



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

APPENDIX A



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1. Introduction

Public participation is an essential part of developing Puget Sound Energy's 2023 Gas Utility Integrated Resource Plan (2023 Gas Utility IRP) and meeting regulatory requirements. Puget Sound Energy continues to expand and evolve how we engage with the public, using a structured approach that aims to increase accountability and demonstrate how we incorporate feedback across our work products.

The activities described in this document resulted in valuable feedback, suggestions, and practical information from the organizations and individuals that helped guide the public participation process and informed key components of the 2023 Gas Utility IRP. We thank those who participated in and supported this process for the time and energy they invested, and we encourage their continued participation.

Puget Sound Energy held seven public meetings in 2022 before filing the 2023 Gas Utility IRP with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) by April 1, 2023.

All materials related to the 2023 public participation process are available at pse.com/irp. The public participation materials include meeting agendas, presentations and datasets, meeting recordings, participant logs, chat transcripts, feedback reports, and meeting summaries.

Puget Sound Energy contracted public participation specialists from Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA) and Triangle Associates to help develop a public engagement strategy, provide independent meeting facilitation, develop meeting and public comment guidelines, assist with meeting documentation, and recommend approaches to promote transparent and timely communication and public engagement.

2. Public Participation Approach

We built public participation for the 2023 Gas Utility IRP on the foundations set and lessons learned through past IRP and other PSE processes. We formally adopted the [International Association of Public Participation \(IAP2\)](#) framework for the 2021 Gas Utility IRP and subsequent 2023 Gas Utility IRP. The IAP2 framework, and various public participation techniques, helped us design and implement an effective public participation process that allowed interested parties to clearly understand how they could influence components of key inputs, assumptions, and decisions throughout the process and provide valuable feedback to PSE.

All meetings were open to the public as we developed this IRP, and we encouraged attendees to participate actively. We observed safety measures for COVID-19 and held all public engagement virtually, using various online platforms, including PSE's IRP website, Zoom, and online feedback forms.

We are committed to reducing barriers to participation, communicating, and engaging with the public in various ways, such as recording meetings and making them available online, being transparent in sharing information and work products, and producing accessible documents.



2.1. Techniques and Objectives

Puget Sound Energy employed participation techniques designed to achieve specific meeting objectives. Our goal was to align participation objectives and techniques, clearly communicate when and how members of the public could provide input and feedback on report topics, offer straightforward and diverse methods for engagement, and indicate how we used feedback.

2.1.1. Transparency and Accessibility

To support and align key project milestones and decision points, we conducted brainstorming sessions weeks before every public meeting to develop clear objectives.

Puget Sound Energy's public participation practices prioritize transparency and accessibility. These practices include:

- Making comments from members of the public about the 2023 Gas IRP and its development, including responses addressing how the input was considered or used, available on the PSE website
- Making data inputs and files used to develop the 2023 Gas Utility IRP available
- Making meeting summaries and materials from 2023 Gas Utility IRP public meetings publicly available on the PSE website
- Making presentation materials available to the public at least three business days before each meeting
- Outlining the report schedule, public meeting schedule and significant topics to be covered on the PSE website (pse.com/irp)
- Providing transcripts of the chat log from public meetings and enabling live closed captioning

2.1.2. Public Webinars

We continued to practice safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a result, we hosted all public engagement activities via webinars. We designed these webinars to engage the public about critical milestones and topics in developing this IRP. During each webinar, those who participated could ask questions and provide feedback verbally or through the online chat feature. Triangle Associates facilitated participation to allow PSE staff to focus on the technical content of the presentations. If we could not answer a question during the meeting, we added it to the meeting feedback report, and PSE responded in writing. We mailed meeting reminders one week before each webinar to alert interested parties that we had posted the meeting materials at pse.com/irp and that feedback forms were open. PSE posted the webinar recordings and chat transcripts two days after each meeting to pse.com/irp.

2.1.3. Webinar Recordings

We recorded all webinars and posted them online two days after the meeting. The recordings included a voice recording, thumbnail versions of the slides we used to support the meeting discussion, and a written transcript for easy searching. We also included the speakers' names in the transcript. We used the webinar recordings to promote participation by those who could not attend but wanted to stay involved and provide feedback. We accepted all input, whether the participant attended the webinar or not.



2.1.4. Webinar Chat Log

PSE conducted all webinars via Zoom. All comments and questions received through the online chat feature were documented in the webinar chat log and posted online two days after each meeting. The chat log documentation includes a list of all attendees along with a name, timestamp, and the comment made by each participant. We answered participant questions verbally and from the written chat. We captured these answers in each webinar recording. We added any questions not addressed during the webinar to the feedback report and answered those questions in writing.

