

McKenzie Valley Community

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 16, 2023



ABOUT EWEB

YOUR COMMUNITY-OWNED UTILITY

The Eugene Water & Electric Board is Oregon's largest customer-owned utility. Founded in 1911, EWEB provides water and electricity to approximately 96,000 customers in the Eugene-Springfield area, including the McKenzie Valley.

EWEB serves its customers by embodying core values of safety, reliability, responsibility, affordability, environmental stewardship and community/culture. EWEB leads watershed protection measures with local landowners and environmental organizations.

EWEB is owned by our customers and governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners. Each commissioner serves a four-year term, during which their job is to establish policies and values about how we serve you and to set EWEB's long-term direction.

EWEB Commissioners serve all customers, and one board member is specifically dedicated to the "at large" position. Customers are welcome and encouraged to contact commissioners and participate in public board meetings. To find information about meetings or to contact a commissioner, visit eweb.org/Board.



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THE FUTURE OF THE LEABURG HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Why did EWEB Commissioners vote to decommission the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project?

In short:

- Cost of investing in the facility vs purchasing replacement power.
- Protecting against future liability risks.
- Elimination of long-term, non-mission-based obligations.
- Uncertainty of generation potential due to regulatory and climate concerns.
- Alignment with customer values (reduce costs, preserve water quality, environmental stewardship).



EWEB conducted a Triple Bottom Line Assessment to identify and compare the financial, environmental, and social impacts of repairing the canal to resume hydropower generation or decommissioning the Project.



“We understand our neighbors have a lot of questions as we’re still digesting the news about the future of decommissioning the Leaburg Project. We thank you for your patience as we investigate the specifics required to decommission in a responsible and respectful manner. Construction won’t start until the next decade, so we have time to focus on enjoying the site as it exists today.”
Chris Taylor, Generation Supervisor

Learn more about the Leaburg Hydroelectric project at eweb.org/LeaburgCanal

What will EWEB do to decommission the project?

Commissioners unanimously approved a Record of Decision in support of the “Management Recommendation: Future Disposition of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project.” The Recommendation advocates:

- Permanently discontinue electricity generation at the Leaburg Project.
- Removing Leaburg Dam and restoring the McKenzie River to a free-flowing river in the area.
- Developing access to Leaburg Dam Road on the southern side of the river. EWEB will investigate and facilitate all potential options with those agencies responsible for transportation in the area. There will be an alternatives analysis process with opportunities for all participants to help with the identification of important issues to consider during the decision-making process.
- Modifying the Leaburg Canal for stream and stormwater conveyance (SWC), while preserving the future option to completely restore the site to pre-project conditions.
- Working with water rights holders to mitigate the effects of dewatering the Leaburg Canal particularly the Leaburg and McKenzie fish hatcheries.
- Assessing the Walterville Hydroelectric Project.
- Identifying opportunities and requirements for Board review, guidance, and direction as we continue the decommissioning process.

What will happen to Leaburg Lake?

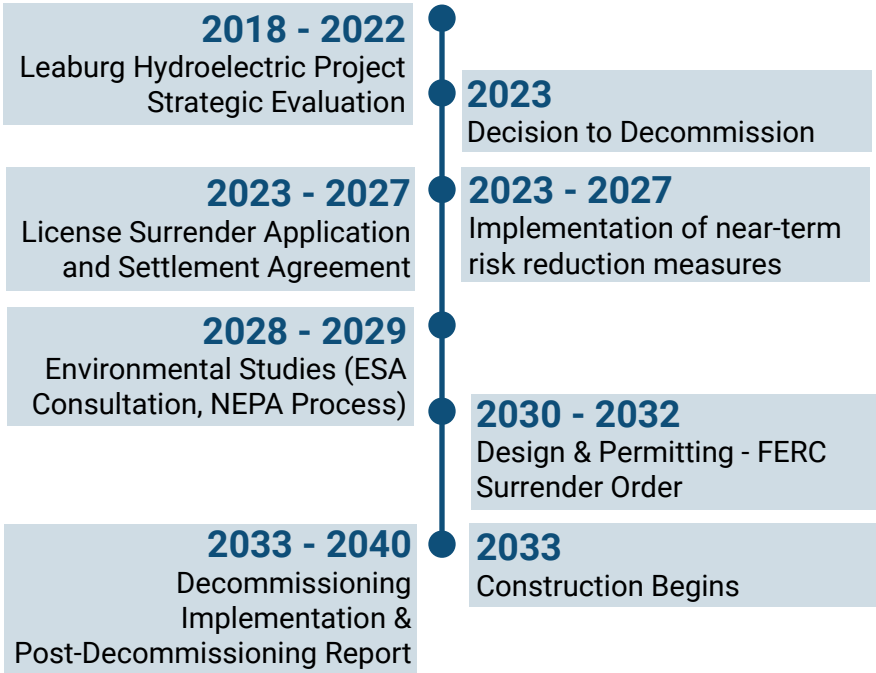
Will Lloyd Knox Park still be open?

