

Coastlines

News and information for Customers of Central Lincoln People's Utility District



March 2009

Vandalism:

It's Expensive For All Of Us

“Destruction of utility property is a federal offense.”

Every year, we hope this issue will go away. But, unfortunately, every year it needs to have thousands of dollars worth of damage caused by vandals. Evidently substations, building walls, poles, insulators, transformers, street lights and other utility equipment can make tempting targets for some people.

A lot of the vandalism we get is spray-painted graffiti on our buildings and walls. Unfortunately, a lot of the graffiti is obscene, or racist, or otherwise offensive, and it must be removed quickly.

Vandalizing is not limited to painting, though. A lot of it involves shooting at insulators, thrown rocks, break-ins at outbuildings, vehicle damage, and a variety of other methods. The only common denominator is that it's all expensive to repair.

Vandalism to utility facilities can cause lengthy outages. Outages cost our customers money in many unseen ways. Damage to their electrical equipment, loss of perishables, loss of business, etc.

We also have a lot of customers who are on life-support systems. Power outages caused by vandalism are not only inconvenient for these people, they can be dangerous, too.

The PUD has to spend a lot of time and money to repair the damage. Since we're a publicly-owned utility, it's the public who ends up paying the bill for this vandalism.



And it's only a tiny percentage who are irresponsible and cause all the damage that the rest of us must pay for.

Besides being expensive and dangerous, vandalism is also illegal. Willful damage or destruction of utility property is a federal offense, and the PUD has no choice but to treat it as such.

We take vandalism very seriously, and you should too. Many of our facilities are located in fairly isolated areas. We can't always be on hand, so if you see anyone damaging or destroying utility property, please contact your local law enforcement officials right away.

Attention Landlords



Are you a landlord whose tenants are responsible for their own electric accounts? If so, you know that having to open accounts in your own name between tenants can be a pain. Central Lincoln offers an arrangement that makes the account transition from tenant to landlord painless.

Under our A.H.U.S. (*Automatic Hook-Up Service*) Agreement, landlords will be automatically billed when a rental unit is vacant. Billing includes all kilowatt hours at

the current rate, plus prorated basic charge. No processing fee is charged to the landlord for this account. (*New tenants opening accounts in their own names will be billed our standard processing fee.*)

Setting up an A.H.U.S. Agreement is easy and will save you time in the future. If you're interested, download and fill out a form from our website, www.clpud.org, or simply stop by your local Central Lincoln office today.

“The automated equipment at the Post Office reads the bar code first.”

Bar Code Blues

Every month we get several pieces of mail we aren't supposed to get. And it's because of the postal bar-coded return envelopes we send out with our monthly billing.

Those envelopes have our address printed on them just below a small window designed to show our name when you put the return billing stub in the envelope.

But some people attempt to use the envelope to mail in their water bill, or their rent, or one of their other bills.

They cross out our address, write in a new one, put the bill and payment inside, and drop it in the mail. And guess what? It still comes to us.

That's because of the postal bar-coding at the bottom of the envelope. The automated equipment at the Post Office reads the bar code first, and that's where they send the letter.

Then we have to send the letter back to the customer, who must put everything in a new envelope and mail it again. And maybe even have to pay a late charge because their payment didn't get where they expected it to on time.

So please, don't try to use our return envelopes to send anything somewhere else. Or if you do, make sure you completely cover up or black out the pre-printed bar code. Thanks.



Security Lighting Helps Prevent Crime

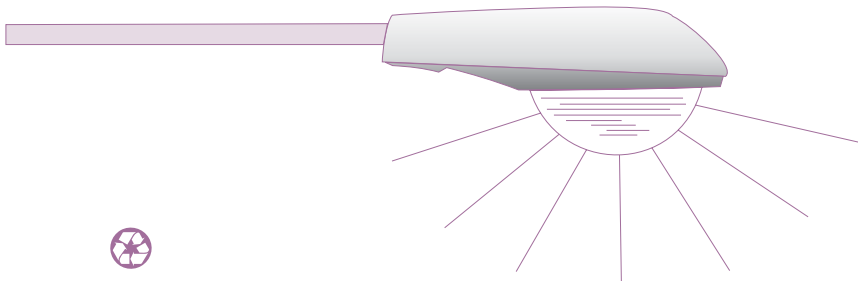
One of the best deterrents to crime and vandalism in our communities is adequate lighting. Central Lincoln offers three styles

Central Lincoln owns and maintains the equipment, and essentially the customer pays a rental fee. These lights are not metered, so you don't pay for the electricity to operate them.

Or if you'd rather supply your own lighting, a number of outdoor-safe lighting products are available in local stores. Electricians and lighting supply outlets can help you select the proper equipment for you outdoor needs.

Just make sure any products you use are rated for outdoor use. And if you'd like to use our yard lighting service, contact the Central Lincoln office nearest you.

of yard lighting to our customers, available at fixed monthly rates ranging from \$12.39 to \$32.92 per month.



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