2.1.5. Feedback Forms

PSE designed an online feedback form and posted it at pse.com/irp/get-involved/give-feedback to promote topic-specific suggestions and questions related to each public webinar. The feedback form was opened one week before the webinar and closed one week after the meeting. Members of the public used the online feedback form to submit questions regarding the webinar presentation in advance of the meeting, and we typically answered those questions during the webinar. Following the webinar, members of the public used the feedback form to provide specific input regarding the report analysis and materials presented. Members of the public could also submit questions and comments at any time at pse.com/irp through a general comment form.

2.1.6. Feedback Reports

We prepared and posted feedback reports to pse.com/irp four weeks after each meeting. These reports included input, questions, and comments received from members of the public and written responses to feedback. The goal was to promote accountability and foster two-way communication. When we did not have sufficient time to respond to all participant feedback during a meeting, and if follow-up meetings were necessary to clarify input, the team provided a written response in the feedback report.

2.1.7. Meeting Summaries

PSE prepared and posted summaries of public meetings to pse.com/irp four weeks after each meeting, along with the feedback report. These summaries documented the major feedback themes we identified along with the feedback we received, reported on how we responded to feedback, and documented how we incorporated the feedback into this IRP.

2.1.8. Other Communication Tools

In addition to the techniques described, PSE also used the following communications tools:

- PSE sent email reminders about upcoming deadlines, webinars and registration information, and invitations to submit feedback forms and participate in surveys.
- PSE sent periodic email newsletters to remind the public about upcoming webinars and deadlines and included summaries of public feedback and updates on the status of the report's development.
- Triangle Associates conducted phone interviews with interested members of the public before public engagement meetings to discuss key concerns and explore process improvements.



3. Participants

One-hundred and fourteen organizations and 222 unique individuals participated in the development of this IRP. The participating organizations are listed below.

1890 & Co	Climate Solutions	Invenergy
Absaroka Energy LLC	Con Edison Clean Energy Business	Ironworkers Local 86
Atlas RP	Convergent Energy + Power	Jera Americas
Auto Grid	DNV	King County
Avangrid Renewables	Ease Engineers	Laborers Local 242
Avista	EcoPlexus	Laborers Local 252
BayWa r.e.	Elemental Energy	Lakeridge Resources
Beacon Energy	ENEL	Lightsource BP
Bonneville Power Association	Energy GPS	Lloyd Reed Consulting
Brightnight Power	Energy Solution	Matrixes Corp
Broadreach Power	Eolian Energy	Mitsubishi Power Americas
BV Power	esVolta	Monolith Energy Consulting
C Power Energy Management	Flex Charging	NextEra Energy Resources
Cadmus Group	Franklin Energy	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Cascade Natural Gas	Frontier Energy	NW Energy Coalition (NWECC)
Chelan PUD	General Electric	Obsidian Renewables, LLC
City of Des Moines	Generac Power Systems	Optimum Building Consultants
City of Enumclaw	Glarus Group	Oracle
City of Issaquah	Guidehouse Consulting	Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC)
City of Lake Forest Park	Hardy Energy	PA Consulting Group
City of Mercer Island	Hecate Energy	PAE
City of Olympia	Hull Street Energy	Pascoe Energy
City of Poulsbo	IATC	PGN
City of Redmond	IBV Energy	Phil Jones Consulting
City of Seattle	ICF Energy	
City of Tacoma	Innergex	
Clearway Energy		



Pierce County
Plus Power
Potelco
Power Ex
Q Cells
Renewable Northwest
Rye Development
Sagestone Ventures
Sapere Consulting
Scout Clean Energy
Shell
Sierra Club
Solar Horizon
SPI
SSVP
Storage Alliance
Strata Clean Energy
Strategen Consulting
Sun Energy Systems
Tenaska
The Masthead Group
TransAlta
Triangle Associates
Tuusso Energy LLC
UA Local 32
Washington Solar Energy
Industries Association
(WASEIA)
Washington State Office of the
Attorney General

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
(UTC)
Wattbridge
Western Energy Board
Western Power Pool
Western Solar
WestRock
Williams Companies
WRSI
Zipcon



4. Feedback Themes

The following section summarizes feedback themes from webinar meeting summaries and feedback reports during the 2023 Gas Utility IRP public participation process. We incorporated feedback into the 2023 Gas Utility IRP where it was feasible and cataloged some feedback to incorporate into the 2025 Gas Utility IRP cycle.