Removing Leaburg Dam will restore the McKenzie River to its natural flow, likely returning to its original channel along the Highway 126 side of this section (river right).

During the decommissioning process, EWEB intends to keep Lloyd Knox Park open for recreation unless future construction activities require it closed for safety. Upon completing all decommissioning requirements, EWEB will evaluate whether to retain ownership of the park or seek to transfer to a local recreation or environmental land management entity.

When will EWEB decommission the project?

In short, not for at least a decade. Before EWEB begins any work on the ground, we'll have years of investigations and studies to conduct and extensive negotiations with various regulators, agencies, partners and interest groups.



What will happen to Leaburg Dam Road?

EWEB will collaborate with the agencies responsible for transportation in the area, including Lane County Public Works (LCPW) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), to develop an access route that maintains connection between Leaburg Dam Road and Highway 126. EWEB will work with LCPW and ODOT to investigate and facilitate all potential concepts.

There will be an alternatives analysis process with opportunities for all stakeholders to help identify important issues to consider during the decision-making process. At the

end of decommissioning, it is EWEB's intent not to own, operate, or maintain non-mission-supporting assets including those exclusively used for transportation or recreation.

EWEB would like to emphasize:

- EWEB must collaborate with other agencies (Lane County and Oregon Department of Transportation),
- This decision is not up to EWEB alone,
- EWEB intends to reduce our liability footprint with decommissioning the Project and does not intend to be responsible for long term maintenance of the selected access solution,
- EWEB has already contacted Lane County and Oregon Department of Transportation,
- EWEB and partner agencies will identify the most appropriate solution, aiming to reduce social, environmental and financial impacts.

How will this decision affect the Leaburg and McKenzie Hatcheries?

The Leaburg trout hatchery and McKenzie salmon hatchery have historically received water via the Leaburg Project.

EWEB, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) have maintained long-term discussions about the vulnerability of the hatcheries to rely solely on the Leaburg Project for water supply. EWEB is not legally obligated to provide the hatcheries with water. While the Project was in operation, there was a good opportunity to provide our partners with their water supply.

Moving forward, ODFW and USACE are aware that they will need to transition to new solutions for their water supplies. EWEB will continue to work together to support these facilities during their transition.

McKENZIE WATERSHED

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION & LANDOWNER PROGRAMS

SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

\$300 incentive every 3 years for routine maintenance and pumping.

SEPTIC REPAIR & REPLACEMENT

\$20,000 zero interest loan for major repairs, replacement of failing tank or drainfield, upgrade to advanced treatment, relocation away from the waterway.

Email: ems.answers@eweb.org

Phone: 541-685- 7088

HEALTHY FARMS CLEAN WATER

Technical assistance and/or financial incentives to reduce chemical storage, transition to certified organic, increase energy efficiency, reduce water consumption, and participate in natural resource conservation programs.

Email: nancy.toth@eweb.org

Phone: 541-685- 7088



We continue to work with our hazelnut farmers on a moth monitoring program. We had one farmer last year who said they ended up not spraying at all because the moth numbers stayed so low. That's great because it's less pesticide going into the river." EWEB Water Resources Supervisor Susan Fricke on the Healthy Farms Hazelnut Pesticide Reduction Project.

PURE WATER PARTNERS

Free firewood, financial incentives and/or technical assistance for naturescaping and invasive species control, in partnership with McKenzie Watershed Council, Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District, US Forest Service, McKenzie River Trust, and others.



\$1.4 Million

EWEB has brought in 1.4 million dollars of funding for fuels reduction, replanting, large floodplain restoration projects, and landowner incentives to help the watershed recover from the Holiday Farm Fire.



