

AGENDA

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 16, 2026

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931522564>

Accessibility

The City of Ellensburg strives to make our services, programs, and activities readily accessible.

- Closed Captioning is available to Zoom viewers. To enable closed captioning, you will need to click on the "CC" button at the bottom of your Zoom screen and then select either "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript."
- Members of the public who do not speak English or who have limited proficiency may request an interpreter if they wish to participate in public meetings.
- The City will provide reasonable accommodation for members of the public with disabilities.

Rules for Public Comment

Any person engaging in conduct that disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting including but not limited to:

1. Unduly repetitive or irrelevant remarks;
2. Use of intimidating, threatening, or abusive language;
3. disobedience of an order to be seated or to discontinue further comments;
4. and/or engaging in violent behavior, will be deemed out of order and may be removed from the meeting and/or have his or her virtual microphone muted.

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**CITY OF ELLENSBURG
UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA
Council Conference Room
501 North Anderson Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926**

And remotely via Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931522564>

**Thursday, July 16, 2026
3:30 PM - Regular Meeting**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Agenda (No Public Comment)**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.A Utility Advisory Committee Meeting 6-18-26 - Minutes
- 4. Correspondence and Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items**
- 5. Electric, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications Discussion Items**
 - 5.A Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) Outreach Plan for 2026-2029 CEIP
 - 5.B Energy Resource Plan
 - 5.C Community Solar Expansion Program — Participation
- 6. Energy Services Updates**
 - 6.A Energy Services Updates
- 7. Commission Representative Update**
- 8. Adjournment**



For more information on the Ellensburg Utility Advisory Committee, contact Finance Officer, Megan Bair, at 509-962-7124.



CITY OF ELLENSBURG

Date of Meeting

Time of Meeting

Place of Meeting

Minutes of Utility Advisory Committee, Regular Meeting

June 18, 2026

3:30 PM

Council Conference Room

501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

And remotely via Zoom -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83931522564>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Bousson called the meeting to order at 3:41pm.

Members present in person: Jeff Bousson, Chair/CWU, Delano Palmer, City Council, Fred Springsteen, Utility Customer, Camber Owlsym, Utility Customer.

Others present in person: City Manager Behrends Cerniwey, Energy Services Director Stanavich, Energy Resources Manager Baker, Sustainability and Energy Coordinator Holmes, Gas Engineer Yusi, Finance Officer Bair, and members of the public.

Others present remotely via Zoom: Rate Analyst Mooers, members of the public.

Committee Member Delano Palmer motioned to excuse the absences of Nancy Lilquist and Frederick Padjen. **Motioned Approved 4-0.**

2. Approval of Agenda

Committee member Bousson moved to Approve the Agenda as presented. **Motion Approved 4-0**

3. Approval of Minutes

3.A Utility Advisory Committee Meeting 5-21-26 Minutes

Committee member Bousson moved to Approve the Minutes from the meeting.

Motion Approved 4-0

4. Correspondence and Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

4.A Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Electric, Natural Gas, and Telecommunications Discussion Items

5.A Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter - Energy Services Nichole Baker, Energy Resource Manager, introduced Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager with the City of Ellensburg to discuss any questions related

to the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter — Energy Services or the redline plan chapter that was shared with the committee.

Committee member Bousson emphasizes the importance of planning and accuracy of Kittitas County growth plan and population growth.

Committee Member Palmer mentioned the redline plans were helpful in the review process.

Committee member Camber Owlysm asked for clarification on the language corrections in the redline copy.

Planning Manager, Stacey Henderson announced the open house meeting on July 20th for further discussions and questions on the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan.

City Manager, Heidi Behrends Cerniwey expressed that City Council will have the opportunity to review and discuss the Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan prior to the community event on July 20th.

Committee member Bousson moved to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council to approve Capital Facilities and Utilities Comprehensive Plan Chapter - Energy Services. **Motion Approved 4-0.**

- 5.B Natural Gas - Distribution Integrity Management Program Overview
Darin Yusi, Gas Engineer introduced information only item; Distribution Integrity Management Program. Darin explained what the program does and how it benefits our utility. Gas Engineer Darin Yusi explained the program identified the number one issue with utility interruption, which is third party damages from excavators or groundwork. Darin emphasized the importance of public outreach and education of 811-call before you dig within the community.

Committee member Bousson asked how many "close-call" excavation damages the utility has each year. Darin Yusi stated we only have 2–3 excavation damages within the year in the City of Ellensburg Gas territory and expressed that these occurrences have been significantly reduced because of community outreach.

