



14 UTILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Bothell's residents and businesses rely on a diverse network of utilities for their daily needs. Utilities are the basic building blocks of urban living; while we may take these services for granted—not thinking much about the electric lines that make it possible to turn the lights on, natural gas that may heat our homes, or the phone, cable, and internet infrastructure that we enjoy—utilities make living in cities possible. Without coordination and conscientious planning for future growth, services may be interrupted, inadequate, or prohibitively expensive.

This element establishes an overall strategy for providing adequate utility service to serve the growth projected in the **Land Use Element**. The purpose of this element is to facilitate coordination between utility providers and the City. Utilities have several layers of State and Federal regulations that preempt local controls. Nothing in this element is intended to interfere with compliance with applicable regulations or policies of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the National Gas Policy Act (NGPA), or Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Title 80.

Utilities deemed necessary to support growth in Bothell (consistent with GMA) include electricity, natural gas, liquid petroleum pipelines, telecommunications, and solid waste. Three utility services ~~often thought of as utilities but~~ not included in this element are potable water supply, wastewater, and stormwater management; these are discussed in the **Capital Facilities Element** consistent with the GMA.

The Utilities Element supports the **Framework Vision** by establishing policies to ensure that new facilities provided are compatible with planned growth and utility planning is done in conjunction with land use. Policies also address issues of sustainability and facility siting.

This element directly supports the following **Guiding Principles**:

- Fostering well-being with affordable, equitable, and culturally responsive services and facilities.
- Regional cooperation.
- Built and natural environments work in harmony.
- Climate sustainability and resiliency



TODAY & TOMORROW

Conditions Today

Planning for privately managed utilities is recognized as the primary responsibility of the utility provider, requiring them to manage infrastructure needs and repairs in aging systems, respond to growth, respond to consumer needs, and adapt to new technologies. **Exhibit 14-1** summarizes the utilities, providers, and applicable plans that further guide the agencies listed above. A map of other major utility facilities is included as **Exhibit 14-2**. Each of these utilities are discussed in more detail in the sections that follow.

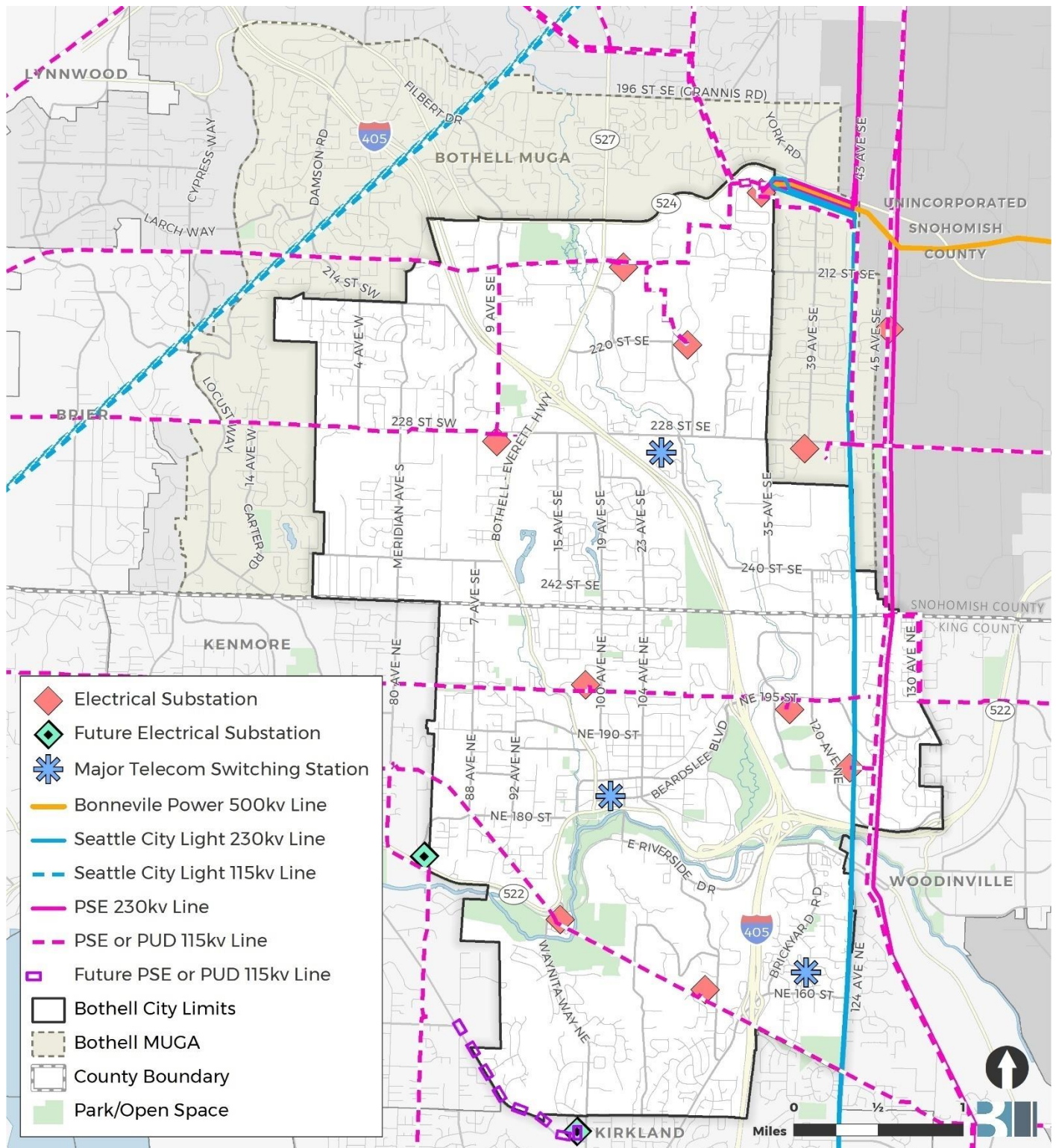
Exhibit 14-1. Utility Providers and Functional Plans

