

From: [Tom Dechert](#)  
To: [Doyle, Samantha \(UTC\)](#); [Records Management \(UTC\)](#)  
Subject: RFP No. 23-PS-25  
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 9:07:45 PM

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External Email

Ms Doyle:

I should like to take this opportunity to submit a request/comment related to the Energy Decarbonization Pathways Examination RFP

Energy Decarbonization Pathways Examination RFP

**1.1. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND** The Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission hereafter called "AGENCY," is initiating this Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from teams, firms, or individuals interested in supporting AGENCY examining practical and feasible decarbonization pathways for privately owned energy utilities in Washington State. The 2021-23 Omnibus Operating Appropriations Act in Senate Bill 5092, Section 143(4), requires AGENCY to examine potential pathways for energy utility decarbonization and the impacts of those pathways. As part of that examination, AGENCY is required to identify and consider utility impacts; environmental, health, and economic costs and benefits to customers; equity considerations for low-income customers and highly impacted communities, and potential regulatory changes to facilitate decarbonization of the services that gas companies provide while ensuring customer rates are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. AGENCY is required to submit a report to the legislature by June 1, 2023

To be succinct, I suggest that the AGENCY immediately stop approval for any and all rebate programs which encourage rate payers to install gas fired furnaces or other appliances in homes or businesses. I suggest that this action should be taken immediately by all regulated utilities.

It makes no sense whatsoever when we are all trying to reduce our carbon footprint in response to global warming to have regulated utilities continuing to offer financial encouragement to individuals and businesses to increase the use of natural gas. If individuals or businesses decide to convert to natural gas, that of course is still their decision. But the AGENCY should stop encouraging or allowing the utilities to encourage such action through rebates.

I note that I recently converted my home heating from an efficient gas furnace to a system controlled by an electric heat pump, with the gas furnace as a backup when it gets too cold for the heat pump to operate. My goal was to reduce my carbon footprint, although I recognize that my utility bills will likely increase. There is no rebate through AVISTA for such action on my part, and I'm not advocating for one through this comment. That's probably another discussion. But I also note that Great Britain is considering a \$7,000 rebate for the installation of heat pumps.

My point is simply that it is time for the AGENCY to stop authorizing the use of rebates to encourage people to install systems that increase their carbon footprint. Doing away with the rebates would be a simple means for some utility decarbonization as identified in the purpose of this RFP.

Sincerely  
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