



Student interest in math and science could lead to utility careers

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

With the start of the school year, this question may be on the minds of thousands of area students and their parents. Puget Sound Energy has a suggestion: Students with an interest in mathematics and science should consider a career with an energy utility.

PSE is always planning ahead to make sure we keep the lights on and gas flowing for our customers. A challenge the utility industry faces is a possible worker shortage as baby-boomers move into retirement. Nearly 44 percent of PSE employees will be eligible to retire in the next five years. Approximately half are skilled craft employees who are highly trained in the safe and reliable operation of the electric and natural gas systems. These are good local jobs. In addition, there will be increased demand for skilled “green collar” workers as well as electrical, civil and mechanical engineers at PSE and other organizations that support the utility.

PSE needs workers at our wind, hydroelectric and natural gas-fired generation facilities and, to maintain power poles, natural gas pipes, power cable, and substations in place across Washington state.



To promote interest in utility careers, PSE reaches out with presentations at local middle schools, high schools, area colleges and career fairs. PSE also helps students consider utility careers through paid internships and social media outreach. The exposure introduces students to traditional energy systems and opportunities in the green economy, such as energy-efficiency strategies and renewable energy technologies.

PSE hired Brian Lam, shown measuring the distance between underground natural gas valves, as an intern while he pursued a degree at Lake Washington Technical College. Brian is now a full-time PSE employee.

Through investor funds, PSE has granted more than \$1 million in the last several years in science, technology, engineering and math curricula at more than 20 local area technical and community colleges and universities. More than 380 grants support workforce development through courses geared toward power plant operation, wind-generation plants and technical apprentice-level training.

The investment has helped expose and prepare a new generation of employees for successful careers at PSE and in the utility industry.

Experienced utility executive named PSE president



Kimberly J. Harris was named president of PSE, effective June 30. Harris, who has been with PSE in increasing positions of responsibility since 1999, will assume the additional role of chief executive officer upon the 2011 retirement of CEO Stephen P. Reynolds.

Kimberly Harris “Thoughtful succession planning is vital to any enterprise,” said Bill Ayer, PSE chairman of the board. “Kimberly has the experience and the vision to lead PSE going forward. She is well qualified to build on the success achieved by Steve and the leadership team.”

Harris has more than 20 years of experience in the utility industry, first joining PSE as an associate general counsel. She has held executive leadership positions at PSE in the areas of energy efficiency, rates and regulatory policy, energy resources and federal government relations.

Active in the community, Harris serves on the Washington State Clean Energy Leadership Council as well as the Energy Strategy Advisory Committee. She is also a member of the board of directors of the American Red Cross of King and Kitsap counties.

If you'd like to learn more about PSE's management team, visit PSE.com.

Fall is good time to prepare for possible emergencies

With September designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as National Preparedness Month, now is a good time to put together an emergency kit to ensure that your family, home and business will be safe during and after an emergency.

FEMA and other organizations, including the Take Winter By Storm awareness campaign created for Western Washington by King County and area entities, including PSE, recommend that you prepare an emergency kit consisting of at least a three-day supply of food, water, medicines, pet supplies, flashlights, battery-powered radio and batteries, a first aid kit and other items.

Other preparedness tips include:

- ◆ Stay out of the way of floodwaters outdoors and indoors.
- ◆ Keep storm drains clear to prevent flooding.
- ◆ Maintain gutters and downspouts.
- ◆ Never use charcoal or a gas grill to cook indoors, carbon monoxide can be deadly.
- ◆ Establish an out-of-area contact for family members to call should the local phone system be out of service.

You can find more information on preparedness at Ready.gov and the Take Winter By Storm website, TakeWinterByStorm.org.

Weather radios provide storm alerts

A weather radio is an excellent source of timely and accurate local weather information 24 hours a day and an early warning system for emergency events. Gov. Christine Gregoire has proclaimed September as Weather Radio Awareness

Month, and has expressed support for a weather radio campaign goal of having weather radios become as common as smoke detectors in homes and businesses.

