Ours & Yours

Like many relationships, connections between electric utilities and customers can be complicated. What belongs to us? What belongs to you? Who maintains what?

If your home is like many, you have external equipment on it linking you to our grid. (We require new homes or major remodels to install their service conductors underground, so yours might be one of the 40% or so to have underground service.)

If your home has a weatherhead, overhead service conductor, and a service mast (see photo below) your connection is external. Both can wear out over time, or corrode due to salt air. And if a tree falls and damages your service mast, you’ll need an electrician to make repairs before we can restore power to your home. Look for advanced rust or corrosion, or a service mast that’s bent or pulled away from the house. A severely rusted weatherhead might allow water to collect in the meter base, which could result in a fire. All of these are important reasons to have an electrician check things out.

Meter bases: Every Central Lincoln customer has one. While the meter belongs to us, and it’s our responsibility to repair or replace that meter if something goes wrong, customers own the meter base, and need to not only maintain it, but to keep the area around it open. This means no clever “portholes” built around the meter, no shrubbery, no camouflage. Our employees need to be able to easily work around the meter. If, say, a house has caught fire, and the meter needs to be immediately removed so firefighters can work safely, rosebushes, trees, decorative boxes, or anything blocking access to the meter will slow down or prevent our workers from disconnecting power. Please look around your meter base. Check for rust or corrosion, and if you see some, please call an electrician to take a look to see if the meter base needs to be removed, repaired, or replaced.

We want to have a warm and powerful relationship with all of our customers. Please don’t allow barriers to come between our meter and your meter base, or for rust to corrode our connection with you.

No meters in cabinets, please! We have to have full access to our meters at all times, including the sides of the meters, and to your meter base. This structure had to be removed.

No amount of electrical or duct tape can make a meter base safe. This one had to be completely removed.
Yes; Sometimes We Nest!

Some birds, particularly raptors, find energized utility poles with crossarms irresistible for nesting. Surprisingly, “It can be perfectly fine in some cases for them to be up there,” says Senior Engineering Technician Michelle, whose duties include compliance with regulations governing our interactions with birds. “If there’s enough room between lines and poles.” Michelle evaluates nests on our equipment, and, “if there’s a risk the birds could be harmed or cause an outage, or be a safety risk to our workers, we may need to offer the birds an alternative.” In such cases, Michelle obtains federal permits, and makes plans for that work, usually for fall or winter before nesting season. Relocations force her to “think like a raptor!” she chuckles. “They can be very territorial. I’ve had to learn what they find appealing, and to design a nesting platform that is as close as possible to their currently unsafe location. But sometimes, it’s the utilities that have to be moved instead.”

Michelle coordinates with linemen who gently move nesting materials like sticks to the new platforms they build.

If you see a bird’s nest on one of our utility poles, and think it might be hazardous to the birds or our workers, please email Michelle the location of the nest and pole at mness@cencoast.com

NEW!

We Have a Calculator for That: How Much Could You Save Driving With Electricity Over Gas?

We know the numbers might look too good to be true, but driving an electric car can save up to 80% over gasoline-powered vehicles in fuel costs. Here’s how to check – go to: clpud.org/ev-savings/. Enter the number of miles you usually drive in a day, how much you currently pay for a gallon of gas, the year, make, and model of your gas-powered car, and then the year, make, and model of any plug-in electric vehicle (EV) you’re considering. The calculator uses EPA mileage data for both gas-powered and electric-powered cars, and our rate for electricity by the kilowatt hour (kWh). If the price difference catches your interest, stop by our office in Florence, Newport, or Reedsport during regular business hours for a free copy of Electric Car Insider’s EV Buyers Guide, which offers detailed information on most EVs on the market, and even info on electric motorcycles and bicycles. Or email us at info@clpud.org and we’ll mail you a copy.

Power to the pedal!

Sign Ups for Budget Billing End June 30!

Every year in the spring, customers have the opportunity to sign up for Budget Billing, which allows customers to pay the same amount each month. How? Monthly bills for the last year are averaged to provide a solid monthly figure. Budget Billing customers build a positive balance on their account during spring and summer preparing for higher winter bills. Every April, Budget Billing accounts are reviewed, and depending on the past year’s usage, the monthly payment amount is lowered or increased in May. Customers tell us they love knowing how much their electricity bill will be each month! To sign up, call us Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 877-265-3211, and press “4.”