Utility	Provider(s)	Description	Applicable Plans
Electricity	Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1 (PUD)	Provides electric power to the City of Bothell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSE Electric Utility Integrated Resource Plan, Clean Energy Action Plan, and Clean Energy Implementation Plan ▪ PUD Integrated Resource Plan ▪ Northwest Conservation and Electric Power Plan
Natural Gas	PSE	Provides natural gas to the City of Bothell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PSE Gas Utility Integrated Resource Plan, Clean Energy Action Plan, and Clean Energy Implementation Plan
Liquid Petroleum Pipelines	Olympic Pipeline Company	Refined petroleum pipeline system carrying refined petroleum products through the eastern portion of the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) regulates interstate liquid pipelines and their associated facilities.
Telecommunications	Various	Provide a range of services, including telephone, cable, personal wireless communication, and internet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regulates the rates and services of telephone companies operating in Washington per WAC 480-120. The WUTC does not normally regulate cable, internet, wireless phones, and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).
Solid Waste	Recology King County	Provides automated refuse collection, recycling, and compost for residential and commercial customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan

Source: City of Bothell, 2024; BERK, 2024.



Exhibit 14-2. Other Major Utility Facilities



Sources: City of Bothell, 2024; PSE, 2024; BERK, 2024.



Electricity

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1 (the PUD) supply electricity to Bothell residents. Electricity service areas are divided roughly along the county line with PSE serving Bothell Planning Area residents within King County and the PUD serving Bothell Planning Area residents within Snohomish County.

In addition, Seattle City Light, while not providing power to Bothell, maintains two sets of 230,000-volt (230 kV) transmission lines which pass through the east side of the North Creek Valley and proceed south along 124th Avenue NE. PSE has a 230 kV line in parallel as well as a previously 115 kV line that was converted to 230 kV, on a corridor which passes through the east side of the North Creek Valley then turns southeast and follows the Sammamish Valley. See [Exhibit 14-2](#).

Puget Sound Energy

PSE provides electricity to the portion of Bothell within King County, serving approximately 14,230 customer accounts in the city, including 9,374 residential meters, 853 commercial or industrial meters, and 4,003 other/unknown meters. Transmission lines and substations are described below:⁶¹

- PSE serves Bothell with the Cottage Brook–Moorlands, Moorlands–Vitulli, Beverly–Cottage Brook, and SCL Bothell–Sammamish transmission lines.
- Four electric substations serve the city including: North Bothell, Vitulli, Wayne, and Norway Hill.

