

PSE on bainbridge island



PSE Bainbridge Newsletter • April 2017



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

City's electric utility effort

As you are likely aware, there is a discussion happening at City Hall about the possibility of the City of Bainbridge Island buying the electric system from PSE. In January, the City received a [draft feasibility study](#) (external link) from D. Hittle & Associates that attempts to outline what that effort might look like for the City.

As we've mentioned several times, PSE is not for sale on Bainbridge Island. We've reviewed the draft Hittle report and have concerns regarding its completeness. We discussed some of what we think is missing at our Town Hall in February, such as failing to provide an "apples-to-apples" comparison the City would need to make an informed decision.

An example: the report indicates several services the City could provide with its own utility; however, it fails to provide the cost of having the City provide them. On the flip side, the study fails to account for several services PSE currently provides to both the City and our customers, and are already included in our rates.

In almost every case, correcting these shortcomings would increase the cost of acquiring and operating a municipal utility. We await the final report, which the City anticipates receiving in mid-May.

The City Council held a study session on March 21 to discuss the potential process once the final feasibility study is received. Three options were proposed; City Council could choose to:

1. Continue the public dialogue and education on the topic through public hearing, public information meetings, panel discussions, debates or other public engagement activities.
2. Adopt the information from the D. Hittle study and proceed with a ballot measure on acquiring the PSE electric system.
3. Discontinue discussion of municipalization and cease to pursue a takeover.

If you are interested in hearing more from the City on their electric utility plans, or would like to express your opinion on their efforts, you can always attend a [council meeting](#) (external link) to speak during the public comment period. If you have comments or questions regarding this issue, please contact us at info@psebainbridge.com or toll-free at **1-888-878-8632**.



Crews conducting restoration work on the Island.

System improvement projects

At PSE, our top priority is providing customers with safe, dependable and efficient energy service, which is why we conduct regular system improvement projects on Bainbridge Island and across our service area. Since 2010, we have spent over \$21 million on Bainbridge Island for our system improvements.

As part of our annual work on Bainbridge, through 2017 and into 2018, we have six system improvement [projects](#) planned or ready for construction to minimize outages and continue to improve system reliability:

- **Brien Drive SE rebuild:** [Rebuild](#) an existing overhead distribution line to reduce the risk of future outages (summer to fall 2017)
- **NE Bergman Road tree wire:** [Replace](#) 4,000 feet of existing overhead distribution wire with tree wire (late summer to fall 2017)
- **NE Lafayette Ave rebuild and tree wire:** [Replace](#) existing overhead distribution wire with 3-phase tree wire (late summer to fall 2017)
- **Sunrise Drive NE and N Madison Ave tree wire:** [Rebuild](#) nearly four miles of distribution feeder line with new tree wire, providing a third connection between Murden Cove and Port Madison substations (late summer 2017 to winter 2017-2018)
- **Blakely Ave NE underground distribution:** [Install](#) approximately two miles of new underground distribution feeder cable to provide system redundancy (late 2017 to early 2018)
- **Point White Drive NE tree wire:** [Replace](#) existing overhead distribution wire with tree wire (2018)

Nearby residents will be notified via mail several weeks before construction begins on each project. To learn more about these projects or previous system improvement projects, you can visit our [current projects page](#) and [completed projects page](#) on the PSE Bainbridge website.



Solar array in Washington.

New solar choice program

Solar power is a great renewable energy source that can reduce your carbon footprint. However, installing solar at home isn't the right option for everyone. For those who would like

to support solar power production another way, PSE launched a new customer offering on April 1 designed to provide all customers with a path to support solar power production.

The Solar Choice program is a month-to-month solar subscription that allows customers to buy solar renewable energy credits from new, independent solar producers located in the Northwest. For as little as \$5, you can match a portion of your power usage with renewable energy from solar producers in Washington or Idaho. The Kingston solar project in Kitsap County is one local project Bainbridge Island solar choice customers could end up supporting.

No panels are installed on your home or business – instead, just like with PSE's Green Power program, energy is generated at a separate location and added to the grid on your behalf. What's more, you can participate in both the Green Power and Solar Choice programs at the same time!

To learn more about Solar Choice, or to enroll your home or business, you can visit the Solar Choice website at pse.com/solarchoice.

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PSE has a Facebook page for our work on Bainbridge Island. Be sure to like and follow us to keep informed about PSE on Bainbridge Island!

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Let us know what you think

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. Please contact us at info@psebainbridge.com or call us toll-free at **1-888-878-8632**.

Thank you,

Your PSE Bainbridge Team

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