For information on weather radio retailers, visit the Washington State Emergency Management campaign website at emd.wa.gov.



PSE's Andy Wappler, Take Winter By Storm spokesperson, participates in a public service announcement.

It's not too early: Get your home safe and ready for winter

With La Niña expected to bring our region a cooler and wetter-than-normal winter, it's not too soon to start preparing your home for the change of seasons. Begin by making sure your heating system is in good, safe working order. Here's a checklist to help get your home prepared:

◆ Run the furnace to make sure it's operating properly.

Check for unusual odors or sounds, or warm, moist air escaping into the house from the furnace or vent pipe. If any of these problems exist, call a furnace technician.

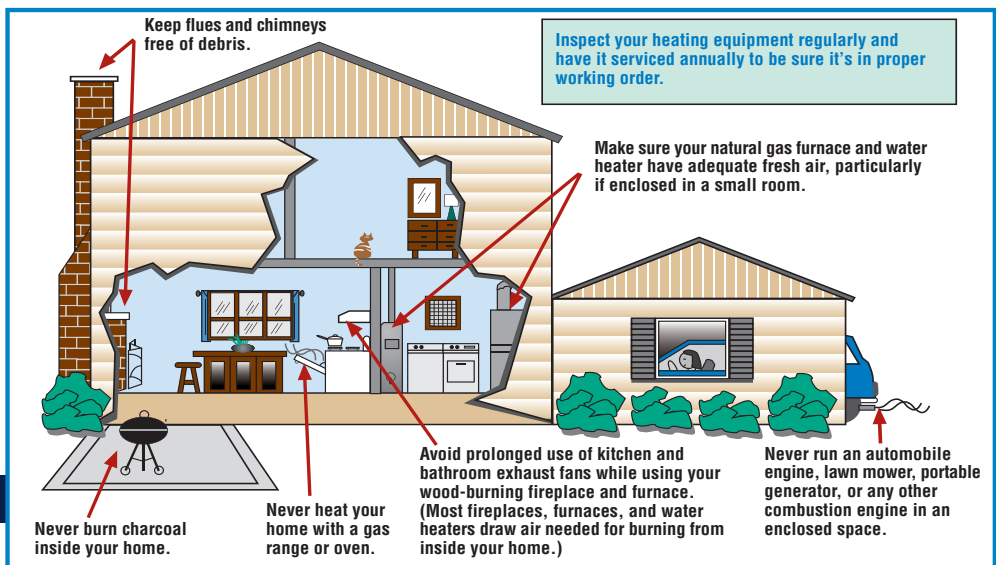
◆ Check the chimney.

Make sure it is not blocked by bird nests, leaves, dirt or obstructions that could prevent proper ventilation.

◆ Clean or replace dirty furnace filters.

Change or clean monthly during the heating season.

- ◆ **Check filters monthly on heat pumps.** Keep the indoor coil free of lint and dirt, and clean the outside coil at least twice a year.
- ◆ **Check the vent pipe.** Make sure the metal or plastic vent pipe is connected securely to the furnace and shows no signs of damage, soot, rust or corrosion.
- ◆ **Keep furnace area clutter-free.** Clean the area around the furnace to allow ventilation and prevent fire hazards. Never store corrosive or flammable materials on or near the furnace or vent pipe.



Know how to detect a natural gas leak



We inserted a scratch and sniff pamphlet in your bill in August and September as part of a “natural gas stinks” safety campaign that went viral after we issued a news release and followed up with social media. From Singapore to Belfast to Seattle, news broadcasts and postings on

news websites are drawing attention to the fact that we add a sulfur, or “rotten egg,” smell to the normally colorless and odorless natural gas for your safety. This distinctive odor alerts you to a natural gas leak in your home or elsewhere. Other signs of a possible natural gas leak, particularly near a pipeline, include a hissing sound, blowing dirt, or bubbles rising in a puddle. If you suspect a natural gas leak, call PSE at 1-888-225-5773, or call 911.



