Here’s to Power for the People!

October is Public Power Month—the term “public power” describes utilities owned by the people they serve

The first public power utilities serving local communities were formed in 1890. Today, there are nearly 2,000 such utilities in the United States.

Unfortunately, over the past 100 years, “public power” has become confusing. Investor-owned utilities issue publicly-traded stock, and are overseen by state public utility commissions.

Public power utilities are governed by locally-elected boards, and often use the term “community-owned” instead of “public power” to avoid confusion.

Central Lincoln exists for one reason: to serve you. We strive to be customer-friendly, and highly reliable – to provide you with excellent customer service.

Here’s a look at Central Lincoln by the numbers:

- **40%** Customers using SmartHub, our online payment and account management service
  - To sign up for SmartHub, go to clpud.org, and in this box
  - Click on Register for Online Account Access. You’ll need your account number (found on your Central Lincoln bill) and email access.

- **31%** of our customers use AutoPay, authorizing payment from a debit or credit card, or bank account each month. Many find this service exceptionally convenient. Sign up using SmartHub.

- **292** Customers using Prepaid, our convenient pay-in-advance system, much like buying gasoline.
  - To sign up, or for more details, call us at 877-265-3211.

- **17%** Customers using Paperless billing
  - Paperless billing customers receive their bills by email each month, saving hassle and cutting down on paper waste. You can sign up for Paperless in SmartHub, or by calling us at 877-265-3211. (You must be a registered SmartHub user to go Paperless.)

- **219** Number of electric cars registered in our service area so far.

- **700** Number of square miles Central Lincoln serves.

- **39,587** Number of meters served by Central Lincoln.

- **97%** Our power is carbon-free. It’s a mix of hydropower, wind, and nuclear power.

- **7.74¢** Our residential rate per kilowatt hour

- **11.27¢** Oregon average per kilowatt hour
Jay’s Electric Story

Electric cars work nicely for camping and other fun. Jay, who lives near Siletz, has driven electric since 2016, starting with an all-electric Nissan Leaf. But at the time the Leaf’s range was less than 100 miles, and Jay decided to buy a Honda Clarity, a plug-in gas-electric hybrid with a range of 50 miles on battery, and another 293 miles using gasoline.

Jay loves saving money, including by powering his Clarity with solar power (see photo below). “I drove up Three Creeks Lake to climb Tam McArthur Rim,” he writes. “My Clarity made it up the 3,000 foot climb to the lake from Sisters, and back on battery only. Charged at a public charging station, and with solar. Overall trip, 335 miles, and used just three gallons of gasoline!”

Movie director Alfred Hitchcock was known for appearing briefly in his movies. Jay appears here much the same way—in a shadow selfie—with his campsite in the Cascades.