

Comments on PSE's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

Docket number (UE-160918 and UG-160919)

I am specifically commenting on Chapter 8 of the IRP.

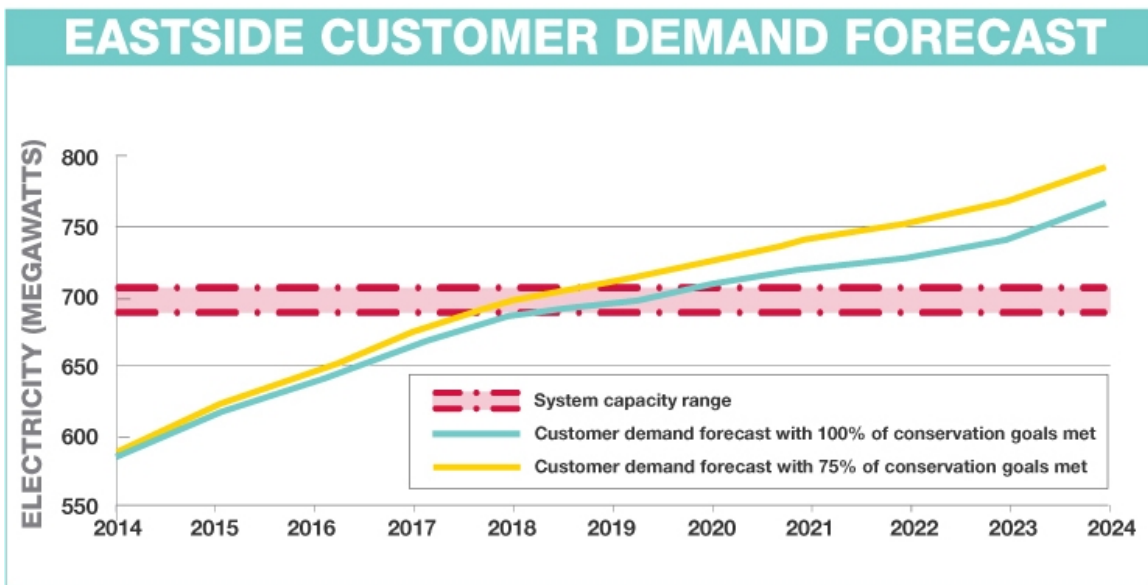
Demand Trends 01/16/17

A lot has changed since Puget Sound Energy first announced Energize Eastside to the public. Back then, their demand forecast looked possible. They predicted electrical demand growth along the lines of the population growth we have witnessed.

Unfortunately, they failed to take into account the impact of conservation efforts, like energy-saving lightbulbs and more efficient appliances that are installed in people's homes and businesses, apartments and institutions.

In fact, although the population has grown 1.8% since 2009, the use of electricity has decreased by 7 percent. The seven-percent figure is based on an insert in the mail that Puget Sound Energy sent its customers, congratulating them on saving 7% in energy conservation.

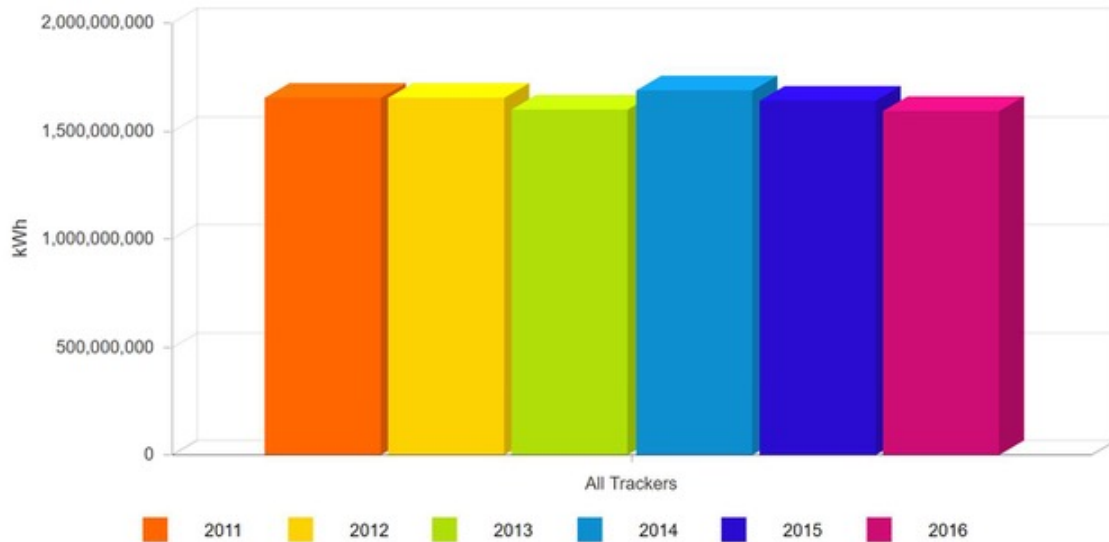
This is in high contrast to their demand forecast, which saw a steady increase in electricity demand up through 2024. I have provided a chart below from an archived webpage. The chart has been removed from the webpage, and has not been replaced. (Image 1)



<https://web.archive.org/web/20161024224832/energizeeastside.com/need>

Below is a chart that is available on the City of Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Website: (Image 2)

Total Electricity Use in Bellevue (kWh)



Source: PSE. Data provided as a courtesy to Bellevue solely for the purposes of GHG accounting. Data is pulled based on tax code. The data should not be used for predicting future trends. Past data will occasionally be updated to correct for errors

<https://k4c.scope5.com/pages/61>

As you can see, the “Demand Forecast” was incorrect; the actual demand has declined instead of increased. Both sets of this data are from PSE.

It seems that when they want to sell someone on how much they are contributing to the environment (i.e. saving energy) they give one picture (Image 2) and when they try to sell someone else on the justification for Energize Eastside, they give a completely different set of figures (Image 1).

I hope that the UTC sees these tactics for what they are: a manipulation of data to suit whatever purposes are needed for a particular audience.

In the future I would be very pleased if the UTC were able to incentivize a utility company’s use of renewables, specifically. This policy change would make wasteful projects like Energize Eastside a thing of the past. As it stands, the only incentive for utilities companies are for building more infrastructure. This policy is outdated and harmful to the environment and consumer’s wallets.

For now, I urge the UTC NOT to grant a rate increase on a project that is outdated and based on questionable assumptions and flawed data.

Cynthia Vautier