

Public Webinar | July 27, 2026

Integrated System Planning: What we've learned so far

Meeting details

- Monday, July 27, 2026
 - 12:00–1:00 p.m. (120 participants)
 - 5:30–6:30 p.m. (80 participants)
- Virtual webinars hosted by PSE and facilitated by Triangle Associates
- Links to:
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Presentation](#)
 - [Meeting recordings](#)

Questions and responses

The following table records participant questions and PSE responses from the public webinar. All meeting materials are available on the [ISP website](#).

PSE endeavors to provide clarity in responses but subsequent follow-up may be required at times. Please direct any follow-up clarifications to isp@pse.com.

No.	Date	Question or comment	PSE response
1	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	How is PSE / the state responding to the administration's withholding of clean energy grants to WA based on political affiliation?	PSE is doing everything within its power to meet grant requirements, move projects forward despite constraints, and receive as much promised federal aid as possible.

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2	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	Are you working on Thermal Energy Networks?	Thermal energy networks (TENs) are an emerging option PSE is studying. The technology is under consideration but not modeled in the ISP as it is an emerging technology. You can learn more about how PSE is studying TENs on our website .
3	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	One of the many reasons why I love living in the Northwest- how do we keep the costs down?	Evaluating cost is a major component of the ISP. PSE is evaluating the cost of different options over the planning horizon and forecasted cost information will be included when the ISP is complete.
5	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	How will homeowners using plug in solar panels help?	Plug-in solar has promise as an affordable way for customers to save energy, but U.S. electrical infrastructure and protections are not yet designed for reverse, bidirectional power flow. Until components are tested and certified, these systems are not permitted under the U.S. National Electrical Code. Resource shared: https://www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/plug-in-solar/
6	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	DC Pepco customers get paid a share of the utility's carbon credit revenue for installing solar- their site indicates this is 1k-3k per year, deeply incentivizing residential installations. I haven't heard of this being done for PSE or City Light. Is it possible? Does PSE sell credits or can it?	Under Washington State's Clean Fuel Standard (CFS), PSE can and does sell CFS credits. The CFS program is overseen by the WA State Department of Ecology and funds are to be invested in the further advancement of Transportation Electrification. Ecology worked with the Washington Department of Transportation and the Washington Department of Commerce to identify eligible project types and develop guidance on how utilities should prioritize these investments. At this time, the guidance does not include funding for residential solar installations. You can find more information here: Clean Fuel Standard - Washington State Department of Ecology
7	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	Would any of these implementations create a positive or negative effect on prices for utilities for us as customers?	PSE will be studying this in the ISP. In general, we expect growing needs to result in rate increases but will know more in a few months.
8	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	Do other organizations own pipes or transmission systems in PSE areas of energy delivery?	Yes, depending on the location. The regional system is interconnected; Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and other electric utilities own transmission facilities in the area. Cascade Natural Gas serves customers in Bellingham, Mt Vernon, and Kitsap peninsula that overlap with PSE's electric system. PSE was less certain

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			about specific gas-pipeline ownership and said that also depends on the location. You can read more here: About Us - Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
9	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	Does the 100% by 2045 mean NO gas from PSE?	No. The 100% clean energy by 2045 requirement discussed applies only to electricity generation: by 2045 PSE's electricity would not be generated from gas and will need to come from renewable or non-emitting resources. It does not mean residential gas service ends.
10	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	"Batteries alone are unrealistic": Washington Clean Energy Coalition finds this misleading. PSE used only 4-hour batteries, which are not adequate to the need. Iron-air batteries that can run for 100 hours are much better. PSE has excluded them from analysis and we don't agree.	PSE is modeling short (2, 4, 6-hour), medium (8-hour), and long-duration (100 hour) batteries for the 2027 Integrated System Plan. The reference case for the ISP examines a full suite of battery options.
11	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	When gas is removed in twenty years - what happens to everything using gas in homes - fireplaces, heating.	The 2045 100% clean energy requirement concerns gas used to generate electricity, not gas delivered to homes. There is no plan under this requirement to end residential gas service for furnaces, fireplaces, cooking, or other home uses. Washington state law requires PSE to provide natural gas to customers in our service territory.
12	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	"PSE has a reference case": PSE actually looked at two reference cases, but disqualified a clean energy reference case because enormous amounts of 4-hour batteries wouldn't work. We think there are much more realistic portfolios that would support Washington's clean energy mandates. PSE's reference case blows past those mandates.	Thank you for your comment. PSE is studying a range of scenarios and sensitivities that will result in a variety of portfolios to consider in the ISP.

