

**OWNED  
BY THOSE  
WE SERVE**

DOUGLAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.,  
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**Mission Statement**

“The mission of Douglas Electric Cooperative, a member-owned and operated cooperative, is to provide affordable, reliable electric and other compatible services that enhance the quality of life for its members, using progressive marketing in conjunction with sound financial and management principles.”

**DOUGLAS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



**Northwest Dams - Renewable Bounty**

Dear Members,

The Northwest is rich in renewable energy resources. While other regions of the country struggle to develop clean, sustainable energy supplies, dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers continue to turn moving water into electricity. The Northwest's abundant precipitation was tapped decades ago to provide a reliable, non-polluting source of power to light homes and fuel industry.

The dams that today generate most of the region's electricity are ideal building blocks for a greater renewable energy future that includes wind, solar, geothermal and wave-driven projects. The system of dams in the Northwest holds the key to a greener tomorrow.

Hydro is very flexible generation. Its output can be increased and decreased at a moment's notice. This characteristic makes it an ideal backup for intermittent power sources such as wind turbines. When the wind slows down, hydropower can take up the slack. Dams have already smoothed the way for thousands of megawatts of wind power to be brought into the Northwest's power grid. And the dams will play a critical supporting role for thousands more that are expected.

The hydro system is, quite simply, the economic engine for the Northwest. As the region continues to grow, the system will be pushed to its limits and new generation must be added to meet demand. Fortunately, we have an abundance of untapped renewable energy resources. As we develop these opportunities, the hydro system can provide the backup such resources need to be effective contributors to our power supply.

Dams and fish coexist according to recent data. In fact, record runs were experienced in 2001, and today there are more fish in the Columbia River than at any time since the first dam was built in 1938. Fish-friendly turbine upgrades, transporting fish around dams in barges, changing hydro operations to provide more water to move fish downstream, bypass systems that move fish around dams, and predator control investments have combined to greatly enhance fish survival.

Hydroelectric dams provide a source of energy that is sustainable, emits no greenhouse gases and leaves behind no waste. They are the original renewable energy source, providing the foundation for additional environmentally friendly resources that will serve the Northwest and you in the future.

Best Regards,

Dave Sabala  
General Manager

Visit our Web site at [www.douglaselectric.com](http://www.douglaselectric.com)

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