

# Currents

Published monthly for the customer-owners of Clark Public Utilities

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## EARTH DAY TREE PLANTING CELEBRATION



This month, join the Clark Public Utilities StreamTeam for the return of our biggest planting event of the season, Earth Day!

After more than two decades of watershed restoration in the Salmon Creek Watershed, this year the StreamTeam celebrates meeting the One Million Trees Planted milestone. Alongside hundreds of volunteers of all ages, utility employees will mark this significant moment by planting even more trees.

The family-friendly annual tradition will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22. People of all ages are welcome to join us in this long-running utility tradition. Youths who attend enjoy the extra benefit of fulfilling community service hours and all volunteers are welcome to morning snacks and a post-planting lunch.

Sign up for the Earth Day Tree Planting or any of the utility's other upcoming Environmental Stewardship events by searching for StreamTeam at Eventbrite or scanning the QR code with your phone or tablet.



Register Today

## LIGHT LINES

### TEST GFCI OUTLETS FOR SAFETY



Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets protect users from electrical shock in high-moisture areas. That's why they're required in kitchens and bathrooms, among other locations.

For safety, test GFCI outlets monthly.

To test, connect a lamp to the outlet and turn it on. Push the TEST button on the outlet. The GFCI should trip and cut the electricity to the lamp, and the RESET button should pop out. If the lamp doesn't shut off, replace the outlet immediately.

Press RESET and the power should return. If it doesn't, the GFCI should be replaced.



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## NEW HIGHER REBATES ON SMART THERMOSTATS!



For a limited time, Clark Public Utilities is increasing smart thermostat rebates from \$50 to \$125!

Smart thermostats can reduce energy waste and lower utility bills without sacrificing comfort. Sensors can learn your daily routine and adapt to your temperature preferences to conserve energy when no one is home.

When connected to the internet, smart thermostats can be adjusted remotely for added convenience.

Qualifying thermostats are compatible with most electric furnaces and heat pumps with duct work, but not all variable speed heat pumps. Smart thermostats are not compatible with zonal electric heaters.

Eligible homes must be electrically heated and the thermostat must be purchased by Oct. 1, 2023 and listed as a qualifying unit on the website. The rebate cannot exceed the sum of the purchase price and installation costs, not including sales tax.

Visit [clarkpublicutilities.com/rebates](https://clarkpublicutilities.com/rebates) or call an energy counselor at 360-992-3355 or email [ecod@clarkpud.com](mailto:ecod@clarkpud.com) for more information and full qualifications.

Gas heated homes may qualify for smart thermostat rebates through the Energy Trust of Oregon. Find out more at [energytrust.org](https://energytrust.org).

## TIME FOR A SPRING INSPECTION

Heat pumps and furnaces are most efficient and reliable when they've had regular inspections and maintenance. An HVAC professional's trained eye will be able to spot performance-hampering issues before they become expensive repairs that could lead to uncomfortably long downtimes.

Spring's mild conditions make it a great time to have your home heating or cooling system inspected, and, if necessary, serviced.

A handy person can replace the air filters on a central air system, or vacuum the screens on the head unit of a ductless heat pump — either will be helpful as we head into allergy season by improving indoor air quality and enhancing the system's performance.

Beyond that, it's best to call a professional. The utility maintains a network of contractors eligible to perform work that qualifies for a utility incentive or rebate. Participation in the Contractor Network is not an endorsement and we always recommend getting multiple bids for work performed by a contractor.

## CORRECTION

Between 1980 and 2022, Clark Public Utilities customers saved nearly 1.34 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, not 1.34 million. Last month's Currents article "Conservation Good For Your Energy Bill and Your Community" misstated the amount.



**"Highest in Customer Satisfaction with Residential Electric Service in the West among Midsize Utilities, 15 years in a row."**

Clark Public Utilities received the highest score in the West Midsize segment of the J.D. Power 2008-2022 Electric Utility Residential Satisfaction Studies of customers' satisfaction with electric utility residential services. Visit [jdpower.com/awards](https://jdpower.com/awards) for more details.

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