→ For additional details, please see specific meeting materials and documentation described in [Section 6: Meeting Documentation](#) of this document and hosted permanently at pse.com/irp.

4.1. Climate Change Impacts

Before and during this IRP cycle, several interested parties encouraged PSE to incorporate climate change data into the planning process. We recognized the importance of climate change in past cycles but needed additional data to ensure that any analysis that reflected climate change was accurate. We began incorporating forward-looking climate change assumptions rather than historical climate data into load forecasting in this IRP.

→ Please refer to [Chapter Five: Demand Forecast](#) for details regarding how we incorporated climate change into our demand forecast.

4.2. Public Participation Process

Members of the public gave us valuable feedback on ways to improve the public participation and feedback process. We implemented real-time improvements during this cycle and are assessing the process for the next IRP cycle. For more details on the public participation process, see [Section 2: Public Participation Approach](#) of this document.

4.3. Electrification Analysis

We developed an electrification analysis scenario for this IRP based on feedback from the public who asked us to incorporate state energy strategy targets. Additionally, we looked at electrification in a gas IRP for the first time. Our analysis found that electrification would significantly increase resource costs. However, considering the ongoing innovations in the decarbonization space, we look forward to conducting additional analysis in future IRP cycles. We are committed to exploring opportunities to reduce emissions in the gas utility. We will refine and update this analysis with the decarbonization requirements in the GRC settlement in the 2025 Gas Utility IRP.

4.4. Embedding Equity

When considering equity in resource planning, it is important to note that no specific guidance exists today to inform how we should embed equity into PSE's 2023 Gas Utility IRP. We recognize, however, that although resource



planning is not a decision-making process, it presents opportunities to view critical elements of our work through an equity lens and to make progress toward our equity goals.

For this IRP we took initial steps toward considering equity for the gas utility by including a spatial analysis of vulnerable populations in the conservation potential assessment consistent the low-income programs. Additionally, we initiated a conversation with interested parties, including our Equity Advisory Group (EAG), which will continue into the 2025 Gas Utility IRP cycle.

We expect to expand equity considerations in the 2025 Gas Utility IRP and beyond as we apply lessons learned from equity work across PSE and identify desired outcomes and goals.

4.5. Zero-growth Scenario

Puget Sound Energy considered feedback from interested parties in response to the draft 2023 Gas Utility IRP and made the zero-growth scenario the preferred portfolio for the final 2023 Gas Utility IRP.

4.6. Accessibility and Plain Language

While creating the 2023 Gas IRP PSE took measures to improve accessibility of our written IRP documents, public meetings and website content. Puget Sound Energy also heard from interested parties that they would like PSE to incorporate plain language into IRP documents to remove participation barriers and attract more members of the public into the resource planning process. We are still actively evaluating our content to ensure it meets accessibility standards for individuals with disabilities and encourages laypeople to get involved in our clean energy processes.

5. Timeline, Meetings, and Topics

We conducted all public meetings for this IRP remotely to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 while improving access for interested parties. Each meeting began with an orientation that explained how to participate using the electronic platform. Section 6: Meeting Documentation in this appendix provides links to documentation for each of the seven webinars.

5.1. January 2022

Date	Description
January 10	Invitation for January 20, 2022, <i>Energy planning process and next steps for 2022</i> webinar emailed to an expanded list of approximately 1,500 interested parties with topics including updates on the Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP), work plan for the 2023 Electric Progress Report, incorporating climate change data into the demand forecast, and Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA). The invitation provided a registration link to the first meeting and a sign-up or opt-out option for notifications concerning the process. Registration links and information are also posted on the PSE IRP page online.
January 13	Meeting materials for the January 20 webinar were posted to pse.com/irp , and a feedback form was opened for input.
January 20	<u>Energy Planning Process and Next Steps for 2022 Webinar</u>



Date	Description
	<p>Participant role: Inform and Consult</p> <p>Meeting platform: Zoom</p> <p>Attendance: 135 participants and the IRP project team</p> <p>PSE provided updates on the CEIP, and work plan for the 2023 Gas Utility IRP, explained climate change in load forecasting, and explained how the Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA) fits into the IRP.</p> <p>Interested parties shared their feedback on climate change models and CPA.</p>
January 24	A recording of the January 20 webinar and the transcript of the meeting chat was posted to pse.com/irp .
January 27	Feedback forms due for January 20 webinar, Energy Planning Process, and Next Steps for 2022; 5 individuals responded.

5.2. February 2022

Date	Description
February 25	A feedback report of comments collected from the feedback form for the January 20 webinar, PSE's responses, and a meeting summary posted to pse.com/irp .
February 27	Invitation emailed to an expanded list of approximately 1,500 interested parties for the March 31, 2022, Assumptions for the 2023 Gas Utility Integrated Resource Plan webinar.

