



Coastlines

August 2016

Visitors enjoy one of the Central Coast's legendary sunsets near Yachats.

Photo © Ken Gagne

We Seriously Want to Help You Save

When BPA leaders told us they wanted to visit and hear our views, we pounced on the chance to have our say

'Central Lincoln loves energy efficiency and offering cost-effective programs that help our customers lower their bills is extremely important to us.' That was one of the key messages Central Lincoln's General Manager Debra Smith and Energy Services Manager Wade Carey delivered last month during the Bonneville Power Administration's Energy-Efficiency Road Trip that came to Newport.

Bonneville (BPA) is a federal power marketing agency responsible for selling hydropower produced by Columbia River dams to consumer-owned utilities in the Northwest. Central Lincoln purchases all of the power we need to serve our customers from BPA and the cost of that power is far and away our largest expense item.

About nine months ago, BPA began a process called "Focus 2028" designed to insure that power costs are affordable when long-term contracts that govern its relationship with local utilities end. One of the areas of discussion has been energy efficiency – funding levels, program offerings, and administrative flexibility.

"When Bonneville asked if we would host the Road Trip, I saw it as a tremendous opportunity to show off the beautiful Oregon Coast, as well as the innovative projects that Wade and others have been able to complete for Central Lincoln's customers," says Debra. Central Lincoln hosted about 20 visitors from Portland, Montana, Washington, the Willamette Valley and even Oregon's South Coast. The group included the BPA Administrator, Public Power Council members and staff, as well as general and senior managers from Bonneville and other Northwest utilities. The group heard about Central Lincoln's conservation voltage regulation project, toured a



Central Lincoln's Energy Services Manager Wade Carey gives his presentation.

completed Energy Smart Industrial Project at Rogue Brewery and heard about Oregon State University's major expansion plans from Dr. Jack Barth, Executive Director of OSU's Marine Studies Initiative.

"Bonneville is an important partner in delivering the energy efficiency projects our customers rely on to help manage their energy costs," offers Wade. "But it's critical that BPA's programs are administered efficiently and meet the needs of our coastal communities. Increased flexibility will allow us to do the most with the dollars available, and we appreciated having the opportunity to share our thoughts directly with BPA and others."

If you own a business and would like to see if there's an energy efficiency program that can help you save electricity, please call our Energy Experts at 888-883-9879. Residential customers are encouraged to check out our home savings programs on our website at clpud.org—click on "Energy Efficiency & Programs."



Energy-saving tips and latest news:
www.twitter.com/CLPUDInfo



Outage info: www.twitter.com/CLPUD
or report an outage at **1-866-484-3783**



Like us on Facebook at **Central Lincoln PUD**

Contact us at
info@clpud.org



Want to Protect Your Account with a Password? If You Don't Use Online Systems, Give Us a Call



We think our online account access is really easy to use, is highly secure, and is available at all hours—especially weekends. But if you don't want to access or pay your account online, and you find it invasive or uncomfortable to be asked for your birthdate or Social Security number, we have an alternative. Choose a simple password to give us when calling in about your account, and then call us to get it added to your file.

Having a password can also be handy when someone is helping out, such as a family member handling an older parent's bills, or if someone is traveling and chooses not to use our online system. We must also, however, have the account holder's approval for anyone to access the account, even that person has the password. However, the only information a helper can receive is the amount due— and the due date.

"Protecting our customers' confidential information is extremely important to us," says Customer Service Supervisor Irene King. "Unless someone is authorized to have access, we will not disclose any info such as account balance, or whether an account is delinquent. We won't provide any other info about a customer's account over the phone if we aren't sure we are talking to the account holder, or that person's authorized representative."

We always want to provide you with excellent customer service, and offering you the option to use a password to access your account is a part of that.



Good News: Less Carbon from Electricity Generation Bad News: Planes, Cars, and Trucks are Emitting More

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) pollutes the air we all breathe, and carbon is a byproduct of electricity generated from coal and natural gas. There was some cautious cheering when a recent report from the U.S. Energy Information Administration showed power plants have now fallen behind transportation as a cause of carbon pollution in this country. (<http://tinyurl.com/cdjlyky>) The reduction in carbon is largely due to power producers using more natural gas, which creates much less carbon than burning coal.

Of course, we can't resist pointing out the electricity we sell you is nearly 100% carbon-free, due to hydropower, nuclear generation, and wind power!

How to cut down on the amount of carbon pollution from transportation? The answers are being debated across the country, but all-electric cars and other all-electric vehicles are getting a lot of attention. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, in Oregon, each gas-powered vehicle creates about 12,000 pounds of CO₂ every year, while all-electric vehicles account for about 2,000 pounds-equivalent. (<http://tinyurl.com/m2ww3ub>)

Bond. James Bond: Congratulations, Journeyman!

In June 2015, we highlighted James Bond, who loves to build things, and as a member of our substation team, he gets to do exactly that.

Substation workers are known as "wiremen" and after serving at Central Lincoln as a utility helper, a welder, and a heavy equipment operator, he landed a wireman apprenticeship. James has been with Central Lincoln for more than 27 years, but wireman apprenticeships in Oregon are rare. After passing six training levels known as "steps" and a major exam, which James passed on the first try, he is now a Journeyman Wireman, working on transformers and maintaining, upgrading and building substations. (Substations change voltages between high transmission voltages and lower distribution voltages as electricity flows to customers.)

"We at Central Lincoln help people, and as a bonus I love the thrill of working with electricity," James says with a shy smile. "This makes the job very rewarding every day of my life!"

Congratulations to Oregon's newest Journeyman Wireman— James Bond.

