and the ratepayers of Lewis County, we are proud to share several major milestones and achievements that reflect our commitment to excellence, safety, and responsible management of your public utility.

Fiscal Excellence & Accountability

We are happy to announce we earned a clean accountability audit from the Washington State Auditor's Office with no findings, a testament to our entire team's commitment as responsible stewards of public funds. Our 2025 financial position strengthened through prudent fiscal management, delivering on promised Advance Meter Infrastructure (AMI) savings of over \$1 million per year, utilizing grants and customer funded development.

Unprecedented Safety Achievements

Safety remains our top priority, and in 2025 we achieved the lowest injury recordable incident rate in LCPUD recorded history—electric utility work is high-risk by any measure, and this milestone could not have been reached without the professionalism of all our employees. We believe in continuous safety improvement in all forms, and we live it each day by holding each other to high professional standards.

Connecting our Communities & Visionary Leadership

The value delivered to ratepayers in 2025 was substantial—our Broadband department constructed 445 miles of grant-funded fiber in Lewis County and connected 794 of your residential and commercial neighbors to gigabit symmetrical internet service. Boistfort is lit with LCPUD fiber, and more connectivity projects are underway around the county bringing home over \$50 million in state and federal grants.

Additionally, in August 2025 we were provisionally awarded an additional \$35.5 million in BEAD funding—your Commissioners' foresight has ensured Lewis County was part of this nationwide effort, and we are looking forward to the coming years' work installing fiber for this open access network.



Strategic Power Portfolio & Sustainability

LCPUD also secured long-term energy stability through execution of the BPA Provider of Choice contract for 2028 through 2044 and adding the Wheatfield Wind resource to our generation portfolio to comply with Washington state renewable energy requirements. We joined the Western Resource Adequacy Program and executed the Southwest Power Pool Markets+ agreement, positioning the District well for future developments in regional reliability, and important in an era where baseload generation in one's backyard is decommissioned. Most importantly, we provided \$2.3 million in energy efficiency rebates through BPA and TransAlta conservation grant funding to 1,142 conservation projects helping customers reduce energy costs and improve comfort in homes and businesses.

2025 Infrastructure Milestones

Infrastructure improvements were equally impactful in 2025—our Engineering and Operations teams replaced over 17.5 miles of overhead conductor and 4.6 miles of underground cable. We modernized critical substations in Toledo, Napavine, and Packwood with new transformers, protective relays, and SCADA monitoring, and the North Military Road substation reached 75% completion with foundations, structures, and major equipment installed. We installed new services to 659 homes and businesses and retired 50 services. We trimmed over 87 miles of vegetation—almost the length of Pe Ell to Packwood—enhancing reliability for all ratepayers.

Lewis County is no stranger to seasonal weather, and even with aggressive tree trimming, the recent storm and flooding caused a wide amount of damage across the District, demonstrating the challenges of serving a geographically large rural county. Crews and support teams safely and unwaveringly restored power and brought lights back on for over 18,000 customers across the county in about 36 hours, something we all can be proud of. Never missing a chance to improve, we also gathered outage data across the county to identify ways to improve recovery speed for future outages, line switching, and vegetation management.

Customer Service and Dispatch teams carried the AMI process forward for 99.9% of ratepayers across the district, supporting customer issues, and tracking and resolving outages. Behind the scenes our tech teams strengthened cybersecurity, added backup communications, and hardened data security across the system. The entire LCPUD team contributes to the success of the utility.

Our People

Public power shines beyond metrics—it is about people. We've had some retirements and new joiners, and we are happy to welcome the five new little 'Sparkys' to the PUD extended family. Our congratulations to the proud parents of these little ones. Human Resources supports the professionalism of our team and brought through a strong cadre of summer help last year, which serves as a reminder that applications for summer 2026 interns and summer help will open soon. Being a summer employee at LCPUD is an opportunity for post-secondary and college students to immerse themselves in the dynamics of an electric utility, valuable not just for the utility, but also shifts the career trajectory higher for any industry they may choose, and we are happy to make that happen.

Closing Thoughts

Thank you to our Board of Commissioners: Commissioners Mike Hadaller, Dave Fenn and Dave Muller, for your steadfast commitment, long-term vision and leadership.

Thank you to the entire PUD team: We recognize the extraordinary efforts of the staff and field crews who work tirelessly to maintain our infrastructure.



And finally, to our ratepayers: Thank you for your continued support and trust. As a community-owned utility, your participation, engagement and your voices are what make this public utility truly yours.

We are, as the sign says, at your service.

About Lewis County Public Utility District

Lewis County PUD is a community-owned, locally governed utility providing power services and telecommunications infrastructure to approximately 35,000 customers throughout most of Lewis County and adjacent communities.

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