Committee member Owlsym asked if there was a change in the number of excavation damages after we increased on advertising and community outreach in 811-call before you dig.

6. Energy Services Updates

- 6.A Energy Services Updates
Committee Member Bousson introduced our new Sustainability and Energy Coordinator, Brittany Holmes. Energy Services Director Buddy Stanavich shared that Brittany Holmes will be working on the Decarbonization Plan.

City Manager Heidi Behrends Cerniwey expressed gratitude towards the staff's involvement in the Touch-a-Truck event that was held yesterday on June 17th, 2026.

7. Commission Representative Update

No commission representative updates.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:11pm.



Meeting Date: July 16, 2026

City of Ellensburg
Utility Advisory Committee Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) Outreach Plan for 2026-2029 CEIP

Submitted by: Brittany Holmes, Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

Department: Energy Services

Suggested Motion/Action:
Informational

Background/Summary:
The CEIP, WAC 194-40-200, supports the goals set by the Washington State Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), Chapter 19.405 RCW, which aims to transition the state’s electricity supply to be free of greenhouse gas emissions. While the City of Ellensburg already sources nearly 90% clean energy from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) resources, the CEIP represents the next phase in the City’s commitment to serving the community, especially those who may experience greater impacts during the clean energy transition.

Previous Council Action:

On September 23rd, 2025, the City of Ellensburg held a public input workshop for community members to provide feedback for the City’s 2026-2029 Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP). The first and previous CEIP was completed in December 2021, for the years 2022 through 2025.

Analysis:
Completed in 2025, the CEIP outlines how the City of Ellensburg will continue to deliver safe, reliable, affordable, and clean electricity from 2026 through 2029.

Financial Impact:
Fiscal impact not known at this time.

Budget Adjustment: No

- Attachments:**
1. CEIP_OutreachPlan_PresentationEnvUAC_updated13july2026

CEIP Public Outreach Planning

Presented to Environmental Commission on July 15, 2026, and
Utility Advisory Commission on July 16, 2026

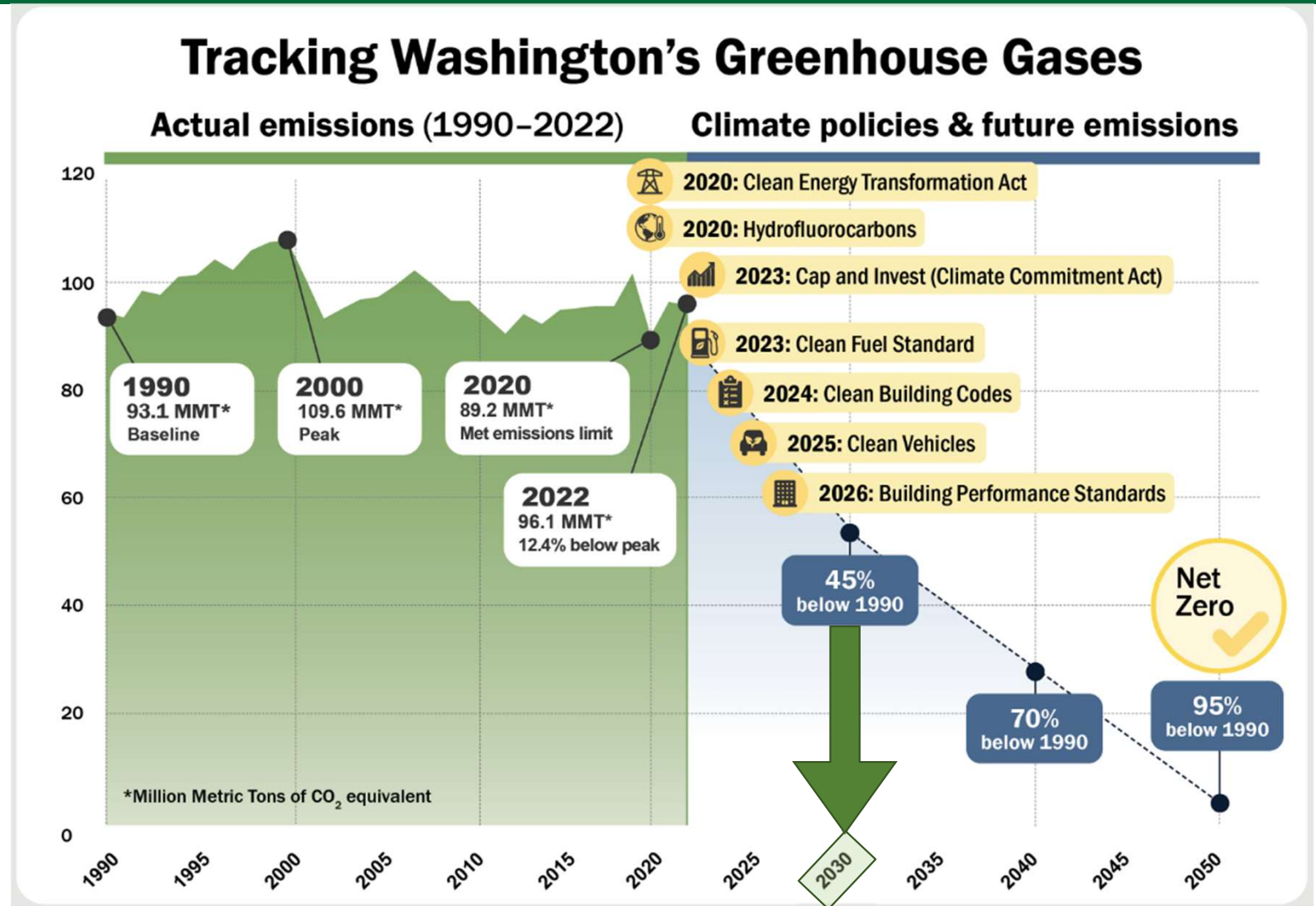
By Brittany Holmes,
Sustainability and Energy Coordinator
Energy Services



