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February 24, 2022

Amanda Maxwell  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

VIA EMAIL  
RECORDS@UTC.WA.GOV

RE: Puget Sound Energy Clean Energy Implementation Plan

Dear Executive Director Maxwell,

On behalf of the City of Issaquah, we are pleased to submit this public comment to the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission on Puget Sound Energy's Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP). The City is requesting modifications to the CEIP.

The City of Issaquah recently adopted a Climate Action Plan, which includes ambitious targets for 2030 such as a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in new buildings, and 20% reduced fossil fuel use in existing buildings. In order to achieve these targets and ensure a cleaner and healthier future for our community, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) needs to expedite their commitment and obligation to providing clean energy.

The City has been a leader and longtime participant of renewable energy opportunities, such as an early customer to PSE's Green Direct program, overseeing a successful Solarize campaign, and pursuing grants and other funding opportunities for solar projects. We welcome additional opportunities to work with our community and PSE on renewable energy options.

Specific modifications we would like to see in PSE's CEIP include the following:


1. Faster action to reduce energy demand. We support PSE's intent to expand their Demand Response and Time Varying Rate programs, as long as there are considerations for equity through implementation. Reducing energy demand will not only support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, but may support grid resilience, which is a concern in our community.

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2. Accelerate acquisition of new renewable clean energy resources – especially community solar and distributed solar. Our community stands by waiting to partner on new projects.
3. Accelerate advancements in local solar and battery installations, in order to increase the resiliency of the electric system. Our community experiences frequent outages, and as we move towards electrification in our City, we need to ensure we have reliable power particularly in times of emergencies.
4. Incorporate climate modeling to reflect future conditions more accurately. Our region has some of the greatest climate modeling resources in the world, with readily available information from the University of Washington’s Climate Impacts Group. Our communities are using this information as we prepare for the future – shouldn’t PSE as well?
5. Encourage PSE to expand the Green Direct program widely to provide a stable, cost efficient, renewable energy solution to customers. The City of Issaquah was an early Green Direct customer and strongly supports the ability to purchase directly from a renewable energy source. As PSE looks to expand the Green Direct program and bring on more customers, it must do so in a way that acknowledges the contribution towards the CEIP requirements and provides a fixed and fair rate.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the City of Issaquah’s comments. We recognize that local, regional and state actions are necessary to achieve our climate targets and the City will continue to work with PSE and regional partners to advance opportunities for a faster transition to clean energy. If you have any questions about the City’s comments, please contact our Sustainability Manager, Stacy Vynne McKinstry (stacyvm@issaquahwa.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Victoria Hunt, Councilmember

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Lindsey Walsh, Council President

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Zach Hall, Deputy Council President