

Monthly highlights from your energy neighbor, PSE on Bainbridge Island.

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PSE on bainbridge island



Dear Neighbor,

Over the last four weeks, PSE has been active in the Bainbridge community. Thank you for being a part of it! We held two community events to discuss the possibility of a City takeover of PSE electric facilities on Bainbridge Island, sponsored a second showing of the film *The Geological Formation of Bainbridge Island* and helped sponsor a new emergency generator. Read on for more information on our involvement in the community.



PSE is committed to serving Bainbridge Island for decades to come.

City's electric utility effort

Last month, we held two events to discuss the effort for the City of Bainbridge Island to buy the electric system from PSE (known as municipalization) and the [draft feasibility study](#) (external link) conducted by D. Hittle. We want to thank the community for attending and for your engagement in power issues in your community.

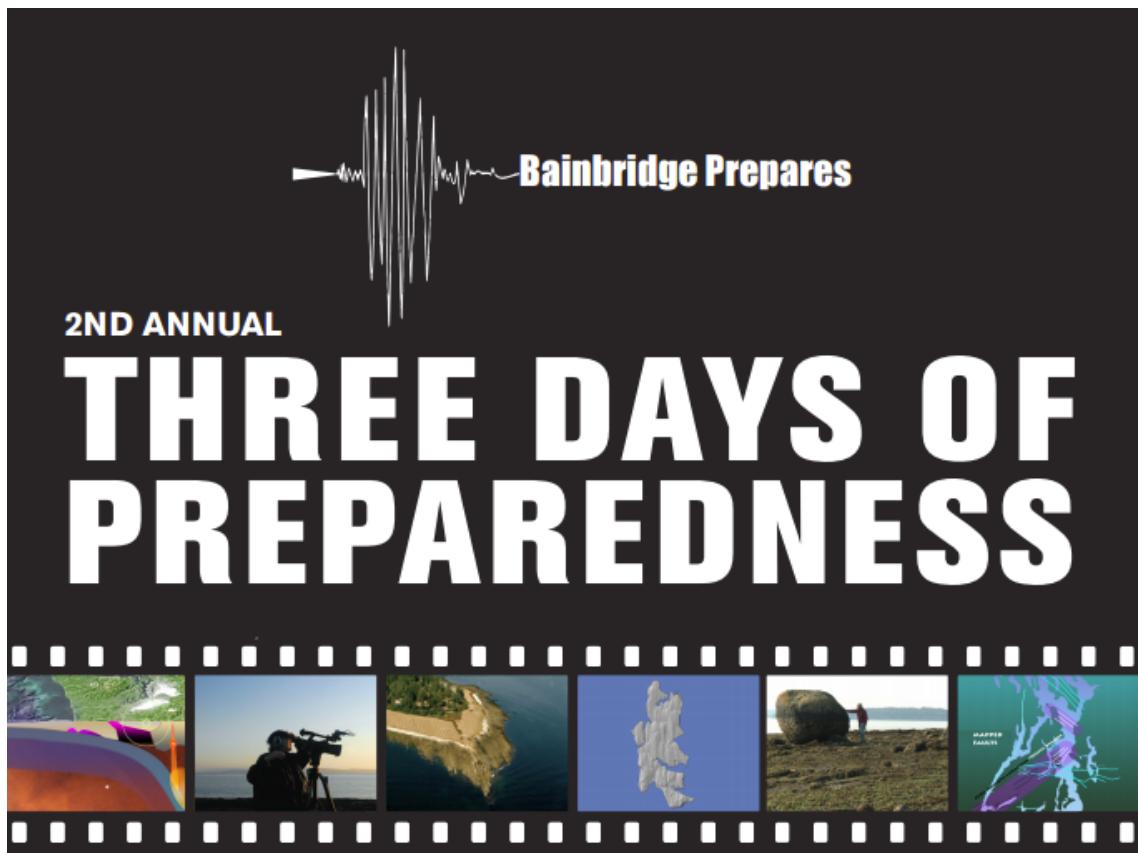
Over 300 people called in to the telephone town hall on February 16, and almost 200 people attended the in-person town hall on February 27 at the Bainbridge Performing Arts Center. If you were unable to participate in one of these events, you can listen to an audio file of the telephone town hall on our

[website](#) and check out the summary of questions we received.