To read the latest Dept. Ecology report on GHG emissions, scan this QR code:



Next report (with data from 2023) is scheduled for December 2026



Specific actions identified during previous community outreach:

Energy Efficiency Programs

Enhanced Outreach and Education

Targeted Support for Vulnerable Populations

Program Tracking & Accountability

Complete details, please see [Ellensburg CETA Public Process Outcomes Memo](#)



Existing Energy Assistance Programs

- **Low-Income rate for qualifying customers**
 - Discounted residential rate for all utilities, paid for by all other rate payers because the City of Ellensburg is a non-profit municipality, must also participate in an energy conservation program
 - Qualified disabled or senior (65 years or older) citizens with a combined household income $\leq 40\%$ Area Median Income (AMI) or $\leq 125\%$ of federal poverty level (FPL), whichever is greater
- **Energy Audits*, Energy Efficiency, & Weatherization updates**
 - Free to low-income qualified City customers ($\leq 80\%$ AMI or $\leq 200\%$ FPL, whichever is greater) or subsidized by the City for all other City customers (*except Energy Audits*)*

*Energy Audits for all other City customers ended July 13, 2026; still available to low-income qualified City customers



Audience	Key Considerations	Outreach Method Ideas
Residents/homeowners	Household energy use, transportation choices, waste reduction	Utility bill inserts, social media, workshops, City website, tabling at existing events
Renters	Often face higher barriers and less control over upgrades	Partner outreach through landlords, property managers, CWU, community-based organizations, tabling at existing events
Small businesses / downtown commercial	Building energy use and visibility in community	Chamber, downtown associations, business roundtables, direct email
Students and youth	Large community presence and long-term behavior change, future citizens	Partnerships (CWU, K-12 schools, others), tabling at existing events, student groups, youth challenges
Energy burdened and vulnerable populations	Equity, energy burden, resilience needs	Trusted messengers, paper materials, tabling at existing events, service-provider partnerships
Institutional and community partners	Can scale adoption and reinforce messaging	County, CWU, non-profits, Commercial, school district, healthcare and housing partners

Utility must identify each highly impacted community and vulnerable population (WAC 194-40-200(4)) through community input. The City defines vulnerable populations for the 2025 CEIP as described below:

Factor Category	Factor
Housing	Households spending more than 30% of income on housing costs
Income	Residents experiencing high energy burdens relative to household income
Energy burden	Low-income families, particularly those living in energy-inefficient homes

Tentative Outreach Milestones

Milestone 1

- Cultivate Partnerships
- Utility bill insert*, website updates, social media campaign*

