Acronyms & Definitions

Term	Definition
ACS	American Community Survey: helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities; created by the United States Census Bureau.
ADMS	Advanced Distribution Management System
AURORA	One of the software models PSE uses for integrated resource planning; the electric modeling forecasting and analysis software uses the western power market to produce hourly electricity price forecasts of potential future market conditions; identifies hypothetical portfolios of resources.
AMI	Advanced Metering Infrastructure: an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and customers; industry standard technology.
AMI	Area Median Income Level: the midpoint of a region's income distribution — half of households in the region earn more than the median and half earn less than the median.
BESS	Battery energy storage system
BCP	Biennial Conservation Plan: on or before November 1 of every odd-numbered year, a utility must file a biennial conservation plan with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). The plan must include, but is not limited to: A request that the WUTC approve its 10-year conservation potential and biennial conservation target. The extent of public participation in the development of the 10-year conservation potential and the biennial conservation target. The 10-year conservation potential, the biennial conservation target, biennial program details, biennial program budgets, and cost-effectiveness calculations. A description of the technologies, data collection, processes, procedures, and assumptions the utility used to develop the figures in (b)(iii) of this subsection. A description of and support for any changes from the assumptions or methodologies used in the utility's most recent conservation potential assessment. An evaluation, measurement, and verification plan for the biennium including, but not limited to: (A) The evaluation, measurement, and verification framework. (B) The evaluation, measurement, and verification budget; and (C) Identification of programs that will be evaluated during the biennium.

Acronyms and Definitions (Continued)

Term	Definition
	For the purposes of this section, 10-year conservation potential is derived pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-109-100
BTM	Behind the meter
burden reduction benefits	A customer benefit indicator category required by the WUTC for named communities.
beyond net zero carbon	PSE's aspirational goal to help reverse climate change by being beyond net zero carbon by 2045
CEAP	Clean Energy Action Plan
CEIP	Clean Energy Implementation Plan
CETA	Clean Energy Transformation Act: a state law that sets requirements for PSE's electric energy supply; includes clean energy standards and ensures all customer benefit from the clean energy transformation.
C&I	Commercial and Industrial
clean energy	Under CETA, clean energy focuses on electric energy resources like renewable and non-emitting energy, and alternative resources, like demand resource and distributed energy resources.
conservation	Measures to improve efficiency of customer's electric loads to reduce energy use and peak demand.
CRAG	Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Conservation Resource Advisory Group
consumption	The amount of electricity customers use over the course of a year, measured in kilowatt hours.
cost and risk reduction benefits	A customer benefit indicator category required by the WUTC, applied to all customers.
customer benefit indicators	A quantitative or qualitative attribute of resources or related distribution investments associated with customer benefits described in RCW 19.405.040 (8).
demand	The amount of power being required by customers at any given moment, measured in kilowatts.

Acronyms and Definitions (Continued)

Term	Definition
DR	Demand response: flexible, price-responsive loads, which may be curtailed or interrupted during system emergencies or when wholesale market prices exceed the utility's supply cost.
demand-side resources	These resources reduce demand. They include energy efficiency, distribution efficiency, generation efficiency, distributed generation, and demand response.
DER	Distributed energy resources: small-scale electricity generators like rooftop solar panels located on the distribution system; the power lines seen in most neighborhoods.
dispatchable	Electric energy whose production whose output can be switched off or on or otherwise moderated according to demand
distribution line	Medium-voltage line that carries 12.5–55 kilovolts of electricity from a substation to customers; reduced to service voltage at 110/240 V through smaller transformers located along distribution lines.
distribution system	Medium-voltage (12.5 kV-55 kV) infrastructure that carries electricity from a substation to customers; includes the substation transformer.
electric resource portfolio	A specific mix of electric resources to meet electric load.
energy assistance	A program undertaken by a utility to reduce customers' household energy burden.
energy assistance need	The amount of assistance necessary to achieve the level of household energy burden established by the WUTC.
energy benefits	A customer benefit indicator category required by the WUTC for highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.
energy burden	The share of annual household income used to pay annual home energy bills. Set by the Washington Department of Commerce, the threshold to determine energy assistance need is 6 percent.
EE	Energy efficiency: tools or appliances that help customers save energy.
energy democracy	A condition in which all the members of an energy system have a voice in decision-making for that system.
energy equity	Equity in all aspects of the energy system, including benefits, burdens, costs, and participation.