167 Partners

EWEB and the Pure Water Partners are grateful to the 167 landowners who have signed 7-year watershed stewardship agreements under the Pure Water Partners Program.

Get involved

The Pure Water Partners (PWP) Program rewards landowners in the McKenzie Watershed for protecting their lands along the river and restoring riparian forests. This example of shared stewardship helps protect the source of our drinking water, avoiding future water treatment costs.

Pure Water Partners also provide technical assistance for landowners who need restoration work on their properties, particularly following the Holiday Farm Fire.

To learn more about Pure Water Partners and how you can get involved, please go to PureWaterPartners.org, email info@purewaterpartners.org or call 541-685-7438.

WILDFIRE RECOVERY

PROGRAMS FOR LANDOWNERS IN HOLIDAY FARM FIRE PERIMETER

SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR & REPLACEMENT

EWEB has secured over \$3 million of federal funds to help McKenzie landowners replace or repair their septic systems damaged in the Holiday Farm Fire. Qualifying landowners can receive up to \$35,000.



To date, EWEB has received 117 applications from McKenzie community members to repair or replace their septic systems damaged in the Holiday Farm Fire.

HOMESITE RELOCATION

Up to \$7,000 incentive/grant for rebuilding homes or septic systems outside of the riparian setback or special flood hazard area.

UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC SERVICE LINES

For customers who require substantial repair or full replacement of the service line, reimbursement up to \$60/ft for 200A services, \$70/ft for services greater than 200A to install underground lines.



In the Holiday Farm Fire, we lost everything: building, power line, septic system, trees, and water well. The EWEB underground power line incentive program was easy to sign up for and really helped us begin our rebuilding process. Underground power lines give us confidence that they can withstand potential future risks such as fire, ice storms, and downed trees. Thank you EWEB for all your help!"

-Customer Jonathan H.

McKenzie Valley residents agree, "You should work with Misty!"

“I submitted an application for the septic repair grant through EWEB. Misty Merriam was very helpful, guiding me through the process, which resulted in approval. I think she truly cares about helping people.”

-Customer Doug

"I am doing such a happy dance I just had to share!!! Thank you so much for facilitating this! EWEB has been with us since just after the fire, when they facilitated hydroseeding of our torched landscape. Then we were able to get involved with PWP and have had a couple thousand plants put into our riparian area that drains right into the McKenzie River. Your efforts to keep the McKenzie River healthy and take care of us lucky enough to live here is greatly appreciated."

-Customers Cheryl & Jim

"This Septic Grant funding is such a huge blessing for people who do not have enough money to rebuild their homes and pay for an expensive new septic upgrade. The process of having to upgrade my septic along with rebuilding a home was and still is unbearable at times to say the least. Anybody who is unsure of this Grant process must get a hold of Misty; she goes above and beyond and is there the whole way through until approval. To say I am grateful is an understatement. Misty, I appreciate all your efforts, prompt responses from start to finish and I am so very thankful for this program. It was a pleasure working with you Misty, you are part of my journey and helped make it much brighter. Thank you."

-Customer Merson

Misty Merriam, EWEB Loan Administrator



WILDFIRE MITIGATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PSPS

WHAT IS A PSPS?

A Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is an operational practice an electric utility may use to preemptively shut off power in certain high-risk areas to help prevent wildfires during extreme and potentially dangerous weather conditions. A PSPS means EWEB will proactively shut off power and it is considered an action of last resort to help protect public safety.

The risk of wildfires has changed in the Pacific Northwest and a PSPS is one way we can mitigate those risks. We recognize that it is a very serious decision to turn off the power and there are many factors we consider when determining if a PSPS is a necessary action to mitigate the risk of wildfires.

A PSPS is just one tool in our wildfire mitigation toolbox. Another tool is turning on Protective Operational Settings. A PSPS proactively turns power off to affected customers, whereas Protective Operational Settings can be set in place over a long duration of time to make high voltage equipment more sensitive, so when trouble occurs, such as a branch falling on the lines, the settings will instantaneously shut off the power. In both cases, crews will conduct safety patrols prior to re-energizing the lines.

