

# SUMMER 2021 STEHEKIN GENERATION & ENERGY RESOURCES



## MORE ELECTRICITY, SAME GENERATION

As most of you now know, at some point in the near future, the Stehekin community will outgrow the current power available from the single small hydro plant that generates power for the valley. This is expected to happen somewhere between now and 2027, and is influenced by both new construction in the valley and changes in electrical demand from existing properties.

Trying to use more power than is available can disrupt the whole community power system. All of us want to make sure that this doesn't happen in the Stehekin Valley. So, Chelan County PUD has been working since 2018 with the Stehekin community to better understand and solve this problem.

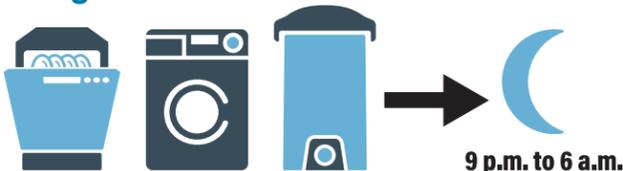
## SUMMER PEAK: SHIFT YOUR ENERGY USAGE

**Avoid  
peak hours**

**6-11 a.m. 5-9 p.m.**

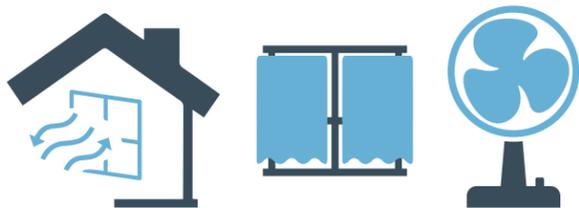


**Shift high-energy appliance use  
to nighttime**



**Reduce energy use during daytime,  
especially in the morning**

- Open windows at night to let in cool air, close curtains or blinds when the sun comes up, and use fans when possible instead of AC.



## THANKS FOR THE FEEDBACK!

Last year, PUD staff completed a Draft Generation and Energy Resource Plan for Stehekin. The Plan included proposed solutions to meet the energy needs in Stehekin now and into the future. We also created an Online Open House to guide you through the work that has been done and get your feedback on our plans.

## FEEDBACK & NEXT STEPS

- Customers were very supportive of the PUD pursuing the battery energy storage solution at the hydro. See "Update on battery storage" below.
- Customers were interested in having more data and education from the PUD about energy usage in the Stehekin Valley. Check out our energy saving tips in this newsletter!
- The PUD is also exploring deploying automated two-way metering infrastructure (often referred to as AMI) in Stehekin as a way to better understand energy usage in the valley. This equipment will allow us to see where electricity is being used and over what timeframe the usage is occurring throughout a given day.
- New electric rate structures could help incent energy conservation during peak energy demand times. In our conversations with Stehekin customers and in the fall 2020 survey, most customers supported evaluating a tiered rate system for Stehekin, where those customers who use more energy or use energy during peak demand times would pay higher rates.
- Some customers were interested in fuel switching, and specifically replacing electric cooking stoves and heaters with propane and gas appliances. The PUD will investigate what a rebate program for Stehekin would look like.
- Customers support the PUD's interagency coordination efforts. We continue to work closely with Chelan County on growth and development issues, and with the National Parks Service on energy demand for their facilities.
- For a full summary of feedback, visit our website: [chelanpud.org/stehekin](http://chelanpud.org/stehekin)

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Summer is here, and this is a time when we often see peak demand in the Stehekin Valley. **The best way that customers can help reduce this demand is to shift high-energy activities to non-peak hours.**

Other ways you can help manage energy use in the Stehekin Valley:

- Keep cool while reducing energy use by opening windows at night to let cool air in, closing curtains or blinds when the sun comes up, and using fans instead of air conditioners whenever possible
- If you have not already, replace incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs
- Reach out to PUD Energy Efficiency Advisor Josh Mitchell for recommendations to reduce your energy use or rebates to upgrade your home — find more information at [chelanpud.org/save](http://chelanpud.org/save) or call **(509) 661-4380**
- Contact the PUD early if you are considering adding additional electrical services in Stehekin

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have additional questions, comments or suggestions for Chelan PUD as we work to address this issue, please call Teka Sellers at (509) 661-4294 or email [teka.sellers@chelanpud.org](mailto:teka.sellers@chelanpud.org).

For more information, please visit [chelanpud.org/stehekin](http://chelanpud.org/stehekin)



CHELAN COUNTY  
[www.chelanpud.org](http://www.chelanpud.org)

## UPDATE ON BATTERY STORAGE

We heard from you that you supported our plan to install battery energy storage systems for the Stehekin hydro plant, which would run in parallel with the plant's existing hydro and diesel generators. The proposed system would have the ability to provide up to 250 kW of additional capacity.

The PUD issued the request for proposals (RFP) for the battery energy storage system this summer and will review the proposals this fall. If we get all the permits in place and we receive a proposal that the Board approves, we plan to install the battery energy storage during the summer of 2022.

The battery will be designed to provide additional power when loads exceed the capacity of the hydro system. To store this energy for future use, the battery needs to recharge. It would recharge during times when the loads were lower than the hydropower generator output. So, increased loads in the community could reduce the amount of time available for the battery to recharge. While the battery gets us closer to a solution, we still need help keeping the total electrical loads down.



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