



Our Electric Cooperative actively monitors a wide range of energy-related news and publications. This is a living document, updated on a regular basis, curating the most noteworthy articles to help broaden our collective understanding of the rapidly evolving electric utility industry.

The information shared here is intended for informational purposes only. Staying informed is one of the most important steps we can take as we navigate the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of our energy grid.

### **January 15, 2026**

Grant PUD staff emphasized that their focus is on natural gas generation technologies that could be adapted in the future to comply with Washington's clean energy requirements. Natural gas produces less carbon than many other fossil fuels, and the plants under consideration could eventually be converted to run on non-carbon fuels such as hydrogen. This approach is intended to align with the state's mandate to eliminate carbon-producing fuels from the energy supply by 2045.

Read more here: [Grant PUD Explores Natural Gas to Meet Growing Energy Demand | Columbia Basin | yoursourceone.com](#)

### **January 20, 2026**

State climate mandates like the Climate Commitment Act and the Clean Energy Transformation Act have already driven up the cost of delivering electricity. Now, a new bill, HB 2373, would require electric utilities to provide larger, locally funded monthly bill discounts for low-income households, with tiered assistance and expanded outreach, all by 2028.

Read more here: [Opinion: When the state orders discounts and sends you the bill – ClarkCountyToday.com](#)

### **January 26, 2026**

Northwest facing power crunch in 'all scenarios'

Read more here: [Northwest facing power crunch in 'all scenarios' | Capital Press](#)

### **February 7, 2026**

Nearly half of the American population will be at a high risk of rolling blackouts in the near future due to rising electricity demand, the announced retirement of reliable coal plants, and a continuing shift toward the unreliable wind, solar, and battery storage systems that failed to deliver during Winter Storm Fern.

Read more here: [NERC: Half of America At A High Risk of Blackouts](#)

February 26, 2026

A federal judge ordered increased water spill at eight Snake and Columbia river dams to help endangered salmon and steelhead, but stopped short of requiring lower reservoir levels or additional conservation measures. The ruling is a partial win for environmental groups but drew criticism from public power advocates, who warn it will reduce clean hydropower generation and affect electric reliability for millions of Northwest residents.

Read more here: [Simon Orders More Spill, But No Drawdowns or Conservation Measures | Environment | newsdata.com](#)

### **March 5, 2026**

PSE seeks big rate increases!

Energy bills shot up by 12% this year for Puget Sound Energy customers due to the state-approved recovery of costs related to Climate Commitment Act compliance, expanding clean energy portfolios, and critical grid reliability investments. That's nothing, compared to what the utility is asking for in a new three-year rate change plan.

PSE is asking the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to approve its [plan to increase its electric bill rates by nearly 30%](#) and gas bills nearly 20% by 2029 for residential rate payers.

Read more here: [WATCH: PSE wants 30% rate increase; clean energy mandates behind request | Washington | thecentersquare.com](#)

### **March 6, 2026**

The Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission has approved AES Hawai'i's Ka'awanui Solar project, which will power the equivalent of more than 16,000 homes annually with clean, locally produced energy and meet approximately 17.5% of Kaua'i's energy needs.

Read more here: [New renewable energy project in Kaua'i will power 16,000 homes annually : Kauai Now](#)

### **March 10, 2026**

Washington state has ambitious clean energy goals but is falling dangerously behind on building the transmission infrastructure needed to achieve them, with experts warning of likely blackouts by 2030. Senate Bill 6355 would establish a state transmission authority to help plan and finance new power lines, following the lead of other states that have successfully used similar agencies to drive billions in grid investment.

Read more here: [WA's electricity grid needs a state transmission authority | The Seattle Times](#)

**March 11, 2026**

Northwest looking at a dry spring, summer and fall for agriculture

Read more here: [Northwest looking at a dry spring, summer and fall for agriculture](#)

**March 16, 2026**

Landmark offshore wind farms come online in the U.S.

Revolution Wind and Vineyard Wind are two of several wind farm projects that have come under fire from the Trump administration in recent months.

Read more here: [Landmark offshore wind farms come online in the U.S.](#)

**March 17, 2026**

WASHINGTON, OREGON — A new report from Columbia Riverkeeper is raising concerns about the impact of data centers on renewable energy efforts in Washington and Oregon. The report identifies more than 100 data centers in development across 12 counties along the Columbia River.

Read more here: [Columbia River data centers threaten renewable energy goals, report says | News | nbcrightnow.com](#)

**March 22, 2026**

Washington State legislators must come to terms with their fatally flawed Energy Strategy and detached from reality promise of "energy equity"

Read more here: [The Dirty Business of "Clean Energy"](#)

**March 24, 2026**

Seattle City Light put into place a 5.6% rate increase for customers in January and said in a newsletter to customers that more increases will occur starting next year.

"Looking ahead to 2027 and beyond, ***we anticipate annual rate increases of 7 to 10%*** to support major investments in infrastructure, modernizing the grid, and advancing clean energy," the newsletter said.

Read more here: [Many rate hikes in store for Seattle City Light customers | Washington | thecentersquare.com](#)

**April 1, 2026**



Puget Sound Energy's most recent rate proposal would increase electricity rates by nearly 30% over three years, and gas rates by nearly 20% in the same timespan.

"It is a big rate increase, and it's on top of another big rate increase that occurred not so long ago," Bill Gaines said.

"We can't do that, we can't afford that. I mean, it's crazy, and I thought last year was bad." Jamie Martin, a PSE ratepayer, said when she heard about the proposed increase.

Read more here: [PSE proposes new rate increases. Here's how much you could be paying – KIRO 7 News Seattle](#)

### **May 5, 2026**

Northwest electricity customers are again being told not to worry.

In litigation over Columbia Basin salmon, federal agencies began spilling more water last month to comply with a federal court order, sending more water over spillways rather than through power-generating turbines.

According to court filings, the order will cost Bonneville Power Administration customers over \$100 million a year and cut hydropower output by 1,000 megawatts in August and 500 in September.

Read more here: [More spill, less hydropower: The electric grid tradeoffs Washington can't ignore • Washington State Standard](#)