Milestone 2

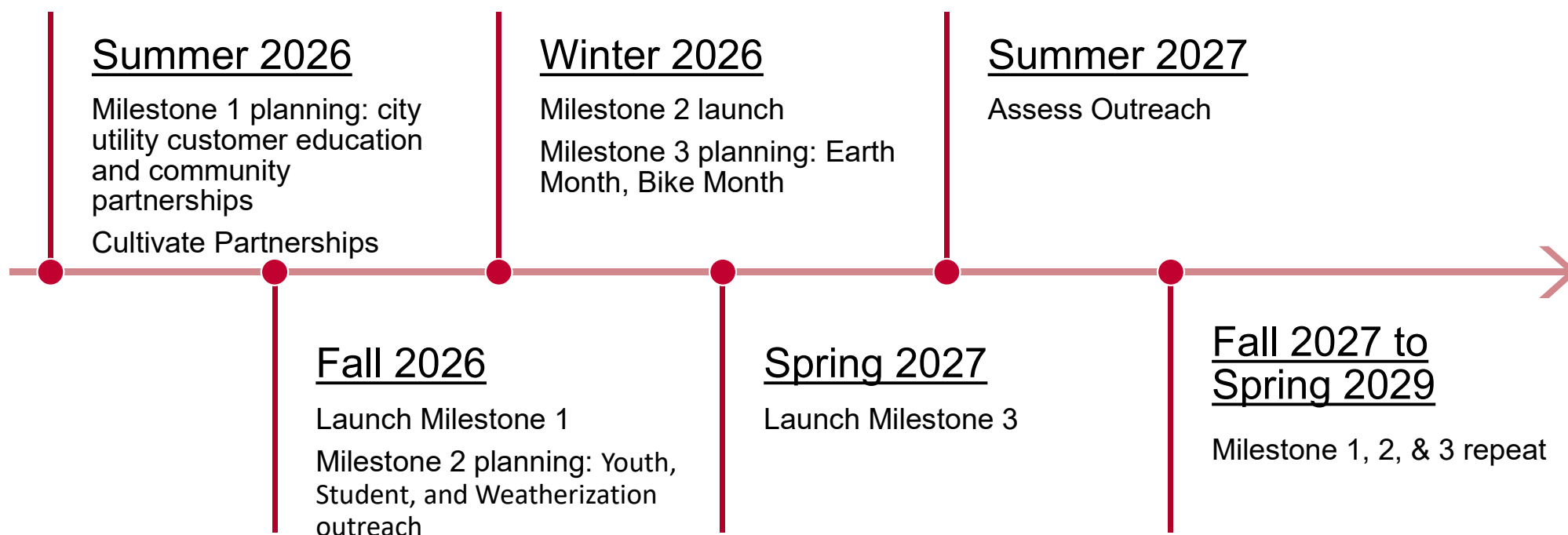
- Strengthen Partnerships
- Youth/Student outreach*
- Weatherization, Energy Efficiency Workshop(s)*

Milestone 3

- Earth Month* (April)
- Bike Month* (May)

*Multilingual Materials

Goal: Expand Program Awareness and Accessibility, with focus on vulnerable populations (i.e. low-income, energy burdened)





Meeting Date: July 16, 2026

**City of Ellensburg
Utility Advisory Committee Agenda Report**

Agenda Subject: Energy Resource Plan
Submitted by: Nichole Baker, Energy Resources Manager
Department: Energy Services

Suggested Motion/Action:
Move to recommend Council approve the Resource Plan as required by Section 19.280.050 to be submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce via the online portal Smartsheet.

Background/Summary:
Chapter 19.280 RCW requires electric utilities to develop resource plans to explain the mix of generation and demand-side resources they plan to use to meet their customers' electricity needs in both the short and long term. Section 19.280.050 requires utility submission of a cover sheet that summarizes their resource plans or progress reports every two years.

Previous Council Action:
None

Analysis:
A Resource Plan should be completed by full requirements customers/100% BPA utility customer and utilities with less than 25,000 customers.

Financial Impact:
None

Budget Adjustment: No

- Attachments:**
1. 2026_Energy-Resource-Plan-Cover-Sheet Ellensburg

Resource Plan Cover Sheet

Legend

Enter your information into these shaded fields

Utility Information

Report Year

2026

Utility

Ellensburg, City of

Prepared by

Nichole Baker

Email

bakern@ellensburgwa.gov

Date of Board/Commission Approval

Notes: Explain resource choices other than conservation/use of renewable energy credits

Washington State Utility Resource Plan Year 2026				
	Estimate Interval	Base Year	5-year Forecast	10-year Forecast
	Estimate Period	2025	2030	2035
	Season	Annual	Annual	Annual
	Units	aMW	aMW	aMW
Loads		25.51	32.70	33.10
Exports				
Resources:				
Energy Conservation Measures			0.52	1.96
BTM Solar				
Demand Response				
BPA Tier 1 or Base		23.71	25.23	25.23
BPA Tier 2		1.79	6.95	5.91
Cogeneration				
Hydro				
Wind				
Utility-scale Solar				
FTM Distributed Solar				
Biomass				
Biogas				
Landfill Gas				
Geothermal				
Nuclear				
Other Distributed Renewables				
Thermal Natural Gas				
Thermal Coal				
Market Purchases				
Other				
Imports				
Undecided				
Total Resources		25.51	32.70	33.10
Load Resource Balance		0.00	0.00	0.00



