

Puget Sound Energy Resource Planning Advisory Group (RPAG) Kickoff Meeting

Meeting Summary

Monday, October 30th, 2023 | 2:30- 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Purpose and Topics

Below are the meeting objectives of this Resource Planning Advisory Group (RPAG) meeting:

- Provide an overview of the RPAG and Integrated Resource Plans (IRP)
- Introduce Puget Sound Energy (PSE) staff, RPAG members, and facilitation team
- Review draft RPAG charter
- Discuss the 2025 IRP work plan, timeline, and topics
- Recap next steps
- Public comment period

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
2:30 – 2:35 p.m. <i>5 min</i>	Introduction and agenda review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety moment • Introductions • Agenda review and meeting purpose 	Sophie Glass , Facilitator, Triangle Associates
2:35 - 3:05 p.m. <i>30 min</i>	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 engagement approach • RPAG structure • RPAG member introductions 	Kara Durbin Director, Clean Energy Strategy Sophie Glass , Facilitator, Triangle Associates
3:05 - 3:25 p.m. <i>20 min</i>	RPAG and IRP overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About PSE • IRP overview • Incorporating 2023 feedback into the 2025 IRP 	Phillip Popoff Director, Resource Planning Analytics, PSE Kara Durbin Director, Clean Energy Strategy
3:25-3:40 p.m. <i>15 min</i>	Charter review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose • Providing feedback • Amending charter 	Sophie Glass , Facilitator, Triangle Associates
3:40 - 4:45 p.m. <i>55 min</i>	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 IRP work plan • IRP timeline • IRP meeting topics 	Phillip Popoff Director, Resource Planning Analytics, PSE Sophie Glass , Facilitator, Triangle Associates

4:45 – 4:50 p.m. <i>5 min</i>	Next steps	Sophie Glass , Facilitator, Triangle Associates
4:50 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Public comment opportunity	Sophie Glass , Facilitator, Triangle Associates
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	Sophie Glass , Facilitator, Triangle Associates

The full meeting materials, including [agenda](#), [presentation](#), and [draft RPAG charter](#) can be found online under the Oct. 30, 2023 meeting heading [on the IRP website](#).

Action Items

Below is a summary of actions from the Oct. 30, 2023, RPAG meeting.

What	Who	When
Sign up for RPAG 1:1 interview slot with the facilitator	RPAG members	ASAP
Send poll to RPAG members who were absent	PSE/Triangle	Oct. 31, 2023 (complete)
Consider feedback from RPAG members on RPAG processes, members, and draft charter	PSE	Dec. 12, 2023

Opening

Sophie Glass introduced herself as a Director and Principal at Triangle. She explained her role as a neutral, third-party facilitator for the Resource Planning Advisory Group (RPAG) and the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) webinar series. She has a background working with technical advisory groups across a range of topics, from affordable housing to environmental remediation, and IRP public meetings over the past 2 years.

Director of Clean Energy, Kara Durbin, and Director of Resource Planning Analytics, Phillip Popoff, both introduced themselves as Puget Sound Energy (PSE) staff.

Sophie introduced other PSE staff and the facilitation team and reviewed the agenda. She explained that observers could watch RPAG meetings via a YouTube live stream and have an opportunity to provide public comments at the end of the meeting. If they would like want to provide a public comment, they need to register and join the Zoom meeting directly.

Introductions

2025 engagement approach

Sophie outlined PSE’s enhanced engagement approach, which is designed to be more inclusive of the diverse public, while also providing PSE with the technical input it needs. The engagement approach has two tracks and is built on the success of PSE’s Equity Advisory Group (EAG) format. These two

tracks are public webinars and the formal RPAG which consists of regional experts in a range of resource planning related topics. There will be a public comment period at each RPAG meeting and a feedback form for the public to give written feedback. This feedback will be summarized for all RPAG members.

RPAG structure

Sophie described the structure PSE sought in forming the RPAG with approximately 10-12 members. To maintain a balance across different organizations and interests, membership was limited to:

- No more than 1 representative from any single organization
- No more than 3 representatives in any category/interest group

Triangle’s RPAG member selection methodology is summarized in a memo that can be [found on the IRP website](#).

RPAG member introductions

Sophie invited RPAG members to introduce themselves with their name, role, organization, and their organization’s mission (arranged alphabetically by first name).