While a PSPS reduces wildfire risk, power outages can create other challenges such as loss of internet and phone, refrigeration and cooling, and use of wells. We know advance notification is critical to help customers prepare and we will use multiple methods to alert impacted customers.

HOW WILL YOU BE NOTIFIED OF A PSPS EVENT?

We know advance notification is critical to help you prepare for an outage. Whenever possible, EWEB will announce a PSPS 48 hours in advance and again approximately 24 hours before the power is scheduled to be turned off. We will use multiple communication channels including email, autodial, social media, our website, and local news media. Color coded graphics will be used to signify the status of a PSPS:

WATCH
PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS)

To protect public safety, we will likely proactively and temporarily turn off power for

EXAMPLE

WATCH NOTICE ACTIVATED RESTORED

eweb.org/wildfire

WATCH (72-48 hours advanced notice) – Forecasted weather conditions make a PSPS possible.

WARNING
PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS)

To protect public safety, we will proactively and temporarily turn off power for

EXAMPLE

WATCH NOTICE ACTIVATED RESTORED

eweb.org/wildfire

WARNING (48-24 hours advanced notice) – EWEB is planning and/or will activate a PSPS.

NOTICE
PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS)

To protect public safety, we have proactively and temporarily turned off power for

EXAMPLE

WATCH NOTICE ACTIVATED RESTORED

eweb.org/wildfire

NOTICE (Beginning of PSPS) – EWEB has activated the PSPS.

RESTORED
PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS)

We have safely inspected power lines in the PSPS zone and power has been fully restored for

EXAMPLE

WATCH NOTICE ACTIVATED RESTORED

eweb.org/wildfire

RESTORED – EWEB has restored all power within the PSPS zone.

Weather events and wildfire situations can be dynamic, so while we will strive for at least a 24-48 hours advance warning, this may not always be possible. For email alerts about a PSPS, sign up for our Emergency Alerts and Preparedness E-Newsletter at eweb.org/emergencyprep.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PSPS

HOW DOES EWEB DECIDE TO TURN OFF THE POWER?

EWEB considers several variables when deciding to proactively turn off the power in response to imminent fire danger and risk to public safety. While each situation is unique, some variables include:

- Impending dangerous fire weather conditions
- Active wildfire in service area
- Mandatory evacuation in effect
- Requests from emergency service providers/wildland managers
- On-the-ground and/or real-time observations by utility personnel
- Coordinated response with other area utilities

HOW LONG BEFORE POWER IS RESTORED?

Power restoration takes longer than the process of turning off the power because crews need to visually patrol the lines to make sure equipment is safe to operate and work with our public safety partners to ensure there is no active fire in the vicinity before turning the power back on.

Once the immediate threat of wildfire has passed, our crews will visually inspect the power lines to check for any damage or safety concerns before restoring power. As these inspections can only occur during daylight hours, customers should be prepared to be without power for an extended time during a PSPS.

WHAT ABOUT CUSTOMERS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE WITH DAILY LIVING?

No one likes to lose power, and power outages during fire season and the heat of summer can create a different set of challenges for residents. This is especially true for our customers who need electricity for medications, medical equipment and mobility devices.

Please make sure your contact information is updated with EWEB. If you have, or care for someone with, significant health needs that require electricity, please let us know by calling 541-685-7000.

We're developing a program to provide more support for customers who need additional assistance during a summer outage.

HOW CAN I BE READY FOR SUMMER OUTAGES?

While we will work to restore power as quickly and safely as possible, it's important to be ready and to have an emergency plan.

Create an outage kit with a few basic items, such as:

- Stored or bottled water, including enough for animals
- Flashlights and fresh batteries
- Back-up batteries for cellphones
- Battery-powered or hand-held fans
- Battery operated radio
- Frozen cold packs

For more information on how to prepare and stay safe during an emergency, go to eweb.org/emergencyprep.

Go to eweb.org/outagemap to see outage restoration updates.

Learn more about PSPS and EWEB's Wildfire Mitigation Plan at eweb.org/wildfire.

PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF OF 2022

In September of 2022 EWEB activated its first Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), proactively turning off power for approximately 3,000 customers in the McKenzie Valley High Risk Fire Zone territory.

The decision was made after the National Weather Service predicted extreme fire weather (high winds, high temperatures and low humidity).