Adjustments to bills anticipated in October

In late August, PSE requested slight adjustments in natural gas and electric rates. If approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, the changes are expected to take effect Oct. 1.

An increase amounting to about 4 cents a month on an electric bill and 3 cents a month on a natural gas bill will cover the higher costs for PSE’s low-income programs.



Moving? Give us a call or go online

If you’re planning to move into a new home or apartment, make sure to request new service, transfer existing service or stop your service *before* you move. You can also stop your service and close your account online by going to PSE.com or calling us at 1-888-225-5773.

50,000th visitor to Renewable Energy Center names wind turbine “Serendipity”

For her birthday over the Fourth of July weekend, Sara Battin of Seattle made an impromptu visit with a friend to PSE’s Wild Horse Renewable Energy Center near Ellensburg to walk the trail of discovery. While there, Battin received a surprise when she became the center’s 50,000th visitor, earning her the right to name the highest and best-producing wind turbine at our Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility, where the center is located. Battin named the turbine Serendipity. The Renewable Energy Center is open daily from April through November.



Sara Battin at Wild Horse



In Your Community

Save energy and win prizes with PSE's "Re-Energize Your Block"

Getting involved in your community to conserve resources is "Re-Energizing!" PSE and participating retailers and manufacturers are offering our residential electric customers the chance to win great energy-efficient prizes during our Re-Energize Your Block campaign through September. The focus: Help residential electric customers take action — and have fun — in becoming more energy efficient.

You can take energy-efficient actions at home and on the go with PSE's Scavenger Hunt. Or you can tell us how you're Re-Energizing your block in our Re-Energize Photo/Video Contest. It's easy to participate in the many opportunities to be energy-efficient and help your family and neighbors save energy.

Visit PSE.com/ReEnergizeYourBlock to get started. And be sure to check us out at Facebook.com/ReEnergize and Twitter.com/PSETalk.



Re-Energize Your Block events

Sept. 4 – Home Depot, Silverdale

Sept. 11 – Home Depot, Issaquah

Sept. 18 – Home Depot, Olympia

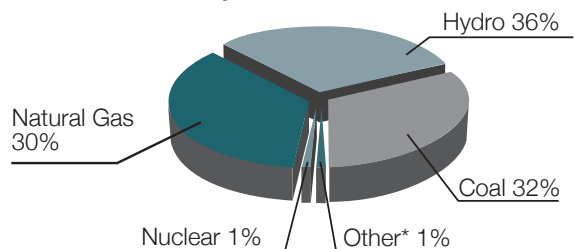
Sept. 25 – Home Depot, Bellevue

PSE representatives will be on hand to answer questions about ways you can save every day through energy-efficiency rebates, as well as explain energy safety, including natural gas awareness, the use of CFL bulbs and proper disposal of old bulbs and refrigerators.

Electricity: Fuel Mix

The electricity that Puget Sound Energy delivers to customers is generated using a number of different resources. The fuel mix for these resources for electricity delivered in 2009 is shown in the following table and chart:

Fuel	Percentage
Coal	32
Hydroelectric	36
Natural Gas	30
Nuclear	1
Other*	1
Total	100



* Biomass, landfill gas, petroleum, waste and wind.
Source of data: As reported by PSE to, and published by, the Washington Department of Commerce.

Save time, postage with paperless billing and online payments

When you sign up to receive and pay your PSE bill online, log on to PSE.com and register for "My PSE Account," then "Go Paperless" to pay your bills online and monitor your daily energy use.

Go Paperless
Save time and postage
PSE.com

Visit our local customer service offices

Most offices are open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Bellingham – 1329 N. State St.
Burlington – 1660 Park Lane
Ellensburg – 207 N. Pearl St.

Freeland – 1794 Main St.
Oak Harbor – 231 SE Barrington Dr. #101
Olympia – 2711 Pacific Ave. SE

Port Townsend – 181 Quincy St. #101
Vashon Island – 18125 Vashon Highway SW

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For information about rates and your rights and responsibilities, please call or visit us online.

