



### Utility service providers

PUDs are authorized by law to provide electricity, water, sewer and telecommunications services. PUDs were recently given the authority to produce and distribute renewable natural gas and renewable hydrogen.



### Locally owned and controlled

PUDs are formed by a vote of the people. The people of the district are the owners of the PUD and entrust locally-elected commissioners to provide oversight and represent their interests in decision making regarding their services. Local control is a foundational cornerstone of PUDs as voters have exercised their legal right to own and control their utility services in a way that best meets the needs of their community.



### Not for profit

PUDs are not-for-profit local government entities. As such, rates and charges for utility services reflect actual costs and, by law, are fair and nondiscriminatory (RCW 54.24.080).

# Six things you need to know

## About Washington Public Utility Districts



### PUDs are a product of the people

The right of communities to form PUDs was the product of an initiative in 1930. The voters, mainly in rural areas, frustrated by a lack of affordable electricity services exercised their right to enact law and passed Initiative #1. PUDs today function under RCW 54, the laws of the PUDs.



### PUDs are transparent and accountable

PUD boards of commissioners conduct business in open public meetings and PUDs adhere to the state's Public Records Act. PUD elected commissioners are held accountable for their decisions including policies and rate setting by the voters of the district. PUDs are also subject to audits by the State Auditor's Office.



### PUDs serve communities across the state

There are 28 operating PUDs in Washington that serve over 2.3 million people. No two PUDs are alike; each reflects the unique needs and values of their community. PUDs may provide one or more of the authorized services.