Name	Title	Organization
Aliza Seelig	Analytics and Policy Director	Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC)
Alondra Regalado	Policy Analyst	Western Energy Storage Taskforce (WEST)
Dan Kirschner	Executive Director	Northwest Gas Association (NWGA)
Froylan Sifuentes	Assistant Professor	Western Washington University Institute of Energy Studies
Jim Dennison	Associate Attorney	Sierra Club
Joel Nightingale	Regulatory Analyst	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
John Ollis	Manager of Planning and Analysis	Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPCC)
Katie Chamberlain	Technical and Policy Analyst	Renewable Northwest
Lauren McCloy	Policy Director	NW Energy Coalition (NVEC)
Fred Heutte (alternate)	Senior Policy Associate	NW Energy Coalition (NVEC)
Stephanie K. Chase	Regulatory Analyst	Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General Office
Dr. Ezra Hausman (alternate)	President, Ezra Hausman Consulting, Consultant to Public Counsel	Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General Office
Megan Larkin (not in attendance)	Washington Clean Buildings Policy Manager	Climate Solutions
Sommer Moser (not in attendance)	Attorney, Davison Van Cleve, PC on behalf of AWEC	Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC)

RPAG and IRP overview

Phillip provided background on PSE. PSE is Washington's largest and oldest utility service serving more than 1.2 million electric customers in 10 counties and 900,000 gas customers in 6 counties over 6,000 sq. miles. PSE has 12,955 miles of natural gas pipeline and 13,351 miles of gas service line.

Phillip shared the following information:

- PSE uses the IRP to identify resource needs over a 20-year horizon.
- There is an electric IRP every 4 years with a 2-year progress report and a gas IRP repeated every 2 years.
- PSE's existing electric supply portfolio includes thermal, wind, solar, hydroelectric, and coal.
- PSE uses a regional network of gas basins and pipelines.

Incorporating 2023 feedback and new requirements into the 2025 IRP

Philip shared how PSE is evolving their public engagement. PSE will continue to prepare a written report of public feedback and is committed to clearly communicating how they incorporate feedback as they develop the IRP.

In response to a question about options for the public to dive deeper into IRP planning beyond the webinars, PSE responded that they must find a balance for the right level of information for a broader public audience in the webinars. Members of the public with a deep interest in these topics can provide public comments and submit their feedback in writing via Feedback Forms. Interested members of the public can also view RPAG meetings and provide comments in that forum at a designated time.

In response to a question about the relationship between public feedback and the RPAG, PSE will be sharing public feedback reports with the RPAG and welcomes additional suggestions from the RPAG on how the feedback loop can work more effectively.

Charter review

Sophie shared that she would like to interview all RPAG members as part of a convening assessment that she will be conducting as a neutral third-party facilitator. The interview will cover RPAG members' concerns and hopes for the group, which could inform the charter. A doodle poll link was shared with RPAG members to register for an interview.

Charter summary

RPAG applications were reviewed via blind evaluation through a panel consisting of 3 PSE members and 2 outside consultants (including one consultant with no history of working with PSE and the IRP

process). Sophie shared that PSE aimed to have an environmental justice or social justice representative on the RPAG; however, this was not possible due to resource and time constraints on the part of potential organizations/representatives. This is something PSE is working on and the Equity Advisory Group (EAG) will play a role in providing an equity perspective.

Sophie described PSE's commitment to RPAG members. PSE is accountable to RPAG members and will allow opportunities for public comment at each meeting. PSE will be clear about the decision-making power that RPAG members have: the RPAG is an advisory group, not a decision-making group.

Sophie described the RPAG's commitments. Members are expected to participate, contribute, and recommend best practices. Members serve a 2-year term, may identify an alternate for meetings, and consent to livestreaming their meetings. Sophie also outlined the group's conduct expectations of being respectful and on time. She emphasized PSE's commitment to making this an accessible space and encouraged RPAG members to reach out concerning any accommodation they might need.

Providing feedback

RPAG members shared the following comments and questions on the draft RPAG charter:

- Would it be appropriate to include PSE's commitment to include recommendations from the public under the 1st bullet point of PSE's commitment?
- RPAG's contribution of technical expertise does not fully meet PSE's obligation for public participation. It should be clarified in the description of RPAG's commitment in the charter that RPAG is not a substitute for public participation.
- The role of the IRP has shifted a great deal with the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) and the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and that it is no longer simply a technical exercise but also about equity. This shift should be reflected in the purpose section of the charter. This could for example look like adding "equity considerations in resource planning and delivered value to customers."
- Modifying the language in the charter from "1 alternate" to "**an** alternate" to allow RPAG members to have multiple alternates to accommodate small organizations that may not have the capacity to dedicate a consistent RPAG member.
- Preference to informally weigh in on the charter instead of formally voting on it.
- More clarity on how the EAG uses SharePoint versus public website material, and one member noted that SharePoint can be a difficult platform to use.
- Concern about the lack of an environmental and/or social justice perspective in RPAG. PSE needs a more robust plan to address this. PSE should provide accommodations to support the capacity of an environmental and/or social justice organization to participate.
- Concern about the lack of a local community perspective at the RPAG table. PSE should explore the addition of a community-based organization or member.