The above-described transmission lines serve distribution substations which reduce the voltage to 12,000 volts (12kV). From these substations extend 12 kV distribution lines which run along local streets. Transformers then further reduce the voltage to 240 volts for distribution to residences or to 480 or 208 for commercial or industrial users.

PSE's current Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), filed in December 2021, is the roadmap for how PSE intends to deliver on its clean energy goals. These goals include eliminating coal-fired resources by 2025, achieving greenhouse gas neutrality by 2030, and supplying 100% renewable and non-emitting electric energy by 2045. The 2021 Plan was also PSE's first resource plan to incorporate climate change temperature predictions in the analysis. During the four years covered by the 2021 Plan (2022-2025), PSE plans to move to 63% clean electricity by 2025 with utility-scale renewables, energy efficiency programs, and new customer-focused programs. As of the 2023 progress report, PSE is on track to meet the 2025 goal of 63%; however, given an increase in the load forecast, the progress report's resource plan requires additional renewable and non-emitting generation to meet the same target.

Snohomish County PUD

The PUD provides electrical service to the portion of Bothell's planning area within Snohomish County. The PUD serves all of Snohomish County plus Camano Island, is the second largest public utility district in the State of Washington, and is the 12th largest in the nation in terms of customers served.

⁶¹ Per communications with PSE, the other/unknown category includes 2,992 multifamily, 116 mobile home, 3 triplex, 29 duplex, and 112 single family meters. The remaining other/unknown categories include meters for garages, office buildings, traffic lights, etc. as well as 707 "null" or "other" meters. Personal communication with Jacquelyn Styrna, PSE Senior Municipal Liaison Manager for Island & Snohomish Counties, 2024.



According to the PUD, the utility district relies on a diversified power portfolio consisting of a long-term power supply contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a broad range of conservation and energy-efficiency programs, three PUD-owned hydroelectric projects, some customer-owned generation, and several long-term power supply contracts. The PUD's long-term power contract with BPA expires in 2028 and so the PUD considers flexible long-term resource strategies in its 2023 IRP Update to account for different production environments post-2028 contract.⁶²

In 2020, the PUD received 74.6% of its power supply from BPA, 8.7% from its long-term wind and other renewable resources contracts, 9% from its own hydroelectric projects, and 7.7% from wholesale market purchases. The PUD makes short-term purchases and sales in the wholesale power market to balance daily and seasonal fluctuations in its load and resources. The PUD forecasts growing loads through 2045 due to electrification of transportation and building heating and cooling. Per the 2023 IRP, the PUD will seek to meet future needs with clean energy resource investments, prioritize flexibility in a period of industry change, and meet and exceed regulatory requirements.⁶³

Within the Snohomish County portion of the Bothell Planning Area, the PUD operates five substations and is currently upgrading the Thrashers Corner Substation (anticipated completion in 2025) in the Canyon Park business park area (see [Exhibit 14-2](#)).⁶⁴ The PUD reports that it designs most of its substations to accommodate a future second bank of transformers for additional capacity. The PUD relates that developments in the computing industry have led to commercial facilities that consume substantially more power than traditional facilities of similar size. These facilities are composed of extremely dense and power-intensive computer servers and associated cooling systems. The PUD states that facilities of this type locating within Bothell or the MUGA may require the construction of additional transmission, substation, and/or distribution facilities to serve the electric demand in the future.⁶⁵

The PUD also reports that it replaces about 500 aging poles, assesses and treats more than 25,000 poles, and replaces 20 to 30 miles of aging underground cables throughout the utility's service area each year.⁶⁶

Natural Gas

[Puget Sound Energy](#)

PSE is certified by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to provide Bothell and its MUGA with natural gas. PSE estimates that it serves 12,572 customer accounts in the city with natural gas, including 11,743 residential meters, 717 commercial or industrial meters, and 109 other/unknown meters.⁶⁷

⁶² PUD IRP, 2023.