We received dozens of questions from community members about what municipalization is, how a city-run utility would work and how to get involved in the decision-making process. We would like to answer a few of the most commonly asked questions here; for more details, check out our [Frequently Asked Questions](#):

- **I don't understand why the City and PSE are so far apart on this? What are the issues the City sees as reasons to take over the electric system?**
 - We can't speak to the City's reasons, but we've had and hope to continue to have good conversations with City staff and councilmembers about reliability and options for cleaner energy such as a community digester. We also have a new green tariff we want to discuss with the City that is very exciting. Our goal is to continue to work with you and be your electric energy provider.
- **I've seen information that shows Bainbridge Island has up to twice as many outages as other power utilities in the area. How can that be acceptable?**
 - First, yes Bainbridge does have more [outages](#) than other areas due to the island's geography and large forested areas, and we've talked about the investments we can make to bring that number down, such as creating a transmission loop in the southern part of the Island. But, if you're talking about the chart that is circling on social media comparing us to other utilities, take a look at the data sources. The chart compares different years; and using a year when there were few storms for one utility and 2015 (one of the biggest storm years on record) for PSE is not making an apples-to-apples comparison.
- **What would it cost to buy the transmission lines coming into the Port Madison substation?**
 - We must emphasize, PSE is not for sale on Bainbridge Island and we don't yet have an evaluation of the costs for all the equipment the City would be required to purchase. But if the Jefferson PUD study is any indicator, we are confident the \$57 million cost mentioned in the draft study is low.
- **How can I get involved in this issue?**
 - The Bainbridge Island City Council will ultimately make the decision on whether to proceed with creating a City-run electric utility, so we encourage you to share your questions and concerns with them directly. Information on how to reach the City Council is available on the City Council [webpage](#) and City [calendar](#).

We are also interested in hearing your thoughts. If you would like to meet with us to discuss this issue, please contact us at info@psebainbridge.com or **1-888-878-8632** to schedule a meeting.



A poster for September's Bainbridge Prepares event and film showing.

PSE sponsors second showing of geological film

In September, PSE sponsored a free showing of the film *The Geological Formation of Bainbridge Island* at the City of Bainbridge Island emergency preparedness event, Bainbridge Prepares. The film received such immense interest from the public, the showing was filled to capacity in six minutes and 150 people were turned away. In partnership with the City of Bainbridge Island, we scheduled a second showing of the film on February 8.

The second showing also generated a full house in the 250-person theater. The event included both parts of the film, a short question and answer period with geologist and narrator Gregory Geehan, and a drawing for five three-day emergency preparedness backpacks.

For more information on emergency preparedness for [storms](#), [floods](#), and [earthquakes](#), you can visit our [preparedness website](#).



Representatives from the PSE Foundation, PSE, Island Church leadership, the City of Bainbridge Island and Kitsap County cut the ribbon at the unveiling of the church's emergency generator.

New generator helps Bainbridge Island prepare for emergencies

On February 24, the PSE Foundation joined local leaders at Island Church to dedicate a new high-capacity emergency generator at the church. Island Church was one of four organizations selected to receive the generator grant, which supports PSE Foundation efforts to establish local emergency and warming shelters. The church was selected because of its central location and ability to shelter many people.

As viewers of *The Geological Formation of Bainbridge Island* found out, numerous fault lines run through the island. This generator would help support Bainbridge citizens in the event of an earthquake or big winter storm, and help them stay warm.

"Puget Sound Energy Foundation believes preparing our communities is vitally important," said Bob Stolarski, PSE's director of Customer Energy Management and a PSE Foundation board member. "That's why we are immensely proud of making this possible for an institution that has it in their hearts to provide disaster relief."

This project was made possible by a strong partnership between the PSE Foundation, PSE, Island Church, the City of Bainbridge Island and Kitsap County. The PSE Foundation was created in 2006 by Puget Energy to support community-based programs, with a special focus on initiatives that promote public safety, and economic and environmental sustainability in PSE's service territory. To learn more about the foundation, visit PSEFoundation.org.



PSE Kitsap County Outreach Manager, Karen Brubeck, speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



The high-capacity Island Church generator.

New! Reach us by phone

Whether you have questions about our work on Bainbridge Island, the programs we offer or other questions about PSE's services, we want to hear from you.

After last month's community town hall events, some residents asked to be able to reach us by phone. We now have an information line, where you can call us and leave a message with comments or questions. Please contact us toll-free at **1-888-878-8632**, or by email at info@psebainbridge.com.

You can also like and follow us on [Facebook](#) to keep informed about PSE on Bainbridge Island!

Thank you,

Your PSE Bainbridge Team

pse.com/bainbridge



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