5.3. March 2022

Date	Description
March 13	Invitation for March 31 Assumptions for the 2023 Gas Utility Integrated Resource Plan webinar emailed to an expanded list of approximately 1,500 interested parties with listed topics including carbon pricing, resource alternatives and costs, and gas scenarios. Registration link to the webinar was included, and a sign-up or opt-out option for notifications concerning the process. Registration links and webinar information were also posted online.
March 24	Meeting materials for March 31 webinar were posted to pse.com/irp , and a feedback form was opened.
March 31	<p><u>Assumptions for the 2023 Gas Utility Integrated Resource Plan Webinar</u></p> <p>Participant role: Inform and Consult</p> <p>Meeting platform: Zoom</p> <p>Attendance: 68 participants</p> <p>PSE presented information on assumptions of the Gas Utility IRP timeline, carbon pricing and social cost of greenhouse gas emissions, resource alternatives and costs, and gas scenarios.</p>

5.4. April 2022

Date	Description
April 2	A recording of the March 31 webinar and the chat transcript were posted to pse.com/irp .
April 7	Feedback forms were due for March 31 webinar; two individuals responded.



5.5. May 2022

Date	Description
May 1	A feedback report of comments collected from the feedback form for the March 31 webinar, PSE's responses, and a meeting summary posted to pse.com/irp .
May 5	Invitation for <u>June 6 Electric and gas delivery system planning webinar</u> emailed to an expanded list of 1,500 individuals with listed topics including Delivery System Planning (DSP) overview, modernization investments, DSP advancements, and distribution and transmission interconnection cost. It also included a save the dates for all upcoming 2022 IRP meetings and legislative updates. A registration link to the webinar was included, along with a sign-up or opt-out option for notifications. Registration links and information were also posted online.
May 27	Meeting materials for June 6 webinar were posted to pse.com/irp , and the feedback form was opened.

5.6. June 2022

Date	Description
June 2	The second reminder was emailed to interested parties for the Electric and Gas Delivery System Planning (DSP) Webinar.
June 6	<u>Electric and Gas Delivery System Planning (DSP) Webinar</u> Participant role: Inform and Consult Meeting platform: Zoom Attendance: 77 participants PSE presented on Delivery System Planning ongoing work, Delivery System Planning — Integrating different voices, and Resource Interconnection Costs.
June 13	Feedback forms were due for June 6 webinar; four individuals responded.
June 17	Invitation for July 12 <i>Electric and gas demand forecast</i> webinar emailed to an expanded list of approximately 1,500 individuals with listed topics including the demand forecast assumptions, electric and gas forecast results, and electric vehicle forecast. Registration link to the webinar was included along with a sign-up or opt-out option for notifications. Registration links and information were also posted online.

5.7. July 2022

Date	Description
July 1	A report of comments collected from the feedback form for the June 6 webinar, PSE's responses, and a meeting summary posted to pse.com/irp .
July 5	Meeting materials for July 12 webinar posted to pse.com/irp , and a feedback form was opened.
July 12	<u>Electric and Gas Demand Forecast Webinar</u> Participant role: Inform and Consult Meeting platform: Zoom Attendance: 64 participants PSE presented natural gas results, electric results, demand forecast assumptions, and the electric vehicle forecast.
July 14	July 12 webinar recording, and chat posted to pse.com/irp .



Date	Description
July 22	Feedback forms due for July 12 webinar; one individual responded.

5.8. August 2022

Date	Description
Aug. 12	A feedback report of comments collected from the feedback form for the July 12 webinar, PSE's responses, and a meeting summary posted to pse.com/irp .
Aug. 29	Invitation for September 22 webinar emailed to an expanded list of approximately 1,500 individuals with listed topics including final resource need, Conservation Potential Assessment results, and final gas scenarios and gas alternatives. Registration link to Webinar was included, and a sign-up or opt-out option for notifications concerning the process. Registration links and information are also posted online.