PSE provided the following responses:

- PSE is open to allowing multiple alternates from an organization.
- PSE is open to flexibility in the protocol for finalizing the charter, but the charter needs to transition from a draft to a final approved version.
- November 14, 2023 is the suggested deadline for a finalized charter. PSE is open to adjusting the timeline.
- Meeting materials will continue to be posted on the PSE website; SharePoint is not intended to limit access. This format has been modeled off the Equity Advisory Group. PSE will circle back on how the EAG uses SharePoint versus public material.

Amending charter

RPAG members will be asked to adopt a final charter. The charter is the bedrock for RPAG meetings and can be supplemented with additional policies as needed.

Discussion

2025 IRP workplan

Philip shared the current IRP workplan that was filed Sept. 29, 2023. The next IRP filing date is Jan. 1, 2025, and PSE is committed to filing an updated workplan by Dec. 15, 2023.

IRP timeline

Philip outlined two IRP timelines, one with a filing date of Jan. 1, 2025, and another of Oct. 1, 2025, which gives PSE more time to better integrate various processes.

If the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) does not have the authority to extend the filing date to October, then PSE will discuss other options.

An RPAG member shared that from the UTC staff perspective the IRP is required every 4 years. A filing date of Oct. 1, 2025 would push beyond that requirement by statute, which is not something the UTC has the authority to amend.

IRP meeting topics

Sophie shared a digital poll to capture the topic interests of RPAG members and their meeting frequency preferences. See below.

Figure 1: Topics ranked in order of importance for RPAG discussions

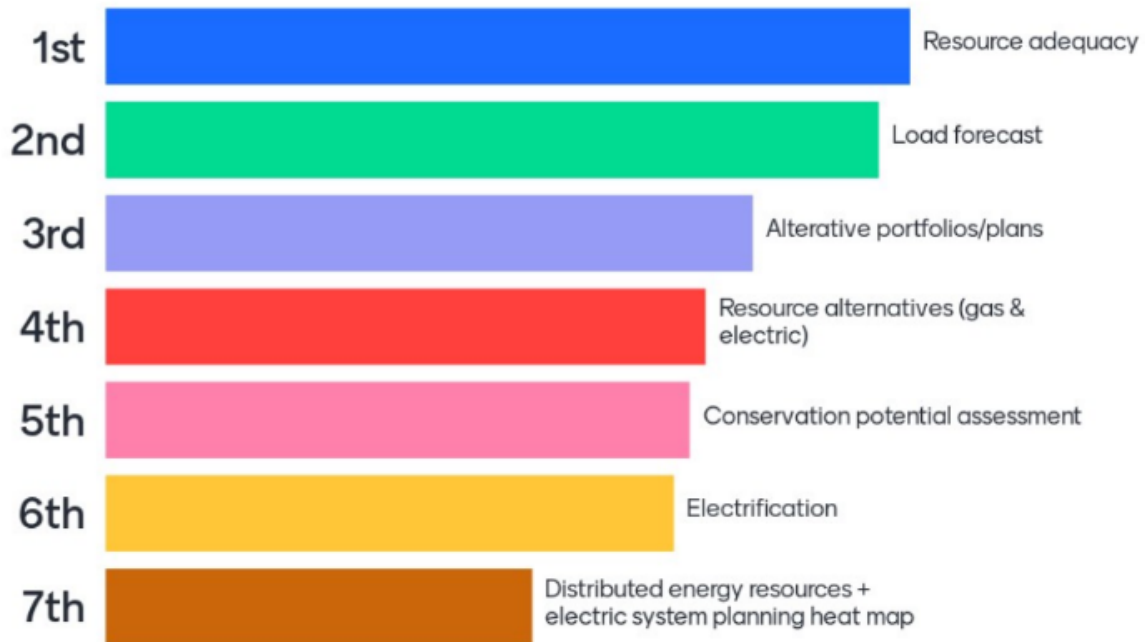
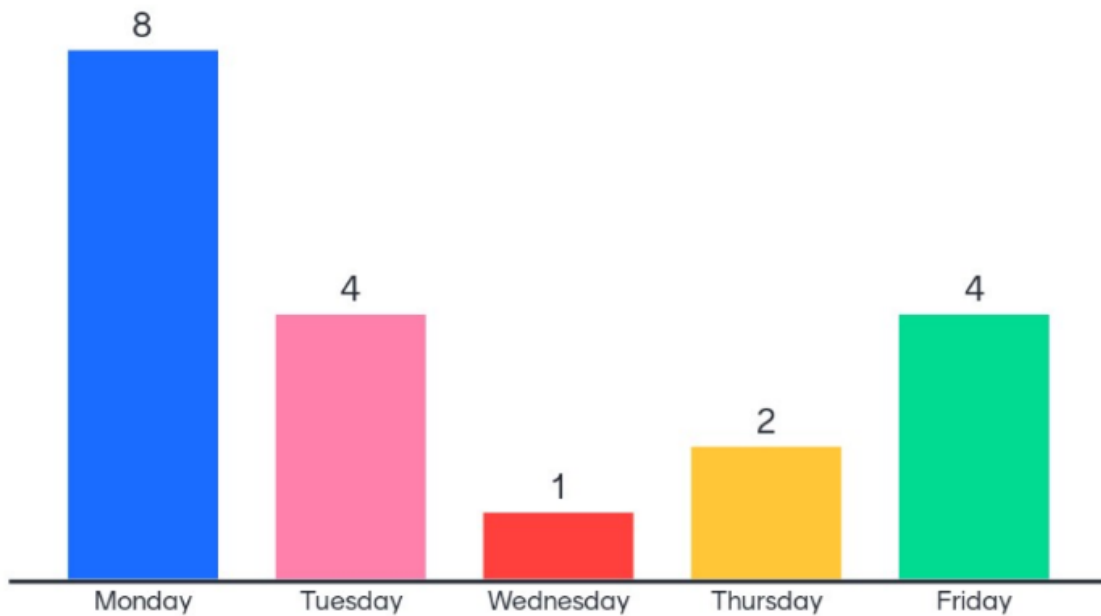


