



**MEWCO**.COM

**MODERN ELECTRIC WATER COMPANY**

reliably serving the Spokane Valley since 1905

# Current Connection

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## A Message from The General Manager

As we say goodbye to fall and prepare for the harsh winter conditions, that at times go beyond chilly and are downright cold. We want to find ways to reduce the amount we pay for electricity so that we can spend our money on other things.

If we're not careful, our winter energy use can increase substantially as we try to stave off the bite of frigid temps – and that can lead to high electric bills appearing just about the same time as holiday spending.

At MEWCo, our goal is to make sure you pay no more for electrical power than you have to. Here are some easy and cost-effective tips to help you save money this winter:

- Open the curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night.
- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills.
- Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes, gaps around chimney and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Add caulk or weather-stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.
- Maintain your heating system by scheduling regular service to keep your system operating as efficiently as possible.
- Reduce heat loss from your fireplace. Be sure to keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- Install tempered glass doors in your fireplace and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room. Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible. Purchase grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room. Add caulking around the fireplace hearth. *Continued on other side.*



## Be Prepared

Natural and man-made disasters can devastate lives. No one is exempt from the possibility of being affected personally. Having an emergency, preparedness plan and practicing the plan prior to a disaster will help you accomplish a successful evacuation or stay safe while sheltering-in-place.

In extreme cases, be pared for the possible disruption of services for an extended period, including electric, phone, local food, gasoline, and water sources. If you have a vehicle keep it well-maintained and full of gas. Locate electric, gas and water shut-off valves (keep necessary tools near by). If you have a garage with an electric garage door opener learn where the manual release lever is located and how to operate it.

Additionally, have a well-stocked emergency kit in a portable, storage container. The following are some basic suggested items for your kit:

Flashlights with extra batteries, first-aid kit, medications and required medical items, backup power for any electric-powered, life-sustaining equipment, family and emergency contact information, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable and easy-to-prepare food, manual can opener for food, moist towelettes and cleaning supplies, water (one gallon per person, per day), multipurpose tools, cell-phones with external chargers and charged power banks, cash, fire extinguisher, books, games, puzzles, local maps, battery operated radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert, pet food and bowls, a pet carrier (make sure your pet is familiar with the carrier), copies of important documents such as insurance cards and immunization records, paperwork about any serious or on-going medical conditions, and baby supplies (if needed).

## Board of Directors

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For more information visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

*A Message from the General Manager Continued:*

• Lower your water heating costs by turning down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of the energy consumed in your home. You'll not only save energy and money, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

You may wonder why we would provide tips to help you save energy, when our business is to sell electricity. The simplest answer is that we are a not-for-profit company. Our ultimate goal is to meet the needs of our customers, not to turn a big profit. We don't have investors to please. We only have customers to please. I like to put it this way – we're about Main Street, not Wall Street!

On behalf of all Modern Electric Water Company employees, I thank you for the privilege to serve you. Along with our Board of Directors, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

*Joe M. Morgan*

Joe M. Morgan  
General Manager



### Electric Fuel Mix Report

The Washington State Legislature passed a House Bill requiring electric utilities to report the fuel mix of the electricity that they sell to consumers. MEWCO purchases all its electricity from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). According to our power sales contract, BPA's power is made up of the following mix of energy sources:



Grand Coulee Dam

#### 2016 Utility Fuel Mix Disclosure

Biomass	0.11%
Coal	1.23%
Hydro	86.75%
Natural Gas	0.71%
Nuclear	11.15%
Other Non-Biogenic	0.03%
Petroleum	0.02%
Total	100.00%

The Washington State Department of Commerce issues its annual report on the types of fuel used to generate power that utilities in the state deliver to their customers. For more information on fuel mix disclosure please visit <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growing-the-economy/energy/fuel-mix-disclosure/>

### Snake River Dam Facts

- The four lower Snake River dams produce over 1,000 average megawatts of reliable, carbon-free energy. That's enough energy for over 800,000 average U.S. homes.
- The NW Power and Conservation Council estimated that removing the Snake River dams would mean adding 2.0 to 2.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide to the skies each year from the replacement power sources.
- Cost to replace lower Snake River dams' capacity and energy while maintaining system reliability with natural gas: \$274 million to \$372 million per year.



### Happy Holidays!

November 23rd - 24th Office Closed for Thanksgiving  
November 27th MEWCO Calendars Available in Office  
December 18th - 21st Customer Appreciation Days  
December 25th - 26th Office Closed for Christmas Holiday  
January 1st Office Closed for New Year's Day