⁶³ PUD IRP, 2023.

⁶⁴ PUD's [System Improvements](#), 2024.

⁶⁵ Personal communications with Doug O'Donnell, Snohomish County PUD Executive Account Manager, and Brenda White, PUD Government Relations, 2024.

⁶⁶ PUD's [System Improvements](#), 2024.

⁶⁷ Per communications with PSE, the other/unknown category includes 14 multifamily and 7 single family meters. The remaining other/unknown categories include meters for garages, office buildings, retail, etc. as well as 67 "null" or "other" meters. Personal communication with Jacquelyn Styrna, PSE Senior Municipal Liaison Manger for Island & Snohomish Counties, 2024.



PSE's sources of natural gas are wells in the Rocky Mountains and in Canada. All the gas PSE acquires is transported into the utility's service area through large interstate pipelines owned and operated by another company. The main PSE pipeline route is east of Woodinville and Redmond, but also includes lateral lines to facilitate service to areas. Two of these lateral lines branch off from the main pipeline in south Snohomish County (north of the MUGA) and extend in parallel west to Lynnwood. Bothell city limits and the MUGA are served primarily from three PSE lines which branch off the Northwest Pipeline lateral, one at 31st Avenue SE and about 184th Street SE, the other two at a location in Mountlake Terrace.

Once PSE takes possession of the gas, it is distributed to customers through more than 26,000 miles of PSE-owned gas mains and service lines. From PSE's gate stations, supply mains transport the gas to district regulators where the pressure is reduced to less than 60 pounds per square inch (psi). The supply mains are made of welded steel pipe that has been coated and is cathodically protected to prevent corrosion. They range in size from 4 to 20 inches in diameter. Distribution mains are fed from the district regulators. They range in size from 1 1/4 to 8 inches in diameter and the pipe material typically is polyethylene (PE) or wrapped steel (STW). Individual residential service lines are fed by the distribution mains and are typically 5/8 or 1 1/8 inches in diameter. Individual commercial and industrial service lines are typically 1 1/4, 2 or 4 inches in diameter.

PSE has established as its optimum service standard a pressure of 45 pounds per square inch, and as the minimum service threshold a pressure of 15 pounds per square inch. According to PSE officials, during cold weather, the pressure in Bothell decreases to as low as 25 pounds per square inch. Approaches utilized by PSE to improve service to an area demonstrating decreases in pressure include the following:

- Looping systems to provide alternate directions of supply.
- Adding parallel lines to supplement supply.
- Replacing existing lines to increase volume.

Liquid Petroleum Pipelines

The Olympic Pipeline Company operates a 400-mile long refined petroleum pipeline system from refineries in extreme northwestern Washington to Portland, Oregon. These pipelines carry refined petroleum products consisting of diesel, jet fuel and gasoline. Two parallel pipes—one 16 inches in diameter, the other 20 inches—pass through the eastern portion of the city. At the time of this Periodic Update, Olympic reported that it had no plans for expansion for the foreseeable future. Regular maintenance will continue as an ongoing process.⁶⁸

The Federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) regulates interstate liquid pipelines and their associated facilities. Ecology recently fined British Petroleum for their two spills taking place in February of 2020 in neighboring Woodinville related to work on the Olympic Pipeline.

⁶⁸ Personal communication with Joe Stone and Pamela Brady, BP Employees with Olympic Pipeline Co, 2024.



Telecommunications

Telecommunications comprises the transmission of information—sound, images, written and numerical data—via digital or analog signals. Such information may travel through wires or cables of various conductive materials; through air; or through space. In Bothell, telecommunications services are available from several providers, including Ziplly Fiber Northwest, LLC with landline service, and many other cellular and fiber optic providers. Each use a variety of technologies and facilities, each with planning implications. Wire and cable services rely on wires or cables either mounted on poles or buried underground to transmit information to and from residential and commercial users. Wireless services have numerous providers that were granted licenses from the Federal Communications Commission, while satellite services work similarly as wireless, providing little interference with land use decisions. Major telcom switching stations are mapped in **Exhibit 14-2**.

