



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. • Lacey, Washington 98503

P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY 1-800-833-6384 or 711

May 31, 2023

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS ON
DECARBONIZATION PATHWAYS
(By 5 p.m. on Friday, June 30, 2023)**

Re: Relating to Decarbonization Pathways, Docket U-210553

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

In the 2021-23 Omnibus Operating Appropriations Act, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) received funding to “examine feasible and practical pathways for investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to contribute their share to greenhouse gas emissions reductions as described in RCW 70A.45.020 [state law].” As part of its examination, the Commission is directed to identify and consider the impacts of energy decarbonization on residential and commercial customers and electric and natural gas utilities. The results of the examination must be reported to the appropriate legislative committees.

The Commission has a contract with Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG) to model scenarios for reducing emissions from the electric and natural gas sectors and to support public engagement throughout the project. The Engagement Plan for this project is available on the Commission’s website in Docket U-210553 and on [the Energy Decarbonization project webpage](#).

BACKGROUND

A decarbonization “pathway” is a set of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and a schedule for implementing those actions. It includes information on the costs and benefits of those actions, such as how much they will help Washingtonians save on energy costs.

Each decarbonization pathway identified in this project will offer a set of options for investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to decarbonize. This study will not select or recommend specific actions but will provide options for consideration by the Washington State Legislature.

The Commission has directed SSG to develop potential decarbonization pathways by combining technical analysis with input from the public. The final actions in the decarbonization pathways are informed by the concerns, opportunities, and challenges identified by the public.

In conjunction with the report, SSG has created an interactive dashboard to share the data and modeling used in their analysis. The dashboard with the executive summary is available [here](#).

The Commission seeks comments and feedback from interested persons on the dashboard. General comments on other potential pathways are also welcome.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Interested persons may submit written comments no later than **5 p.m., Friday June 30, 2023**.

Please provide written comments in electronic form, preferably in searchable .pdf format (Adobe Acrobat or comparable software). Comments may be submitted via the Commission's web portal at www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing. If you are unable to submit documents via the portal, you may submit your comments by email to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov. Comment submissions should include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (Docket UE-210553).
- The commenting party's name.
- The title and date of the comment or comments.

The Commission will post on its web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The website is located at <https://www.utc.wa.gov/casedocket/2021/210553/docsets>.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically, the Commission will accept a paper document via mail.

Further information on the energy decarbonization pathways project is available on the Commission's website, [here](#).¹ If you have any questions, please contact Administrative Law Judge Samantha Doyle at (360) 742-4451, or by email at Samantha.doyle@utc.wa.gov.

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary

¹ The complete URL is <https://www.utc.wa.gov/regulated-industries/utilities/energy/natural-gasdecarbonization>.