

## Chris Pasinetti

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**From:** Leek, Sandy <sandy.leek@pse.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 5:21 PM  
**To:** Chris Pasinetti  
**Cc:** Chris Searcy; Tousley, Amy; Loh, Julien  
**Subject:** Enumclaw Comprehensive Plan -- PSE General Comments -- April 2024  
**Attachments:** PSE Comp Plan Language Comments April 2024.xlsx

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Good Afternoon Chris,

On behalf of Puget Sound Energy (PSE), I am reaching out to convey our thoughts for your consideration as part of the periodic update to the comprehensive plan and development regulations under the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), specifically Chapters 36.70A and 43.21C.

The attached spreadsheet contains suggested language as it relates to customer programs and our shared climate goals. In the attached, you will find 7 tabs grouped by category.

At PSE, we recognize that climate change is one of the biggest existential threats facing our planet today. As one of the largest producers of renewable energy in the Pacific Northwest, PSE has been an early leader in addressing climate change and investing billions in renewable resources and energy efficiency for homes and businesses. Now, PSE is on the path to meet the current and future needs of its customers and to deliver on the requirements to decarbonize operations and serve its customers and communities equitably. This transition is unprecedented in terms of the magnitude of the change and the accelerated time frame in which it must be achieved. By working together, we can successfully drive towards our shared clean energy goals.

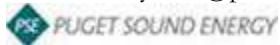
PSE looks forward to providing input as the comprehensive plan items are discussed in more detail. Together, we can reduce emissions and keep energy safe, reliable, and affordable.

Thank you,

***Sandy Leek***

Senior Municipal Liaison Manager

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PSE Program	Energy Equity	Model Comp Plan Language
<b>Assistance Programs</b>		

**PSE's Bill Discount Rate (BDR):** Our BDR program provides income qualified customers with ongoing help on their monthly energy bill. Depending on household income and size, customers can save 5% to 45% a month on your bill.

**PSE Home Energy Lifeline Program (HELP):** PSE provides qualified customers with bill-payment assistance beyond the Washington state LIHEAP program. Customers do not need to owe a balance on their PSE bill to apply.

**LIHEAP Program:** This government program provides financial assistance so eligible households can maintain affordable, dependable utility services and avoid disconnection. PSE can assist with eligibility requirements and applications.

**The Salvation Army Warm Home Fund:** Administered by the SA and funded by voluntary contributions from PSE customers, employees, and investors. The Warm Home Fund provides short-term, emergency bill payment assistance to PSE customers facing financial difficulties.

**Payment Arrangements:** PSE will work with customers to produce a manageable payment schedule with a realistic timeline for up to 18 months.

**Budget Payment Plan:** PSE provides customers with a predictable average monthly payment to reduce bill fluctuation and avoid unplanned high bills during winter heating months.

**Home Weatherization Assistance:** This program provides free upgrades for single-family homes, manufactured homes or eligible apartment buildings. Upgrades can include insulation, duct sealing and much more.

**Energy Efficiency Boost Rebates:** PSE offers higher rebates on energy-efficient upgrades to income-qualified customers.

**Low-Income Eligible Community Solar:** This no cost program enables bill savings of up to \$40 per month for income eligible customers.

Partner with PSE to promote financial assistance and discounted billing programs for income qualified residents in order to ensure that the most vulnerable are not disproportionately impacted by the State's clean energy transition.

## Electric Vehicles

PSE Program

Model Comp Plan Language

### PSE Up & Go EV Charging Programs

**PSE Up & Go Electric for Public:** PSE helps organizations easily and affordably install public charging for all EV drivers.

**PSE Up & Go Electric for Fleet:** PSE empowers businesses, municipalities and more with electrifying their fleets.

**PSE Up & Go Electric for Multifamily:** PSE brings pole charging to multifamily properties to attract new residents and keep existing ones.

Support EV charging infrastructure throughout the community in order to support the decarbonization of our transportation sector.

**PSE Up & Go Electric for Workplace:** PSE brings charging to workplaces so employees can electrify their commutes.

**PSE Home Charging:** PSE provides rebates and incentives for the installation of home EV charging stations.

## Energy Efficiency & Green Options

PSE Program

Model Comp Plan Language

### Energy Efficiency

**Home Energy Assessment:** PSE offers a quick and convenient 3-step process to help customers understand and control their home's energy usage.

**Energy Efficiency Rebates:**

- Appliance program
- Electric hybrid heat pump water heaters
- Smart thermostats program
- Weatherization program
- Windows, water heat and space heat programs
- Home weatherization assistance
- Insulation

Partner with PSE to promote energy efficiency programs and initiatives.

Expedite permitting processes related to energy efficiency upgrades.

**Other PSE Energy Rebates:**

- EV chargers
- New construction

**Clean Buildings Accelerator:** PSE assists customers with complying with Washington's Clean Buildings Law (HB 1257, 2019).

### Green Options

**Green Power:** PSE customers can voluntarily contribute to PSE investments in renewable energy projects in the Pacific Northwest.

**Solar Choice:** PSE customers can voluntarily purchase solar energy from independent sources through PSE.

**Carbon Balance:** PSE customers can voluntarily purchase carbon offsets from local forestry projects through PSE.

**Community Solar:** PSE customers can voluntarily contribute to solar projects of their choice installed on such facilities as local school and community centers.

Partner with PSE to promote local investments and customer enrollment in clean energy projects and programs in order to achieve clean energy goals.

**Renewable Natural Gas:** PSE customers can voluntarily purchase blocks of RNG to lower than carbon usage and support the development of locally produced RNG.