Federal and State regulations require that telecommunications purveyors provide adequate telecommunications services on demand. Continuing coordination between the City and telecommunications purveyors will help ensure maintenance of adequate levels of service as growth occurs.

Solid Waste

The City of Bothell collaborates via interlocal agreement with King County and 36 other King County cities (all cities except Seattle and Milton) in planning for solid waste prevention, recycling, collection, transfer, processing, and disposal under the 2019 King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Bothell's responsibility under the Plan is to participate in the planning process and jointly implement the plan with the county. Examples of plan implementation actions Bothell and other cities are called upon to pursue include the following:⁶⁹

- Lead by example by improving waste prevention and recycling in city operations and facilities.
- Work with food producers, grocers, restaurants and schools to donate surplus meals and staple food items to local food banks.
- Promote consumer use of ~~recyclable~~ reusable bags at grocery and other retail stores.
- Provide education and promotion to increase recycling, including recycling of food scraps and food soiled paper.
- Adopt green building policies and regulations supporting design of buildings that have less impact on the environment, are energy efficient and use recycled materials.
- Explore options to increase the efficiency and reduce the price of curbside collection of bulky items, while diverting as many items as possible for reuse or recycling.
- Address space and collection needs of mixed-use buildings.
- The SWMP sets a number of goals to be achieved by 2030:
- Reduce total waste generation (garbage, recycling, and compost):
 - Per capita goal, maximum of 20.4 pounds/week—2023 generation was 14.5 pounds/week (down from 20.4 pounds/week in 2015).

⁶⁹ City of Bothell, 2024.



- Per employee goal, maximum of 42.2 pounds/week—2023 generation was 18.3 pounds/week (down from 58 pounds/week in 2015).
- Reduce garbage disposal:
 - Per capita goal, maximum of 5.1 pounds/week—2023 generation was 6.7 pounds/week (down from 14.2 pounds/week in 2015 but still above the per capita maximum).
 - Per employee goal, maximum of 4.1 pounds/week—2023 generation was 3.38 pounds/week (down from 22.9 pounds/week in 2015).
- Increase recycling and composting:
 - Goal of 70% recycling and composting rate for all single family, multifamily, non-residential, and self-haul activity. As of 2023, the single family recycling and composting rate in Bothell was 58%.

Bothell contracts for collection, transfer and disposal of recycling, garbage, and compost (comprising yard waste, food scraps, and compostable paper and packaging) with private solid waste hauler Recology King County. [The current contract started in 2015 and expires on June 30, 2025. The next contract was approved in July 2024 and runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2035.](#) Solid waste collected within the city is delivered to a transfer station and then hauled to a regional landfill. The recyclables and organic materials are collected and transported to a facility where the material is sorted and sold on the commodities market or, in the case of organic materials, turned into compost and sold. The City participates in ongoing programs with Recology King County to organize and promote special collection events and opportunities for bulky and extra waste items that aren't collectable at the curb and for collection of hazardous waste materials.

Future Needs

High-quality, affordable, safe, and reliable utility services will continue to be fundamental to Bothell residents and businesses and system and facility improvements must keep pace with higher demand as development occurs. Improvements must take place within predetermined timeframes to maintain appropriate levels of service. Bothell needs to [continue to](#) coordinate with private utility companies and other regional jurisdictions so that utilities may provide high-quality and reliable services to their customers and plan for future development and expansion of facilities.

Replacement of aging infrastructure and siting of new utility infrastructure to increase capacity will require continued coordination with Bothell's land use plan to ensure facilities are sited in a manner reasonably compatible with adjacent land uses. For example, undergrounding of new utility distribution lines is significantly easier and more cost-effective to implement when new roads are constructed or during planned major roadwork. Furthermore, issues of sustainability, fiscal responsibility, and equitable access will also continue to be important drivers of utility planning in the future. Preparing for climate change impacts must be a priority to ensure equitable delivery of safe and reliable services throughout the city. Service equity should also be central to utility decision-making in Bothell, with investments prioritized to guarantee equal access for all community members.

