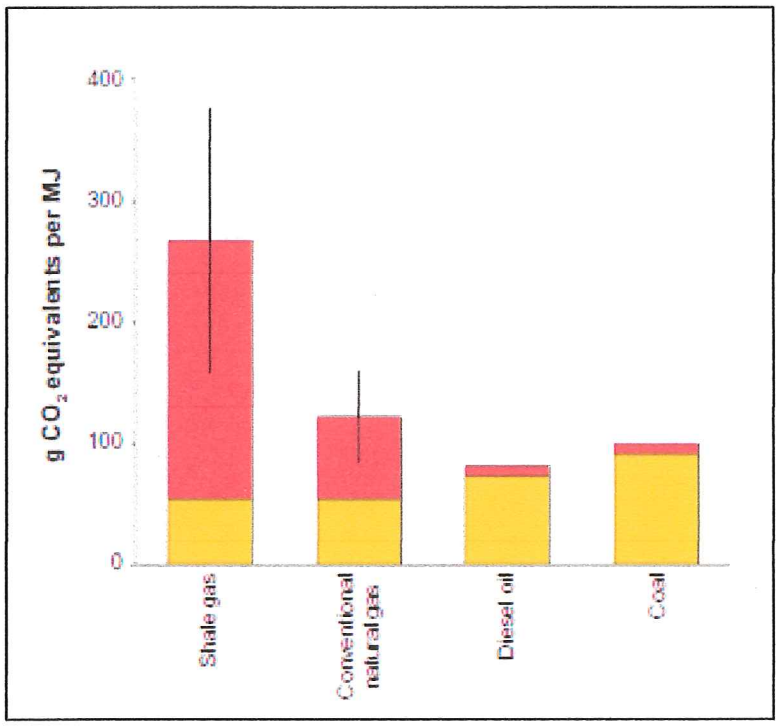
PSE IRP Testimony

Docket Nos. UE-160918 and UG-160919

Puget Sound Energy's own website proudly announces that over 44,000 of its customers pay extra on their monthly bills to support investments in green energy: Swauk Valley Ranch wind near Ellensburg or the LRI Landfill to biogas project in Graham. In 2017 the company began offering a "solar choice" program to encourage customers to match their electricity use with solar power. PSE's own surveys indicate that over half of their customers consider "green" an important factor in doing business. And, according to PSE: "Doing smart things for our customers and the right thing for our planet is what PSE is all about. We're advancing clean technology and energy efficiency to build a better future." (https://pse.com/aboutpse/Environment/Pages/default.aspx)

At the same time, PSE wants to replace its aging coal-fired electrical supply with electricity generated by fracked gas. Research shows that despite claims that gas is clean-burning, the life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions from fracked gas are two-and-a-half times that of coal. Puget Sound Energy will be locking the region into energy production that contributes to global climate change instead of combatting it.

PSE's plans for the future are out of step with what the people of the region have expressed as important to them. Instead of enhancing the lives of people in this region, their proposal to add fracked gas would mean that we would look forward to a future fraught with higher temperatures, reduced snowpack, more winter rainfall, changing stream flows, less available hydropower, and increases in ocean acidification, and more damaging coastal storms (https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-northwest_.html). We need to change that.



The greenhouse gas emissions of Shale (fracked) gas, Conventional gas, Diesel, and Coal.
Yellow indicates the direct and indirect emissions of carbon dioxide. Red shows the methane emissions using a global warming potential of 86 (as per IPCC assessments).
(Taken from Robert W. Howarth. "Methane emissions and climatic warming risk from hydraulic fracturing and shale gas development: implications for policy." *Energy and Emission Control Technologies*. October 8, 2015. p. 49. See also Robert W. Howarth, Renee Santoro, and Anthony Ingraffea. "Methane and the greenhouse-gas footprint of natural gas from shale formations." *Climate Change*. (2011) 106:679–690.)

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