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13	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	What will occur with the current materials once "gas is removed?" (underground piping, etc.) Will it remain there or be unearthed/repurposed?	PSE is not currently planning to remove underground gas infrastructure. The ISP is studying what electrification could look like; PSE is evaluating a range of potential electrification scenarios, not announcing removal of gas infrastructure.
14	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	So gas will be available in my home 2045+ then?	As far as PSE knows and based on current law, yes. Clean energy requirements apply only to eliminating gas used in electricity generation at this time.
15	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	Is there a breakdown of where this non-emitting energy production will come from	PSE is modeling the following CETA-compliant resources: wind, solar, storage, including short-, medium-, and long-duration storage, renewable fuel, enhanced geothermal, and nuclear, including small modular reactors. These are modeled as generic resources, meaning PSE does not yet know where specific future resources would be located. The amount of each resource type that could be used in the future will be explored and detailed in the final ISP.
16	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	How far out might we be from newer nuclear power options?	PSE's modeling assumption, not a prediction, is that advanced nuclear reactors could first become available in 2040.
17	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	In PSE's current reference case, in 2045, will a customer pay more for emission allowances than they pay for the gas they use?	We are not able to answer that question yet, as we are still in the analysis phase.
18	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	How will PSE be involved in the evolution of state building codes? Are improvements to efficiency in new construction over time included in the forecast?	Yes. The latest state building codes are already included in the reference-case models, and assumptions will continue to be updated in future ISP cycles.
19	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	Are any of our rate increases affected by data centers	PSE does not currently anticipate a large number of new data center customers. Load growth in the ISP, and associated customer impacts, is being driven more by overall population growth, increased penetration of EVs, and electrification. PSE is monitoring data center service requests and actively participating in the UTC public process managing the impacts of large load customer growth.

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20	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	What is your estimate of allowances to be purchased in 2045 to continue your current level of gas sales?	This will be quantified in the ISP when it is final; we are still running the analysis.
21	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	If all of the Clean Air and CETA Requirements went away. How would this impact electricity costs be a customer?	Our analysis will look at this scenario so we will be better able to answer this later in the year.
22	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	I'm disappointed that PSE isn't being more specific about what is in the reference portfolio. The gas buildout is the biggest in PSE's history, something like 20 gas plants. I know, it's just modeling, but you should tell people what you are thinking.	Thank you for your comments. As previously noted, this is the first step in a multi-step modeling process.
23	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	Will natural gas stop being supplied to homes in 2045? If so, won't that necessitate a mass conversion of gas furnaces to electric furnaces, assuming they can use the same distribution system (ducts)?	No. CETA requires PSE to stop producing electricity from natural gas; it does not prohibit supplying gas through pipelines to home furnaces or other residential uses. Therefore, this requirement does not itself trigger a mass conversion of home gas furnaces in 2045.
24	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	What nonemitting energy sources will you use. Please list types and percentages. Will hydroelectric be included and will we know the environmental impact of these different choices? Where will the nuclear plants be located and how will the waste produced be handled? It might seem clean now, but people in the future will have to deal with the fallout.	PSE is modeling the following CETA-compliant resources: wind, solar, storage, including short-, medium-, and long-duration storage, renewable fuel, enhanced geothermal, and nuclear, including small modular reactors. These are modeled as generic resources, meaning PSE does not yet know where specific future resources would be located. The amount each resource type could be used in the future will be explored and detailed in the final ISP.
25	07/27/26 12:00 p.m.	How are you determining the winners of the gift cards?	After both webinar sessions, PSE's team will conduct a random drawing. Winners will be notified by email.

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26	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	There is a lot of talk of increased rates. What can we do to reduce our costs?	Bills can vary based on usage, separate rate adjustments, and Climate Commitment Act (CCA) charges and credits. Customers who are behind or worried about affordability can look into PSE programs like bill discounts, payment plans, past-due bill forgiveness, LIHEAP, HELP, energy-efficiency rebates, weatherization assistance, smart thermostat rebates, community solar income-eligible options, payment arrangements, and other PSE assistance programs. Some helpful links: • PSE Bill Discount Rate • PSE Find your local agency (LIHEAP) • PSE HELP • PSE Past Due Bill Forgiveness • PSE Smart Thermostat Rebate • PSE Community Solar – Income-Eligible Option • PSE Home weatherization assistance • PSE Payment Arrangements • PSE Incentives for Energy Efficient Designs • PSE Get Rebates to Lower Your PSE Bills • PSE Efficiency Boost (income eligible rebates)
27	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	What items are covered with the life support.	PSE shared more information about its life support program .
28	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	In PSE's base reference case presented to its advisory group, PSE modeled 5,042 MW of gas peaker plants by 2050. Incredibly, that exceeds all the new wind, solar, nuclear, and geothermal combined by 2050. Has PSE modified this modeling at all, or is that still the base case being studied?	PSE is moving forward with the reference case presented to the RPAG in the June and July meetings. The reference case is a starting point for further analysis and provides a set of outputs to measure against; the reference case is not a plan but rather a set of assumptions. PSE is testing additional sensitivities related to emerging technologies, storage availability, timing and cost assumptions to better understand how different treatment of long-duration storage could affect portfolio results.