As Bothell welcomes new residents and development projects, ensuring enough electricity to power this growth without disruptions is a critical



See also the
Climate Element.



challenge. This could strain the grid in specific areas, particularly those with older infrastructure or high-density development. The rise of remote work following the COVID-19 pandemic adds another layer of complexity, potentially shifting peak demand hours and further stressing the system. Extreme weather events may also further stress PSE and PUD's energy grids into the future.

The electrification of the building and transportation sectors will increase electric load and demand in the city and result in the need for additional infrastructure and land development. Energy efficiency and conservation—including demand response technologies—will be important tools in managing electric energy consumption. However, these tools will not remove the need for additional electrical facilities which may include local generation and energy storage, and upsized transmission and distributions lines, transformers, and substations. Additional work will be needed to switch existing infrastructure from a system based on fossil fuels to one that is based on electricity and renewable energy sources—the phase out of fossil fuels over time creates additional demand within existing communities beyond new demand driven by population growth. While effective collaboration with PSE and the PUD is vital, Bothell is also exploring a range of solutions and policy support options to address these challenges. By proactively addressing capacity concerns, embracing innovative solutions, and fostering partnerships, Bothell can [help](#) ensure a reliable and sustainable electricity supply for its growing community, adapting to the evolving needs of a changing landscape.

SITING OF ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITIES

The GMA requires local governments to develop a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities and to incorporate that process into local comprehensive plans. Essential public facilities can be difficult to site, and their location in a community may be locally unpopular. The GMA charges state and local governments with the task of ensuring that such facilities as needed to support orderly growth and the delivery of public services are sited in a timely and efficient manner.

Several types of utility facilities may be considered difficult to site, including but not limited to high voltage transmission lines, electrical substations, cellular transmission towers, and large transmission pipelines. The **Land Use Element** discusses the siting of essential public facilities in detail and provides for a regionally coordinated siting process. This element incorporates a policy (**Policy UT-3.11**) referencing the discussion and policy in the **Land Use Element**.

Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges and opportunities for utilities include:

- **Aging Infrastructure.** Many pipes, and electrical grids are nearing the end of their lifespan, increasing risks of leaks, outages, and environmental contamination. City Staff should coordinate with utility providers to ensure upgrades are keeping up with the need to replace existing infrastructure.
- **Capacity Limitations.** Projected population growth and development will significantly increase demand for utility services. Certain areas of the city might experience capacity constraints if infrastructure isn't expanded. Strengthening partnerships between City agencies, utility districts, developers, and residents is crucial for efficient and seamless infrastructure expansion and upgrade projects.



- **Innovation and Technology.** As technology continues to advance, embracing smart grids, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency solutions, and other innovative technologies can enhance sustainability, service reliability, and cost-effectiveness.
- **Climate Change Impacts.** Extreme weather events like floods, droughts, or extreme high or low temperatures pose a threat to utility infrastructure and service delivery. Bothell needs to proactively prepare for these potential disruptions. Upgrading and building new infrastructure with greater resilience to withstand the impacts of climate change, such as flooding and extreme temperatures, is vital for long-term sustainability.
- **Equity and Affordability.** Different utility costs and access can put a strain on low-income residents and underserved communities. Ensuring equitable access and affordability of essential utilities is critical. Expanding existing programs that offer residents access to cost-saving options like solar panel installation, energy audits, and water conservation initiatives can empower them to be responsible consumers.

OUR UTILITIES PLAN

While the City does not directly control utilities, it can take actions to encourage the direction that Bothell values (e.g., advocating for clean, resilient programs as well as incentives to achieve them, encouraging the development of a microgrid, etc.) Ultimately, the City directs growth in policy decisions and serves as the land use permit authority ensuring adequate services. The City may also partner with individual franchise providers to encourage reduced service disparities and investments in infrastructure to increase climate adaptation. For example, Bothell can be a conduit of information to residents and businesses about opportunities to participate in equity and climate friendly programs (e.g., Green Power program).

For this Periodic Update, utility providers operating within the Bothell Planning Area were contacted and requested to furnish current system information as well as information concerning any planned system expansions or enhancements necessary to accommodate forecasted growth. Goals, policies, and actions were modified where warranted to reflect providers' latest plans and system needs. The City will continue to coordinate with utility providers to ensure utility planning is done in conjunction with land use and planned growth.