5.9. September 2022

Date	Description
Sept. 15	Meeting materials for September 22 webinar were posted to pse.com/irp and a feedback form was opened.
Sept. 22	<u>Gas Utility IRP: Inflation Reduction Act, final scenarios and gas alternatives, Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA) results, and Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Pricing</u> Participant role: Inform and Consult Meeting platform: Zoom Attendance: 54 participants PSE presented updates on gas scenarios and sensitivities, CPA results, integration of the Inflation Reduction Act into IRP planning, and next steps for the 2023 Gas Utility IRP.
Sept. 24	September 22 webinar recording and chat posted to pse.com/irp .
Sept. 29	Feedback forms were due for September 22 webinar; 2 individuals responded

5.10. October 2022

Date	Description
Oct. 21	A feedback report of comments collected from the feedback form for the September 22 webinar, along with PSE's responses and a meeting summary posted to pse.com/irp .
Oct. 20	Date change announcement for December 12 webinar, originally scheduled for November 17, was emailed to an expanded list of approximately 1,500 individuals with listed topics, including draft portfolio results for the 2023 Electric Progress Report and 2023 Gas Utility IRP.

5.11. November 2022

Date	Description
Nov. 29	Cancellation announcement for the gas portfolio portion of the December 12 webinar was emailed to approximately 1,500 IRP email subscribers.



5.12. December 2022

Date	Description
Dec. 14	Invitation for January 17 webinar emailed to an expanded list of approximately 1,500 individuals with listed topics including gas portfolio resource planning and modeling results.

5.13. January 2023

Date	Description
Jan. 10	Meeting materials for January 17 webinar were posted to pse.com/irp , and a feedback form was opened.
Jan. 17	<p>Draft results of gas portfolio webinar</p> <p>Participant role: Inform and Consult</p> <p>Attendance: 59 participants</p> <p>PSE delivered an overview of the 2023 Gas Utility IRP modeling process and the preferred portfolio.</p>
Jan. 24	Draft 2023 Gas Utility IRP was posted online at pse.com/irp .
Jan. 24	Feedback forms due for January 17 webinar.

5.14. February 2023

Date	Description
Feb. 7	Feedback forms due for Draft 2023 Gas Utility IRP.
Feb. 27	Invitation for March 14 <i>Final portfolio results of the 2023 Electric Progress Report and Gas Utility IRP</i> webinar emailed to the expanded list of approximately 1,500 individuals with listed topics, including final draft results for the electric and gas portfolio. Registration link to webinar included, and a sign-up or opt-out option for notifications concerning the process. Registration links and information were posted online.

5.15. March 2023

Date	Description
March 7	Meeting materials for March 14 webinar was posted to pse.com/irp
March 14	<p>Final portfolio results of the 2023 Electric Progress Report and Gas Utility IRP Webinar</p> <p>Participant role: Inform</p> <p>Attendance: TBD</p> <p>In this webinar, PSE explained the market risk assessment and results of the stochastic analysis along with the preferred portfolios and background concerning the approach and methodology. PSE also explained how public feedback shaped the resource plan in both the Electric Progress Report and the Gas IRP.</p>
March 16	Meeting recording and chat log for March 14 webinar posted to pse.com/irp
March 24	Meeting summary for March 14 webinar posted to pse.com/irp .



6. Meeting Documentation

Links to materials for each 2023 report webinar are included below and posted on pse.com/irp.

6.1. January 20, 2022 Webinar

Topic: Energy planning process and next steps for 2022

- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [2022 Climate Change Data Calculation \[Excel\]](#)
- [Chat log](#)
- [Meeting recording](#)
- [Meeting summary](#)

6.2. March 31, 2022 Webinar

Topic: Assumptions for 2023 Gas Utility Integrated Resource Plan

- [Hot Sheet](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Chat log](#)
- [Meeting recording](#)
- [Meeting summary and feedback report](#)

6.3. June 6, 2022 Webinar

Topic: Electric and gas delivery system planning

- [Hot sheet](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Chat log](#)
- [Meeting recording](#)
- [Meeting summary and feedback report](#)

6.4. July 12, 2022 Webinar

Topic: Electric and gas demand forecast

- [Hot sheet](#)
- [Agenda](#)



- [Presentation](#)
- [Chat log](#)
- [Meeting recording](#)
- [Meeting summary and feedback report](#)

6.5. September 22, 2022 Webinar

Topic: 2023 Gas Utility IRP: Inflation Reduction Act, final scenarios and gas alternatives, Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA) results, and Climate Commitment Act (CCA) pricing

- [Hot sheet](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Chat log](#)
- [Meeting recording](#)
- [Meeting summary and feedback report](#)

6.6. January 17, 2023 Webinar

Topic: Updates and feedback on draft results of electric portfolios

- [Hot sheet](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Chat log](#)
- [Meeting recording](#)
- [Meeting summary](#)

6.7. March 14, 2023 Webinar

Topic: Final portfolio results of the 2023 Electric Progress Report and 2023 Gas Utility IRP

- [Hot sheet](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Chat log](#)
- [Meeting recording](#)
- [Meeting summary](#)