

From: [Steven Bergman](#)
To: [Records Management \(UTC\)](#)
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To: Amanda Maxwell, Executive Director and Secretary, UTC,
P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250
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Dear Director Maxwell,

I believe the UTC needs to take strong action now if our offspring are to have a livable future. I am concerned about how PSE is contributing to the Climate Crisis by not doing all they can to rapidly transition away from fossil fuels to greener sources of energy. This note is urge the UTC to convince PSE to improve their Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP).

Here are two significant opportunities for reducing emissions, improving reliability, and reducing costs:

1) *PSE should move more rapidly to reduce demand and convert to clean energy by:*

a) reducing demand for electricity with more aggressive programs such as [Demand Response](#), Time Varying Rates, and develop new programs to engage their customers to conserve energy, and

b) increase acquisition of wind, solar, storage, and distributed energy resources.

More aggressive demand reduction would avoid the need to build additional capacity to cover peak loads (such as a new natural gas-powered peaker plant). PSE should cover much of its base load with renewable resources, and then use existing natural gas plants to serve occasional peak needs. Faster acquisition of renewable resources will help protect against potential price increases. Natural gas prices are volatile, have been rising recently, and are likely to remain high. Renewables are cheaper and less vulnerable to price swings than natural gas, which is affected by supply limitations and political instability.

2) *The CEIP should include climate change in its projections.*

The forecasting models that PSE used to develop their CEIP do not account for future climate change. Instead, PSE's models rely on temperature data going back 90 years. Recent decades have been significantly warmer and exhibit increasing rates of change. Therefore, PSE's CEIP would invest in energy resources designed to serve cooler winter and summer conditions than we will likely experience. Whereas demand for electricity is likely to continue its decline during warmer winters, summer peak demand is likely to rise. PSE should accelerate acquisition of local solar generation and battery capacity, which could reduce stress on distribution lines during potential heat dome events and thereby strengthen the resilience of the electric grid.

I am trying to do my part to help with the transition to green energy by installing rooftop solar in 2017 and hope PSE can also increase their solar PV production. Like

many of my Vashon Island neighbors, I support the changes that Washington Clean Energy Coalition recommends the UTC require in PSE's CEIP, namely:

- 1) Reduce peak demand by requiring PSE to expedite and expand their Demand Response and Time Varying Rates programs;
- 2) Reduce price volatility and greenhouse gas emissions by requiring PSE to accelerate acquisition of new renewable clean energy resources;
- 3) Increase the resiliency of the electric system by requiring PSE to increase programs that encourage local solar and battery installations; and
- 4) Reflect future capacity needs more accurately by requiring PSE to revise temperature modeling to reflect the changing climate and then resubmit their CEIP.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Bergman

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