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29	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Is PSE looking at building out Distributed Energy Resources as part of the portfolio in order to get more power coming into the system to offset the need to build so many new gas power plant options? Are creating VPPs in areas where available power is short and transmission is difficult a way to reduce energy shortages and brownouts?	Virtual power plants and customer resources – including rooftop solar, customer-owned batteries, and electric vehicles – are being studied in the ISP for their ability to reduce the need for utility-scale resources.
30	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Are you looking at offering incentives for large scale DER installations such as at shopping areas with big box stores.	For DER Solar, PSE offers enhanced incentives for community-based organizations, government agencies, and tribal entities. PSE's DER storage for commercial customers is currently under development. PSE plans to offer enhanced incentives for community-based organizations, government agencies, and tribal entities as part of a Commercial Battery Program offering.
31	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Is PSE already charging customers for current and future data center power usage? If not, does PSE intend to ensure/require that data centers plan for their added energy needs outside residential and ordinary business users? How will PSE ensure allocation of energy inputs for data centers?	PSE currently has no large data-center load (>20MW) in its service territory. For future data centers, the UTC has opened a docket to consider charging, structure, governance, and integration; no framework has yet been set and we are working with the UTC process. UTC Case Docket Document Sets UTC
32	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Are there any incentives for going with a battery system for the home?	Yes. Follow the link to learn more about our Flex Batteries program .
33	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	PSE assumes most of its gas customers will keep burning gas for the next quarter century. This assumption is unlikely to come to pass. Why isn't PSE accounting for this?	PSE is testing a wide range of gas-to-electric transition outcomes—from a status-quo reference case to a scenario in which gas furnaces and other appliances across the service territory are replaced by electric counterparts. Scenario results will be presented at later RPAG and a later public webinar.

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34	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Are you following the Whatcom PUD project evaluating a geothermal plant near Mt. Baker? Is this something that PSE might also consider in that area?	PSE is actively monitoring geothermal technology and how it could potentially help PSE meet our clean energy goals but cannot comment on other utility's specific projects.
35	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Following up on my questions regarding data centers. You indicated there would be a link to UTC and docket. Could you please post? So did I understand Brian's response to say that the energy allocation and the energy resource derivation for data centers will be addressed in the UTC docket item?	The UTC docket is examining the potential impact of the growth of large loads, including data centers, on Washington's investor-owned utilities, like PSE.
36	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Has a study been done to see if there are reasons to update the distribution portion, to include older wiring to homes?	The ISP is centered around ways to serve load growth across our system, not necessarily updating older wiring in homes.
37	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Is there any hope for conservation/efficiency to reduce growing demand? Is the growth you project holding population constant or is there increasing population?	Conservation and efficiency are inputs to the resource analysis and can reduce growing demand. The model balances efficiency with DERs and utility-scale resources to find a cost-effective portfolio. The analysis assumes population growth consistent with regional projections.
38	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Are you looking at ways that we can have free energy for three hours a day because there is so much inexpensive clean energy available, as is happening in Australia?	PSE is evaluating battery durations from two to 100 hours. 2-, 4-, and 6-hour batteries are modeled in the reference case, while 100-hour iron-air batteries are being treated as an emerging technology; the different durations are being studied together.
39	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Is the amount of pushback being encountered on utility-scale BESS systems becoming an issue for PSE developing resources to meet increasing demand? In Skagit, where I live, real estate is an issue, so maximizing DERs with	Yes, we are seeing pushback on utility-scale BESS as a potential challenge to PSE and other utilities meeting the state's clean energy targets at the lowest reasonable cost.

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		commercial-scale BESS seems like an alternative that needs to be evaluated.	
40	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	Sorry to belabor it, but regarding my initial data center questions. So did I understand Brian's response to say that the energy allocation and the energy resource derivation for data centers will be addressed in the UTC docket item?	See response to #35 above.
41	07/27/26 5:30 p.m.	What happens if PSE doesn't meet the power demand requirements? How will it affect residential users and commercial users?	Unmet power demand would have detrimental impacts on residential, commercial, and other customers. PSE is considering this in the planning process as it is intends to maintain safe, reliable service and minimize those risks.

Other participant feedback

During the webinars, PSE engaged participants in “waterfall” activities by asking questions and having participants type their responses into the chat feature. Below are the questions and a thematic summary of responses provided by participants.

1. What matters most in planning a cleaner energy future?

Participants prioritized:

- **Reliable, affordable, cleaner energy** — the strongest recurring first choice
- **Preparing for uncertainty**, including extreme weather and changing technology
- **Guiding future investments** and reducing customer costs
- **Public input** was valued, though generally ranked below reliability and affordability

2. What was most surprising or interesting about the results?

Responses focused on:

- The **large renewable energy capacity gap** needed to meet future demand.
- Surprise that **natural gas use changes little through 2050**, with requests for more analysis of conservation and efficiency.
- Interest in **customer programs**, including Flex incentives and medical/life-support assistance.

- Appreciation for PSE's presentation and opportunities for public interaction.

Poll Results: What matters most to participants as PSE plans for a cleaner energy future?

Top priorities identified by participants were:

- 1. Planning for reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy**
- 2. Preparing for uncertainty**, including extreme weather events, evolving technologies, changing regulations, and customer needs
- 3. Providing opportunities for public input**
- 4. Guiding investments** that affect customers, communities, and future energy choices
- 5. Developing an action plan** for commission review and approval