

100% Renewable Energy Program



The District is developing a voluntary program for our customers to utilize 100% renewable electricity. As the Kirkwood Community is directly affected by climate change and with noticeable changes already occurring, the District is very aware of the consequences of not doing everything we can to reduce carbon emissions to help stabilize the climate. Due to the significant growth in renewable resources in California, the cost for 100% renewables is likely to be about 1% more than what customers are currently paying. As a California Public Utility, last year the District provided 30% renewable electricity and is required by law to gradually increase that to 60% by 2030. Due to the positive response from a recent survey sent to customers with registered email addresses (thank you to all who completed the survey!), the District is developing a program to offer the option of purchasing 100% renewable electricity for your home or business in Kirkwood. Given the already high cost of electricity in Kirkwood, we will be offering this only as a voluntary program. Additionally, while it is not possible to provide “renewable propane”, the District will provide a separate, voluntary offset program that pays for reducing carbon in California equal to emissions generated from combustion of propane. This offset program will also be voluntary. Our goal is to make voluntary participation an easy annual process for all who want to participate. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Winter Preparations

With summer winding down now is the time to get your property ready for winter. Don't wait until the last minute to insulate your house, create defensible space and service those furnaces! If you have tree limbs and brush on your property take advantage of the free roadside Chipping Program, ending after Friday, September 13. Stack only cut brush up to 4 inches in diameter within 5 feet of the road edge, with cut ends facing toward the road, no higher than 4 feet. Do not stack in the road, next to fire hydrants, culverts or in any way that impedes traffic. Be sure that there is no building debris or pine cones in your pile. During the second week of September, District staff will chip all correctly stacked piles, returning all chipped material to your property. Any brush or limbs stacked after September 13 will not be chipped. If you have questions about the Chipping Program, please call the District office at (209)258-4444. Below are some items which may need to be on your Winter Prep check list:

- Make sure your Snow Removal Contract is in place.
- Be sure you and your guests know where the water shut-off is inside your home, and ensure that it's accessible.
- Give your heating system a test run so you know it will work properly when you need it.
- Replace the filter on your furnace.
- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Stock firewood.
- Buy an extra snow shovel and put in an accessible place.
- Examine doors and windows for gaps where warm air can escape and apply caulk or weather stripping around drafty areas.
- Make sure chimneys and fireplaces are checked and cleaned.



Correctly stacked tree limbs for chipping

Toxic Algae Blooms

Avoid water contact at Red Lake and Indian Creek Reservoir! The Alpine County Health Department has issued a public health brief regarding dangerous levels of toxins associated with blooms of blue-green algae in multiple area lakes. Toxin levels at Red Lake have been determined to be well above the danger level and levels at Indian Creek Reservoir have triggered a warning alert. Both lakes have been posted with warning signs, until further notice. Potential symptoms of exposure to blue-green algae toxins include eye irritation, skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold or flu-like symptoms, with impacts to the liver. Potential symptoms in dogs following exposure to blue-green algae toxins include lethargy, difficulty breathing, salivation, vomiting, urination, diarrhea, or convulsions leading to death. Dogs and children are most likely to be affected because of their smaller body size and tendency to stay in the water for longer periods. While there is no antidote for exposure, if you believe that you, a loved one, or a pet is suffering from exposure to blue-green algae toxins immediately seek medical care and take your pet to their veterinarian. Blue-green algae can be naturally present in any body of fresh water. It looks like green, blue-green, white or brown scum, foam or mats floating on the water. Warmer air and water temperatures, high nutrients levels, and slow flowing and stagnant water can cause blue-green algae to multiply at an excessive rate and turn into a harmful algal bloom. When harmful algal blooms are present, the algal scum can be a variety of colors such as fluorescent blue, green white, red or brown. Blooms can have more than one color present and may look like thick paint floating on the water and give off a foul odor. If you see a warning sign or signs of a harmful algal bloom, such as discolored, pea-green water, surface scum or floating algae, **stay out of the water**. To read the full Alpine County Health Brief, follow this link: <https://alpinecountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2681>



Notice of Committee Vacancies

The District is seeking qualified community members who may be interested in serving on a District Committee. There are currently vacancies on the Finance, Operations, Planning, and Information Technologies Committees. Each Committee Charter calls for membership to consist of two Board Members and up to five Community Members for a term of two years. The Finance Committee reviews for recommendation to the Board the yearly operating, capital expenditure, and reserve budgets prepared by management and recommends financial policies to the Board. The Operations Committee reviews projects of an operational nature to help the Board arrive at informed decisions. The Planning Committee identifies future issues, opportunities, and requirements for which advanced planning can be beneficial to the District and makes recommendations to the Board. The Information Technologies (IT) Committee reviews for recommendation to the Board, system updates, identified vulnerabilities, and recommends solutions. If you're interested in helping shape the District's future and can commit a minimum of 1-2 hours per month, we would like to hear from you. Please send a letter of interest and statement of qualifications to Jessica Gillies at jgillies@kmpud.com.

2019 Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department Fundraising

The 2019 Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) fundraising season has been an enormous success! The 2019 Kirkwood Summer Festival raised just over \$43,000, exceeding our goal by \$13,000. Thanks to the efforts of Cheryl Stern and a few key community volunteers, the Silent Auction raised \$10,000. Just over \$19,000 was raised in donations alone and \$22,000 was raised through the purchase of Summer Festival tickets. Thank you, so much, to the Kirkwood Community for your generosity! Your support of the Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department helps keep you, your neighbors, and all visitors to Kirkwood safe. Funds raised in 2019 will be used for the purchase of safety equipment for the volunteer firefighters and equipment for KVFD.

KMPUD Board of Directors:

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