A PSPS is considered a tool of last resort and is just one way EWEB is reducing fire risk. In 2022, EWEB adopted a Wildfire Mitigation Plan, improving upon the numerous programs for grid reliability and safety. The plan includes enhanced equipment inspections and maintenance activities, changes to operational practices during wildfire season, including Protective Settings to reduce ignition risk from EWEB equipment.

Customers in the PSPS zone received advanced notice through pre-recorded auto-dialing, email notifications, media outlets, and social media. EWEB, in coordination with other utilities, made the decision to activate a PSPS on a Friday afternoon at 5 p.m. and we were able to safely restore power to all customers by 3 p.m. that Sunday.



Evaluating and improving the protocols laid out in EWEB's Wildfire Mitigation Plan as they relate to planning, communication, and restoration is ongoing. While flexibility is important, we want our restoration work to be as efficient and safe as possible.

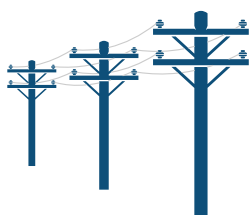
Extreme weather events can happen any time and power can be off for multiple days. Being prepared for an emergency is a shared responsibility. Create an emergency plan that accounts for all family members and animals, especially those with special medical or transportation needs, and practice it.

NEW TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT WILDFIRES

In June 2022, an ALERTWildfire camera was installed on an EWEB communications tower to spot small fires before they threaten communities and infrastructure in the upper McKenzie River Valley. The camera provides a live feed viewable by anyone at www.alertwildfire.org.

We saw the camera in action when it alerted EWEB and firefighters to smoke near the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric project after a lightning storm last summer.

This early detection enabled fast response and containment of the fire.



250 'LINE MILES' OF VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

EWEB's vegetation crews inspect and prune over 250 'line miles' in High-Risk Fire Zones annually to maintain clearance, improving reliability while reducing fire risk.

NEW EWEB STAFF FOCUS ON EMERGENCY PLANNING

EWEB's new Emergency Management Specialist, Jeremiah Bridges, shares why it is important that EWEB collaborates on strategic emergency planning.

“EWEB is unique as a small utility with a large footprint; it extends into multiple different jurisdictions. This presents a great opportunity to work closely with other organizations, such as City of Springfield, Lane County and the Army Corps of Engineers.



Looking at the critical services we provide to our community, paired with the increase in large events, there is a need to be deliberate and strategic in how we plan and prepare.

It's important to approach our strategic emergency planning from a whole community perspective. Preparedness is a shared responsibility and needs to have the involvement of everyone to be effective. This helps determine the best ways to plan, prepare, and respond to any hazard or event that we could face in the coming years.

Working on emergency planning, we need to consider not just hazards and events in Eugene, but also events unique to the upriver territory. Creating plans that incorporate upriver infrastructure, like dams and powerlines, as well as the river, is vital to our preparedness planning.

Emergency preparedness is nothing new to EWEB, but having a specific team dedicated to this work shows the commitment EWEB has to the community. There is so much potential in the future of this work to get the community involved in preparedness and planning. I am excited to help make EWEB as resilient and prepared as possible.”

RECEIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS FROM EWEB

Automated Messaging: When extreme weather is forecasted, resulting in a Public Safety Power Shutoff, EWEB will alert customers in affected areas via email and automated phone messaging.

It is important that we have your correct contact information. Update your contact information by calling 541-685-7000, emailing eweb.answers@eweb.org or just scan the QR code to update your information online.



Email Alerts: Sign up to receive EWEB's new Emergency Alerts and Preparedness E-newsletter. You'll receive seasonal preparedness tips and emergency alerts on major weather-related events, such as red flag warnings, public safety power shutoffs, drinking water quality and more. Scan the QR code to sign up.



Social Media: During an emergency, such as a winter storm power outage, EWEB will provide frequent updates about incident response on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Find us at [@EWEButility](https://twitter.com/EWEButility).

CARMEN SMITH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EWEB is currently enhancing public recreation facilities near our Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project – part of the relicensing process for the project.

Can vehicles access the Trail Bridge and Lakes End campgrounds, the Trail Bridge Reservoir boat launch and Smith Reservoir?

No. Access will remain closed until the camping season in 2026 as part of EWEB’s work to retrofit, refurbish and upgrade equipment at our Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric facility.

Is the McKenzie River Trail and associated trailheads open?