Figure 2: Are there any other topics the RPAG should discuss?



Figure 3: What is the best day of the week for RPAG meetings?



RPAG members shared the following comments:

- Transmission is an important topic to add to the list.
- Creating subgroups or sub meetings for RPAG members interested in spending additional time diving into specific topics.

PSE provided the following responses:

- PSE is interested in the idea of creating subgroups but will wait to see the responses of what topics people are interested in before making any decisions.

Next Steps

Upcoming meetings:

- November 6, 2023: public webinar on equity in delivery system planning
- November 15, 2023: public webinar on energy efficiency and demand side resources
- December 7, 2023: public webinar on emerging resource alternatives: hydrogen
- December 12, 2023: tentative RPAG meeting, topic to be determined pending RPAG member feedback

PSE will send out registration links to RPAG members for these upcoming meetings.

Public comment opportunity

Don Marsh, chair of the Washington Clean Energy Coalition, commented that he was part of the three previous IRP groups. He shared his concern that “PSE is restricting public participation with the very policies they claim increases participation.” He commented that PSE’s new two track engagement framework model “restricts public engagement and sidelines the Washington Clean Energy Coalition.”

Jim Adcock, electrical engineer and MIT graduate, has been a dozen year member of a PSE “stakeholder group”, and shared his frustration that PSE is “canceling it.” Jim argued that PSE has limited public engagement to “cherry picked organizations of their liking.” Jim stated the public deserves a meaningful voice in how PSE spends their money. Jim shared their concern for PSE’s greenhouse gas emissions and the impact this has not only on flora and fauna but also on humanity.

Jim Dennison, RPAG member representing the Sierra Club, recommended PSE use the additional time during the public comment to engage in a back-and-forth dialogue.

Sophie responded that the comment period is not currently structured as an open dialogue but noted the recommendation to discuss with PSE for future RPAG meetings.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Attendees¹ (alphabetical by first name)

Members of the public

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Austin Nnoli | 6. John Hammerly | 11. Marcus Sellers-Vaughn |
| 2. Don Marsh | 7. John Robbins | 12. Philip Jones |
| 3. Eric Schwartz | 8. Joshua Dennis | 13. Randy Hardy |
| 4. James Adcock | 9. Kate Brouns | 14. Subramanian Vadari |
| 5. Jesse Scharf | 10. Linda Irvine | |

RPAG Members

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Aliza Seelig | 5. Fred Heutte | 9. John Ollis |
| 2. Alondra Regalado | 6. Froylan Sifuentes | 10. Katie Chamberlain |
| 3. Dan Kirschner | 7. Jim Dennison | 11. Stephanie Chase |
| 4. Ezra Hausman | 8. Joel Nightingale | |

¹ These numbers do not include viewers on [PSE’s YouTube livestream](#)

PSE presenters

1. Kara Durbin
2. Meredith Mathis
3. Phillip Popoff
4. Ray Outlaw

Other PSE staff

1. Allison Jacobs
2. Carryn Vande Griend
3. Jesse Durst
4. Sachi Begur
5. Sheri Maynard
6. Tyler Tobin

Facilitation staff

1. Emilie Pilchowski
2. Jennifer Coulson
3. Sophie Glass
4. Will Henderson
5. Seth Baker