

# PSE on bainbridge island




## PSE Bainbridge Update • June 2021



Pictured: Puget Sound Energy's Hopkins Ridge Wind Facility that generates renewable energy for PSE customers.

Read on for information on PSE's COVID-19 Bill Assistance Program and an announcement about an Equity Advisory Group that PSE has formed to help develop its Clean Energy Implementation Plan. We're also sharing information about an upcoming Winslow Tap pole replacement work and two incredible organizations that supports the Bainbridge Island community. Thanks for reading!



**With hardship  
comes help.**

Get COVID Bill Assistance from PSE.  
See if you qualify.

## COVID-19 Bill Assistance Program

We all know it has been a tough year, and Puget Sound Energy recognizes that for many families, the financial struggles associated with COVID-19 are not by any means over. So, PSE created the COVID Bill Assistance Program to help customers with their energy bills.

The COVID Bill Assistance Program offers:

- Up to \$2,500 in additional utility bill payment assistance.
- Up to \$2,500 to forgive past balances for customers who received energy assistance in the past.
- Extended payment plans up to 18 months.
- The option to change your energy bill's due date to help with monthly budgeting.

PSE is committed to being a trusted community partner and doing whatever it takes to get our Puget Sound families through this challenging time. In 2020, we made over \$9 million in bill assistance available to over 15,000 customers and now we're ready to do more. If you in any way need financial assistance or have questions on any PSE Bill Assistance

If you are a PSE customer, learn if you qualify by visiting [www.pse.com/assistance](http://www.pse.com/assistance).

## PSE forms Equity Advisory Group as it develops its Clean Energy Implementation Plan

PSE has convened an Equity Advisory Group (EAG) that will advise the state's largest utility on its Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) set by the state's groundbreaking climate legislation passed in 2019—the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act.

The implementation plan is the company's four-year roadmap that will outline clean electricity targets, actions, and programs. The advisory group is helping to frame the plan with equity and community interests in mind. The group is considering ways to equitably distribute benefits and reduce burdens that stem from electric planning decisions, so that the clean electricity transformation is affordable, accountable, and accessible.

"As we make this clean energy transition, it's not lost on me that historically many groups have faced barriers to accessing clean energy because of cost, awareness, and systemic inequalities," said Puget Sound Energy President and CEO Mary Kipp. "Clean energy is important but so is ensuring that everyone can afford it and that all voices are heard and included in the transition."

The group is comprised of 13 members generally representing community-based organizations from across PSE's service area. These inaugural members will serve for at least one year to help inform the company's first CEIP and to give shape to the group's governance processes. The advisory group will continue into the future and PSE expects the membership to evolve over time.

PSE is leading utilities with its aspiration to reach beyond net zero carbon emissions equitably and sustainably by 2045. As part of that goal, the company is forming a separate Beyond Net Zero Carbon advisory group, which will be a committee to work on PSE's commitment to reduce carbon emissions on both its natural gas and electric supply.

In addition to the Equity Advisory Group, PSE is also engaging customers and other stakeholders to develop its first CEIP. To learn more about the Equity Advisory Group and the CEIP, visit [www.cleanenergyplan.pse.com](http://www.cleanenergyplan.pse.com).



## modernization - project updates

Electric reliability on the island needs to be improved. In finding solutions, PSE committed to exploring new technologies. Our proposed plan is a [unique solution designed for Bainbridge Island](#) – combining new technologies and grid infrastructure to ensure safe, dependable power for families and businesses for years to come. We will partner with the community to implement these solutions.



### Upcoming Winslow Tap pole replacement work

The Winslow Tap Rebuild Project is one component of [PSE's solution](#) tailored to improve electric service on Bainbridge Island. The transmission line was built in 1960 and some of its equipment is nearing the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced.

Project fieldwork conducted in 2020 revealed that some of the existing poles and equipment need to be replaced sooner than we had anticipated. We began the replacement work in September 2020 but were not able to finish before cold weather

replace the identified transmission poles is anticipated to be complete in July 2021.

We're continuing to work on the design of the overall Winslow Tap rebuild project, which will replace aging infrastructure and improve safety and access so we can continue to serve customers reliably into the future.

For more information about the Winslow Tap Rebuild Project, please visit [pse.com/bainbridgewt](https://pse.com/bainbridgewt).

## PSE on Bainbridge Island

PSE feels strongly about being a good neighbor. We do this through our philanthropic commitment to the nonprofit communities we serve.



## The Kids Discovery Museum (KiDiMu) reopens!



and experimental learning!

After 408 days of being closed to families, Kids Discovery Museum (KiDiMu) is thrilled to welcome children and their families to the museum. Serving over 35,000 visitors annually, KiDiMu welcomes families to imagine, grow, and discover through daily pop-up art and science activities and hands-on exhibits.

During KiDiMu's temporary closure, two exhibit spaces were reimaged into a Mission to the Moon exhibit and a Ready, Vet, Go Veterinary Hospital. These spaces allow children to explore space and veterinary science through play.

Additionally, the facility has been upgraded with additional handwashing stations, contactless check-in, and sanitizing stations. The PSE Foundation provided a grant to upgrade the HVAC system with air purifiers.

"Being open again and welcoming visitors to a safe and welcoming space has been our priority since day one. We are incredibly grateful for the generous support and ongoing partnership with Puget Sound Energy and the Puget Sound Energy Foundation to help us reopen our doors safely for our region's young families," Corinne Wolffe, Executive Director.

The KiDiMu is open Friday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit [www.kidimu.org](http://www.kidimu.org) to learn more the museum and book your visit!



## Highlighting West Sound Wildlife Shelter

In 2020, the West Sound Wildlife Shelter treated over 1650 animal patients from 101 cities throughout Washington State, provided virtual education programs to schools children

West Sound Wildlife Shelter has had a long standing and cherished partnership with Puget Sound Energy on the Avian Protection Program for over a decade. By responding to bird-power line interactions and implementing bird-friendly construction standards to reduce the risk of bird electrocutions and collisions, the PSE [Avian Protection Program](#) provides valuable resources to the West Sound Wildlife Shelter including financial resources to cover the costs of care of any injured or deceased avian patient. Additionally, the West Sound Wildlife Shelter has been the recipient of the PSE Powerful Partnership Grant twice.

2020 was a challenging year, due to COVID-19 the West Sound Wildlife Shelter modified its protocols for working with the public had to furloughed all of its incredible, valuable volunteers, leaving just 5 staff remaining. They were forced to shift its major fundraiser auction to a virtual event and cancel all of the remaining face-to-face events for not only the remainder of 2020 but also 2021. PSE is proud to serve as a Silver Sponsor for the West Sound Wildlife Shelter's 2021 Call to the Wild Virtual Gala Auction. The Auction is to be held live online on September 24 starting at 7 p.m. with a large silent auction and rare bottle/wine/spirits auction opening for bidding on September 15 and closing on the night of the event.

The event is free to attend. For more information about the West Sound Wildlife Shelter and their upcoming auction, please visit [www.westsoundwildlife.org/event/call-to-the-wild-virtual-auction/](http://www.westsoundwildlife.org/event/call-to-the-wild-virtual-auction/).

## Follow us on Facebook

PSE has a [Facebook page](#) for our work on Bainbridge Island. Be sure to like and follow us to stay informed about PSE on Bainbridge Island!

Connect  
with us on  
**Facebook**



## 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](mailto:info@psebainbridge.com) or call us at **1-888-878-8632**.

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