Yes, these trails will remain open throughout the reconstruction period.

Is vehicle access to the Carmen Diversion Reservoir open?

Not yet. Access is expected to be open in spring of 2025.



EWEB

CARMEN-SMITH

UPDATES AT THE CARMEN-SMITH PROJECT

EWEB is currently rebuilding the generating units at the Carmen powerhouse. The \$30 million overhaul of the hydropower facility will help ensure that it can continue to provide carbon-free electricity for decades to come.

Construction on the first unit started in July 2021, after pandemic-related delays pushed out the timeline. EWEB expects to complete reconstruction on the first generating unit at the end of the summer and start reconstruction on the second unit this fall. The project is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2024.



EWEB EDUCATION GRANTS

SUPPORTING SCIENCE IN THE MCKENZIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

EWEB supports education in local schools through grants totaling \$500,000 annually for Eugene, Bethel, Springfield and McKenzie School Districts.

McKenzie River Community School receives \$22k annually from the EWEB Education Grant which funds the following programs:

IN-CLASSROOM SCIENCE

Helping transition K-6 to in-classroom science (rather than once-a-week science teacher) through hands-on, inquiry-based curriculum (Mystery Science).

FIELD RESEARCH

Students conduct year-long field investigations, studying plant phenology, vertebrate phenology and water quality. Funding has been used on new equipment (cellular trail cams, water quality reagents, temperature loggers, weather station). A trail cam recently captured a cougar at night.



CLIMATE CHANGE INVESTIGATIONS

Using an Infrared Camera, students learn about the transfer of heat and CO₂'s ability to trap and radiate energy.

SEISMOMETER

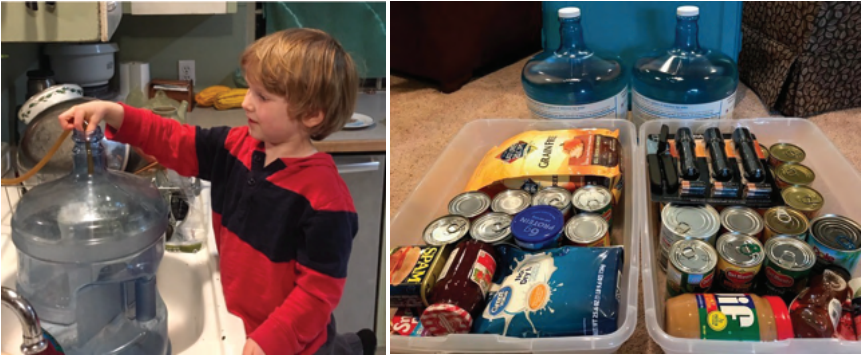
A constantly-logging seismometer is used in Earth Science while learning about plate tectonics and the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

BE PREPARED

EMERGENCY PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

PLEDGE TO PREPARE

Join and receive a monthly email with step-by-step recommendations to help prepare yourself, your home and your family for an emergency. EWEB customers are encouraged to send in photos of your efforts and be entered to win raffle prizes for useful emergency preparedness supplies each month. Sign up at eweb.org/pledge.



BACK-UP POWER

Backup power systems can include generators or battery storage systems for the purposes of backup power.

- Residential standard loan: Up to \$2,000 zero percent interest loan for electric customers without well.
- Residential well owners loan: Up to \$4,000 zero percent interest loan for electric residential customers with a well for domestic use.
- Commercial standard loan: Electric commercial customers may qualify for a four percent interest loan amount based on project details and eligible costs.

Learn more at eweb.org/rebates, or email us at ems.answers@eweb.org.

LEARN MORE

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

EWEB.ORG

Our website is the primary resource for program information. You'll find the most recent rebates and loans, eligibility requirements, applications, and contact information.

E-NEWSLETTER

Current Connections is our email newsletter for residential customers. It includes energy and water-saving tips, information on customer programs, events and major projects. If you are not yet receiving the newsletter, sign up at eweb.org/newsletters.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us @EWEBUtility on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. We post tips, outage/emergency alerts, news and more.

REACH OUT

Our energy and water experts are available to answer questions and provide technical assistance for efficiency upgrades, electric vehicles and more. Our customer service team can assist with bill payment questions and programs.

Email: eweb.answers@eweb.org

Phone: 541-685-7000