**Green Direct:** This program is offered to local municipalities and corporations seeking to reduce their carbon footprint by investing in large scale renewable energy projects. This program is currently full.

## Demand Response - Energy Management

PSE Program

Model Comp Plan Language

### Peak Load Shifting

**Time of Use (TOU) Program:** PSE's current pilot program uses variable 24 hour pricing to incentivize customers to use less power during times of peak demand.

**Flex Rewards:** This program encourages and financially incentivizes voluntary reduction in energy use during peak demand.

Partner with PSE to promote and support programs designed to decrease load on the grid during times of peak use.

**Flex Smart:** This program financially rewards customers for allowing PSE to make remote minor adjustments to thermostats during periods of high peak load and demand.

**Flex EV:** This program incentivizes EV charging during off-peak hours.

## Grid Modernization & Infrastructure

PSE Investments/Initiatives

Model Comp Plan Language

### New Carbon Free Electrical Generation & Energy Storage Systems

**Wind and Hybrid Wind (co-located wind and battery):** A variable source of power representing approximately 30% of PSE's future electric resource need by 2030.

**Solar and Hybrid Solar (co-located solar and battery):** A variable source of power representing approximately 16% of PSE's future electric resource need by 2030.

**Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS):** A technology that will allow energy to be stored for future use representing about 22% of PSE's future electric resource need by 2030. Types of energy storage technology include:

- Chemical (e.g., Lithium-Ion Iron-Air)
- Thermal (e.g., carbon, molten salt)
- Gravity (e.g., water pumping, mechanical)

Partner with PSE to effectively meet rapidly increasing electrical demand as the City and region work to achieve a Clean Energy Transition by adopting codes that support siting existing and new technologies.

Variable generation sources (wind & solar) require large scale **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)** to be fully utilized since the sun goes down when demand increases and wind often fades when most needed; such as during extremely cold weather. Batteries maximize electrical production from variable generation sources, help meet periods of peak demand, and provide greater reliability for the grid.

### New and Upgraded Transmission Lines, Substations, and Distribution Lines

New regional **transmission** lines are needed to serve new utility scale clean energy resources, such as wind and solar.

New local **transmission** lines are needed to meet increasing local demand due to growth, EV's, and electrification of the heating sector (e.g., Sammamish to Juanita line in Kirkland).

**Transmission** upgrades are needed to meet increasing local demand (e.g., Energize Eastside line in Redmond, Bellevue, Newcastle, and Renton upgraded from 115kv to 230kv) due to growth, EVs, and electrification of the heating sector.

Expedite the local permitting and approval process in order to maintain grid capacity and reliability.

In order to assure continued capacity and reliability, new and larger **substations** will be needed to meet growing energy needs due to growth, EVs and electrification of the heating sector.

Additional 12.5kv **distribution lines** will be needed to meet growing energy needs due to growth, EVs and electrification of the heating sector.

### Behind the Meter - Distributed Energy Resources (DER)

**Customer Connected Solar:** PSE assists customers with information and resources for installing residential solar projects and how to apply for interconnection and net metering with PSE.

**Battery Walls:** PSE offers installation guidelines and a process whereby customers can report battery installations.

**Host An Energy Project:** Community partners can get paid to lease space to PSE to develop distributed solar and/or battery storage projects.

Promote and support the growth of customer owned distributed energy resources.

**Distributed Renewables:** PSE supports the development of commercial customer-owned renewable energy projects that generate between 100 kilowatts and 5 megawatts to interconnect to the PSE electrical distribution grid.

### Vegetation Management

Many cities are pursuing aggressive urban forestry programs in order to beautify their community, reduce heat islands, and to provide carbon offsets. Such policies should be balanced with the need to protect electrical system reliability around overhead lines.

Support ongoing vegetation management in order to maintain system reliability.

### Public Funding

Recent state and federal legislation, including the IJA and IRA, have unlocked public funding for climate and environmental benefit. PSE is aggressively pursuing all applicable funding opportunities to support lower customer bills, reduced power costs, and investments in the grid and clean energy. PSE is also supporting municipalities, tribes, and non-profits in their applications for public funding.

Pursue public-private partnership to seek funding sources to accelerate clean energy projects.

## Wildfire Preparedness

PSE Program

Model Comp Plan Language

### Wildfire Mitigation

**Situational Awareness:** PSE evaluates the condition of the electric system, as well as the environment around it, using real-time weather data, wildfire risk modeling and pre-wildfire season inspections.

**Strengthening the electric system:** PSE regularly maintains and updates the electric system to provide safe and reliable power to our customers. In areas of high wildfire risk, we identify maintenance and improvement activities that will further reduce the risk of wildfire, including **vegetation management**, equipment upgrades, and in some cases, moving power lines underground.

**Operational Procedures:** During wildfire season, PSE may change some device settings or implement operational procedures to reduce the risk of wildfire. In the future, PSE may proactively turn off power during high wildfire risk conditions to help prevent wildfires. This is called a **Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)**.

**Emergency Response:** During an emergency, including an active wildfire, PSE will coordinate with local emergency officials and may implement emergency response procedures. This may include turning off power at the request of emergency officials for public and first responder safety.

Support PSE's wildfire mitigation efforts including electric system upgrades, year-round vegetation management, and fire weather operational procedures. Work closely with utilities and local fire departments to lessen the risk and impact of wildfires.

**Gas Conservation & Decarbonization**

PSE Program

Model Comp Plan Language

**Gas Decarbonization**

**Renewable Natural Gas Production**

Utilizing wastewater facility, landfill, or similar system.

Evaluate the potential for renewable, recoverable natural gas in existing systems.