Meeting Date: July 16, 2026

City of Ellensburg

Utility Advisory Committee Agenda Report

Agenda Subject: Community Solar Expansion Program — Participation
Submitted by: John Mooers, Rate Analyst
Department: Energy Services

Suggested Motion/Action:

Move to recommend council approve the City Manager to authorize up to \$250k for the Community Solar Expansion Program

Background/Summary:

The Washington State Community Solar Expansion Program (CSEP) aims to expand access to renewable energy for Washington's low-income community members. WSU reviews and approves, while the City of Ellensburg incentivizes these solar projects. This helps reduce the energy burden for the low-income sector. Through this incentive program we will increase solar PV capacity for the low-income sector in our community.

Previous Council Action:

none

Analysis:

There is no formal application process for the City to be included in the CSEP, and WSU handles the administration portion for applicants. WSU will inform the City who to pay and how much. Upon receiving the information from WSU, the City will have a 60-day window to make payment.

Applicants can be non-profit organizations, tribal housing authorities, school districts, utility companies, and other housing authorities. We highly suggest potential applicants reach out to WSU for their pre-certification process. While the program doesn't reopen till July 2027, pre-certification is allowed now.

<https://energy.wsu.edu/our-work/renewable-energy/community-solar-expansion-program/>

Financial Impact:

This program reopens on July 1st 2027, and the City of Ellensburg has an annual maximum payout of \$250,000. In turn, the City will be able to claim an equivalent tax credit.

Budget Adjustment: No

Attachments:

None

Energy Services Monthly Report

Date: 07/16/2026

Electric:

- Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) Interim Report was submitted June 29, 2026. WAC 194-40-040.
- Washington State Auditor Office (WSAO) Exit Conference for the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 took place on July 7, 2026.
- Quarterly reports were submitted on July 8, 2026 for Grid Modernization (GRID2023) Grant #24-92201-012 and Solar and Smart Grid Modernization at the Solar Energy Park DE-EE0010717.0000. Extension requests have been submitted for both grants.
- Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) Outreach plan was presented to Environmental Commission on July 15, 2026 and Utility Advisory Commission on July 16, 2026. One of the specific actions identified in CEIP 2026-2029 was “Enhanced Outreach and Education” to expand communication, education and outreach strategies to increase program awareness and accessibility for low-income households and vulnerable populations. This presentation is the first step in developing those outreach strategies.
- Magnum Power, the successful bidder for Bid Call 2026-02 Feeder 7 Construction And Feeder 1 Line Extension, has mobilized and is on site and has begun work.
- The City experienced an outage on June 24th starting at 12:50 pm This affected feeder 4 which serves Dolarway Rd, West University, and the West interchange. The outage was caused by wildlife in the overhead lines. City crews made repairs and returned the feeder to service. The outage lasted approximately 2 hours and affected approximately 800 customers.
- The City experienced an outage on June 29th starting at 3:00 pm, affecting the Helena Substation and feeders 17 & 18. The outage was caused by an overvoltage trip at the Helena substation. Staff inspected the substation, checked the logs, before returning the substation and feeders to service. The outage lasted roughly 2 hours and affected approximately 2,500 customers.

Gas:

- A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was first published on July 10, 2026 for consulting firms to develop a Decarbonization Roadmap in continuation of the Decarbonization Workplan that was previously completed on June 19, 2025.

Telecom:

- Staff worked with NoaNet and Public Works to provide a quote for Dark Fiber lease to the upcoming backup generator project at Whitney Wells. The quote for installation totaled \$19,352.78.
- Kenny Heide, Telecom Business Manager, was selected to be part of the new Permit Process Implementation team and has been attending meetings and trainings on new technology for new permit process for Commercial permits.



ELLENSBURG 2046

Hometown Heart — Bright Future

JOIN US FOR OUR DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OPEN HOUSE!

The City of Ellensburg's **Comprehensive Plan Update** is well underway, **and we want to hear from you!** Stop by the Foundry Building on Wednesday, July 22nd, anytime between 4–6 PM for our **draft open-house event** and help shape Ellensburg's future.

Comprehensive Plan Open House



Wednesday, July 22nd | 4:00 – 6:00 PM

The Foundry Building at 421 North Main Street,
Ellensburg, WA 98926



The Draft Comprehensive Plan will be available for your review!

Join us at the open house to learn more about the project, ask questions about the process, and share your input.