Acronyms and Definitions (Continued)

Term	Definition
energy justice	Defined by scholars as “a global system that fairly disseminates both the benefits and costs of energy services, and one that has representative and impartial energy decision-making.”
energy security and resiliency benefits	A customer benefit indicator category required by the WUTC; applied to all customers.
energy storage	A variety of technologies that allow energy to be stored for future use, like battery energy storage system (BESS) or pumped hydroelectric.
environmental benefits	A customer benefit indicator category required by the WUTC, applied to all customers.
EV	electric vehicle
FOTM	front-of-the-meter
FPL	federal poverty level
GHG	greenhouse gas
HCA	Hosting Capacity Analysis
HELP	Home Energy Lifeline Program: developed by PSE, provides bill payment assistance, supplementing Washington's Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
HIC	Highly impacted communities: as defined by CETA, “a community designated by the department of health based on the cumulative impact analysis required by RCW 19.405.140 or a community-located in census tracts that are fully or partially on "Indian country," as defined in 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1151.” [WAC 480-100-605]
income-eligible	Income-eligible household: very-low or lower-income household, which is eligible to rent a particular affordable unit. Income-eligible household is a household of one or more persons whose maximum income does not exceed 80 percent of area median income.
intermittent resources	Resources that provide power where the time of generation can’t be controlled, such as wind and solar power.
IQDR	Income-qualified discount rate: a discount on customer bills. Rate design includes program design, eligibility, operation, outreach, and funding

Acronyms and Definitions (Continued)

Term	Definition
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan: required by law to be filed every four years, identifies PSE's energy, capacity, and renewable and non-emitting energy needs over an established time horizon, and potential options to meet those needs.
kV	Kilovolt: equals 1,000 volts of electric energy. PSE uses kilovolts as a standard measurement when discussing things like distribution lines and the energy that reaches our customers.
kWh	Kilowatt hours: a measurement of energy, PSE uses kilowatt hours to measure customer energy use.
LIAC	PSE's Low Income Advisory Committee
LIHEAP	Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program
LINA	Low-income Needs Assessment: a study PSE conducted in 2019 to provide a better understanding of the needs related to energy affordability of low-income households in PSE's service territory, including data related to energy efficiency, specifically weatherization needs and opportunities.
load	The total of customer demand plus planning margins and operating reserve obligations.
low-income	Household incomes as defined by the WUTC, provided that the definition may not exceed the higher of 80 percent of area median household income or two hundred percent of the federal poverty level, adjusted for household size.
MW	Megawatt: unit of measurement of power. A megawatt equals 1,000,000 watts of electric energy. PSE uses megawatts as a standard measurement when discussing things like system load and peak demand.
named communities	Highly Impacted Communities and Vulnerable Populations
nameplate	The intended full-load sustained output of an energy facility. Reflects the installed capacity typically in Megawatts
net metering	A program that enables customers who generate their own renewable energy to offset the electricity provided by PSE.
non-emitting energy	Electricity from a generating facility or a resource that provides electric energy, capacity, or ancillary services to an electric utility and does not emit greenhouse gases as a by-product of energy generation. Non-emitting energy does not include renewable energy.

Acronyms and Definitions (Continued)

Term	Definition
non-energy benefits	A customer benefit indicator category required by the WUTC for named communities.
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
peak demand	Customers' highest demand for electricity at any given time, measured in megawatts.
public health benefits	A customer benefit indicator category required by the WUTC for all customers.
pumped hydro	Facilities that store energy in the form of water, which is pumped to an upper reservoir from a second reservoir at a lower elevation. During periods of high electricity demand, the stored water is released through turbines to generate power in the same manner as a conventional hydropower station.
reliability	The continuity of electric service experienced by retail customers. Reliability is measured in the duration and frequency of outages to customers.
renewable energy	As defined by CETA, renewable energy is "water; wind; solar energy; geothermal energy; renewable natural gas; renewable hydrogen; wave, ocean, or tidal power; biodiesel fuel that is not derived from crops raised on land cleared from old growth or first growth forests; or biomass energy." [WAC 480-100-605]
resiliency	The ability of a power system and its components to withstand and adapt to disruptions and rapidly recover from them. Disruptions in this context are generally high-impact, low-frequency (HILF) events such as extreme weather events, natural disasters, and human made threats.
substation	A vital component of electricity distribution systems containing utility circuit protection, voltage regulation, and equipment that steps down higher voltage electricity to a lower voltage before reaching your home or business.
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition: a system of remote control and telemetry used to monitor and control the transmission and distribution system including substations, transformers, and other electrical assets.
supply-side resources	Resources that generate or supply electric power or supply natural gas to gas sales customers. These resources originate on the utility side of the meter, in contrast to demand-side resources.
TOU	Time-of-use: a method of measuring and charging a utility customer's energy consumption based on when the energy is used. Utility companies charge more during the time of day when electricity use is higher. TOU rates vary by region and utility.

Acronyms and Definitions (Continued)

Term	Definition
transformer	A device that steps electricity voltage down from a higher voltage, or steps it up to a higher voltage, depending on use. Typically, it steps voltage down from a distribution voltage to 120 to 240 volts for customers' residential use. Transformers are the green boxes in some residences' front yard or the barrel-like canisters on utility poles.
transmission line	High-voltage lines that carry 55–5,000 kilovolts of electricity from generation plants to substations or from substation to substation. Transformers at the substation reduce voltage to distribution line voltage.
VPP	virtual power plant
VP	Vulnerable populations: as defined by CETA, “communities that experience a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to: Adverse socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation; and sensitivity factors, such as low birth weight and higher rates of hospitalization.” [WAC 480-100-605]
wholesale market purchases	Generally short-term purchases of electric power made on the wholesale market.
WUTC	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission