

## Natural gas awareness

As Washington state's oldest and largest energy utility, PSE has provided customers with the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to their homes and businesses for more than 135 years.

While employees and contractors are trained to conduct regular inspections to ensure that our pipeline system and equipment as well as customers' appliances are working safely, PSE also provides customers and the general public with information that allows everyone to make their homes and businesses safer and more efficient.

By visiting PSE.com or reading information included in the monthly billing statements, consumers can learn about the underground natural gas system, the properties of clean-burning natural gas, who to call before digging, how to identify a natural gas leak and what to do if a leak is detected, among other points of information.



## Educational Programs



## School Support

### Solar Schools Program

Solar power grants are awarded to the districts of a limited number of educational institutions following a proposal process. The grants fund solar arrays at the schools as well as Web-based monitoring and assessment systems for the amount of electricity generated. From 2004 to 2008, the program funded seven solar systems around Puget Sound, and up to five more will be awarded in 2009.



Solar panels at Western  
Washington University

### Resource Conservation Managers

Offered through PSE's Resource Conservation Program, a grant is awarded to qualifying educational institutions that have hired a Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) to be responsible for increasing energy efficiency. The RCM focuses on improvements to operations and maintenance practices and institutes best practices for resource usage. Successful RCMs are expected to achieve an overall 5 percent energy reduction, which is often exceeded.



## Conservation and Efficiency Education

### Powerful Choices for the Environment

An in-school environmental education program in cooperation with 20 local partnering agencies, Powerful Choices offers Puget Sound area schools a comprehensive energy and environmental curriculum for sixth through eighth grade students. Environmental education professionals, trained in science education and local resource use, deliver this hands-on, four-day program in the classroom. Through a series of inquiry-based activities that focus on local air quality, waste reduction, and energy and water use, students examine how their actions connect to the quality of their ecosystem and the tradeoffs involved in generating electricity from different sources. For more information go to PSE.com, Community Programs.



### Komo Kulshan Outdoor School

This is a comprehensive, affordable, high quality program for Puget Sound area schools. Through both in-class sessions and a three-day overnight field trip, upper elementary school students and their high-school age mentors learn about watersheds, local ecosystems, and sustainable energy systems and energy efficiency/conservation through a field-based educational experience in the Baker River watershed.

Kids get to experience nature first hand as they learn about the environment that we live in



### Cool School Challenge

The Cool School Challenge engages school communities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. PSE, in collaboration with local clean air agencies, offers teacher workshops to train teachers how to implement this program at their schools. Student teams in grades 7 through 12 learn how to conduct energy audits that measure their carbon dioxide emissions. They then develop an action plan to reduce their emissions with their teachers and follow up with another audit to determine results. Visit [www.coolschoolchallenge.org](http://www.coolschoolchallenge.org) for more information.

## Safety Education

### Safety World

PSE.com's interactive online learning pages for children grades 3 through 7, "Electrical Safety World" and "Natural Gas Safety World" teach kids to make good choices around energy and energy equipment.



Electricity powers the appliances and computers that surround kids, and they encounter cords, outlets, and power lines every day. Electrical Safety World has interactive games for kids, including the Voltinator and Shock Blocker, which use recognizable examples and problem solving questions to teach kids how electricity works and to identify everyday hazards. Thorough instructional reading gives kids the background to translate the learning into real life.

Natural Gas Safety World includes games such as Pipewinder to teach kids safety habits around natural gas and gas-using appliances. The site also enhances children's science education with standards-based activities.

In the Safety World site, kids conduct fun experiments, play interactive games, complete hands-on activities, and learn skills that can prevent injuries and save lives.

The site also includes tips for parents and teachers to participate and reinforce learning at home and in the classroom. For more information go to PSE.com, Community Programs.

### Emergency Responder Training

The public safety officer is typically first on the scene when utilities are damaged, whether in response to a down power line due to a vehicle accident or an excavator digging into a natural gas pipeline. Puget Sound Energy provides information and training to emergency responders on how to recognize potential hazards involving electricity, natural gas and the necessary guidelines to assure their safety and that of the general public.

Program designed specifically for the training officer of firefighters, police and other emergency response personnel.

