

PSE on bainbridge island



PSE Bainbridge Newsletter • June 2017



A great blue heron lies near Fay Bainbridge Park.

Comment at June 13 Council meeting

The Bainbridge Island City Council is taking public comment on the possibility of a City-run electric utility at their June 13 business meeting. You can share your feedback with City Council in two ways:

- **In-person** on Tuesday, June 13 at Bainbridge City Hall, starting at 7 p.m.
- **Email** your input to council@bainbridgewa.gov

At their study session on June 6, the Bainbridge Island City Council listened to three presentations, one from D. Hittle & Associates, author of the May 2017 revised [feasibility study](#) regarding a possible City takeover of PSE's electric assets on Bainbridge Island, the second from Island Power, the citizen's activist group supportive of public power on Bainbridge Island and, third, a [presentation](#) from PSE's Andy Wappler.

Andy Wappler, VP, Customer Operations & Communications, began his presentation indicating PSE would prefer a conversation with the City about what PSE and the City can do together. He then critiqued the Hittle study, pointing out four "red flags":

- **Rising costs** - From the [draft study](#) in January to the May study, acquisition costs increased from \$57.7 million to \$62.4 million, while the expected 10-year savings decreased from \$13.1 million to \$3.6 million. Risks are growing and benefits are shrinking right from the start.
- **Unrealistic assumptions** - Many of the assumptions the Hittle study made are either not correct or are overly optimistic. Examples: Hittle's study quoted interest for taxable municipal bonds at 5% while research shows the average interest rate is 6%. Hittle's study uses Rural Utility Service (RUS) funding, while RUS rules prohibit providing funding to an incorporated city with a population of over 20,000 people.
- **Critical questions** - Hittle's study raised critical questions it didn't answer such as giving no specifics on how the City might pay for a variety of issues including building a new transmission line and substation, increasing undergrounding or developing a more aggressive tree-trimming schedule.
- **Biased, not objective** - In the six business cases the Hittle study provides, four rely on 5% bonds and two rely on RUS funding, stacking the deck toward municipalization.

For his presentation, Mr. John Heberling of D. Hittle & Associates walked through their report highlighting issues including, standards of service required by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), how the City of Bainbridge Island might get power from BPA, their assessment of the City's acquisition costs for PSE's assets on the island, and a variety of financing options and potential costs to the City calculated out to year 2040.

Bob Snyder of D. Hittle & Associates spoke more directly to the benefits the City and its residents might glean from municipalization over continuing to be served by PSE. He also touched on some of the risks the City might face creating and operating a small public power company.

Steve Johnson and Randall Samstag of Island Power compared some aspects of the Hittle study to the study authored by [Concentric](#) Energy Advisors, which was commissioned by PSE. Barney Burke, former Jefferson County PUD commissioner, spoke about public power.

After all the presentations, the City Council had many questions for the authors of the Hittle study.

Public comment will be entertained by the Council at their business meeting on June 13 at 7 p.m. If you want to have your voice heard, please attend the [June 13 Council](#) meeting to provide comments. If you cannot attend, the Council is accepting written comments at council@bainbridgewa.gov.



A band performs at a previous BIMA BASH! auction.

PSE supports auction for Bainbridge Island Museum of Art (BIMA)

PSE is a proud sponsor of the auction for the annual BIMA BASH! fundraiser on June 9 and June 10. This year's fundraiser features live music, food, silent and live auctions, and special performances.

The two-day fundraiser supports BIMA programs, which include art exhibitions, workshops, field trips and cultural activities. Due to the support of donors, sponsors and members, BIMA offers free admission year-round.

“By taking the lead on sponsorship, PSE is making such a wonderful and impactful investment in our community,” said BIMA Executive Director Sheila Hughes. “It’s a gift that is amplified by inspiring and engaging others – making a powerful difference in our cultural landscape.”

[BIMA](#) is an integral part of the Bainbridge Island community. Located near the ferry terminal, BIMA's exhibits offer something for everyone, including the “Featherfolio” exhibit by Olympia artist Chris Maynard, which attracted a record number of visitors and critical acclaim from *The Seattle Times*, *The Stranger* and *The Olympian*, and its nationally recognized collection of Book Arts. Tickets to [BIMA BASH!](#) are available for both the [June 9](#) silent auction and party, and the [June 10](#) live auction and dinner.



Renewable Team members at the marina in Winslow.

One thousand green-powered and counting

In early May, the PSE Renewables team visited local Bainbridge Island businesses to spread the word about clean energy options. The visit was a resounding success and reflects the long-standing commitment of island businesses and residents to renewable energy and participation in PSE Green Power.

While hundreds have participated in Green Power since the program's inception, a special 2013 challenge campaign cultivated a dramatic increase in the understanding and adoption of clean power across the island. Islanders exceeded the campaign goal and grew program participation to an all-time high of over 10% of residents—one of the highest community participation rates in PSE's service area. The successful challenge also earned the city a 5-kW solar array, which was installed at Waterfront Park in early 2015.

The following year, continued enthusiasm for renewables led City Council to approve a move to 100% green power for all city facilities. In 2016, government and citizen commitments resulted in a well-earned EPA Green Power Community designation.

Our recent visit in May shows continued enthusiasm, adding these Bainbridge businesses to the list of local supporters of clean energy:

Village Music
Lollipops Children's Boutique
Paraffine LLC
Sweet Deal Clothing
Island Rock Gym
Cook Family Funeral Home

Fischer Bouma Partnership
Bainbridge Homes Real Estate
Firefly Salon
Roby King Galleries
Earthbound Expeditions

If you haven't had a chance to sign up, it is never too late to choose green. [Sign up online](#). Businesses can also email renewables@pse.com. Go Green!



Attendees of the Bainbridge in Bloom garden tour could visit lush, blooming gardens like this one.

PSE sponsors 29th annual Bainbridge in Bloom garden tour

On June 3 and 4, Arts & Humanities Bainbridge hosted the annual Bainbridge in Bloom garden tour. PSE again helped sponsor the tour that brings visitors from around the region to the Island. Attendees visited five private gardens on self-guided tours, with garden owners and docents on hand to provide information on the plants and designs. Attendees of this year's Bainbridge in Bloom enjoyed beautiful weather as they toured the gardens.

"We're excited to host Bainbridge in Bloom for a 29th year," said Anne Smart, Executive Director of Arts & Humanities Bainbridge. "Each year, this event showcases the best of what Bainbridge Island has to offer the Puget Sound region."

PSE continues to sponsor Bainbridge in Bloom, Arts & Humanities Bainbridge and other organizations and events as part of our ongoing commitment to invest in the communities we serve. To learn more about our community involvement on [Bainbridge](#) and [region-wide](#), visit our [giving back webpage](#).



Members of the Bainbridge Schools Foundation and PSE with the grant check.

Bainbridge Schools Foundation accepts emergency preparedness grant from PSE Foundation

The Bainbridge Schools Foundation (BSF) will provide emergency supplies to all seven Bainbridge public schools, thanks to a \$5000 grant from the PSE Foundation. The grant will buy water and storage containers to standardize each school's emergency supplies and align them with the American Red Cross recommended supply list.

The check was presented to BSF Executive Director, Mairead Shutt, at the May 11 school district board meeting.

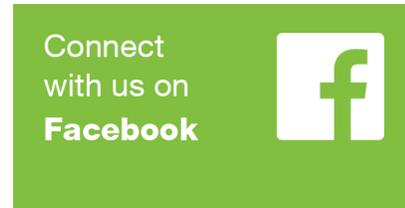
"It's important for our entire community of 23,500 to have schools with robust supplies," stated Shutt. "In the event of a major emergency, our public schools become hubs and gathering places for residents needing assistance."

The Bainbridge Schools Foundation works in close collaboration with the Bainbridge Island School District to raise funds, gather resources and act as a catalyst to involve the community in public education. The PSE Foundation is a nonprofit entity operating independently of Puget Sound Energy, with its funding coming from investor contributions. The PSE Foundation grant to the Bainbridge Schools Foundation is part of their contributions to communities across the PSE service area.

Visit the [PSE Foundation](#) and [Bainbridge Schools Foundation](#) websites to learn more about the work of both organizations.

Follow us on Facebook

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!



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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