GOALS & POLICIES

Goal UT-1. [NEW, UT-G1] Utilities are developed and improved at the appropriate levels of service (LOS) to serve existing and future growth.

Policy UT-1.1 [NEW] Coordinate utility providers' planning with land use planning. Base the extension and sizing of system components on the land use plan of the area, rather than allowing system capacity to determine land use, but allow utility providers to determine the implementation sequence of utility plan components.

Policy UT-1.2 [NEW] Allow new development only when and where all available public utilities can adequately serve demand.



- Policy UT-1.3 [NEW] Encourage providers to incorporate technological changes when they are cost effective and consistent with their public service obligations.
- Policy UT-1.4 [NEW] Process permits and approvals for utility facilities in a fair, predictable, and timely manner and in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- Policy UT-1.5 [NEW] Coordinate with electricity providers to expand the EV charging network and increase grid capacity to support charging.

Goal UT-2. [NEW, UT-G1] Safe, reliable, and quality utility services are available at reasonable and equitable rates throughout Bothell.

- Policy UT-2.1 [UT-P14 (split)] Encourage providers to implement system improvements to enhance reliability and safety.
- Policy UT-2.2 [UT-P5, split] Require undergrounding of existing utility distribution lines where feasible as streets are widened and/or areas are redeveloped.
- Policy UT-2.3 [UT-P7] Promote co-location of utility distribution facilities in shared trenches and coordination of construction timing to minimize construction-related disruptions to the public and to reduce the cost of utility delivery.
- Policy UT-2.4 [UT-P6] Promote co-location of major utility transmission facilities—such as high-voltage electrical transmission lines and water and natural gas trunk pipelines—within shared utility corridors when feasible to minimize the amount of land allocated for this purpose and the tendency of such corridors to divide neighborhoods.
- Policy UT-2.5 [UT-P1] Coordinate with utility provider(s) on the location of major new facilities at the earliest possible stage in planning to reduce impacts to vulnerable communities, surrounding uses, and the natural environment.
- Policy UT-2.6 [UT-P14 (split)] Collaborate with utility providers to identify high-priority uses for restoration of service following a power outage or other loss of service, such as but not limited to, schools, senior housing, and medical clinics.
- Policy UT-2.7 [UT-P16] Support improvements to the telecommunications system which facilitate business, educational, and recreational activities and ensure that Bothell maintains a competitive advantage in attracting and retaining businesses.
- Policy UT-2.8 [NEW] Ensure equitable provision of utility infrastructure. Prioritize underserved areas and historically marginalized populations to avoid amassing insufficient infrastructure in vulnerable communities.
- [Policy UT-2.9 \[NEW\] Work with energy utilities to improve the safety and reliability of infrastructure vulnerable to climate change.](#)
- [Policy UT-2.10 \[NEW\] Plan for more extreme flood events by siting and planning for relocation of hazardous industries and essential public services away from the 500-year floodplain.](#)



Goal UT-3. [NEW, UT-G1, UT-P13] Impacts associated with the siting, development, and operation of utility facilities on adjacent land uses and the natural environment are minimal.

- Policy UT-3.1 [UT-P2] Regulate construction of utilities within and near critical areas in accordance with applicable federal, state, and city regulations. Pay particular attention to minimizing the impacts of utilities construction in identified animal corridors and areas that contribute to the health of habitat for species protected under the Endangered Species Act or on the priority species list.
- Policy UT-3.2 [UT-P3] Require utility providers to implement best management practices (BMPs) for any development activities.
- Policy UT-3.3 [UT-P4] Require the undergrounding of new utility distribution lines with the exception of high-voltage electrical transmission lines and except when the City determines undergrounding is not practicable or proportionate. High voltage lines are exempted due to the high cost and potential adverse environmental impacts of undergrounding such lines.
- Policy UT-3.4 [UT-P5, split] Prioritize undergrounding of utility distribution lines within view corridors.
- Policy UT-3.5 [UT-P9] Promote recreational use of utility corridors for trails, sports courts, and similar facilities if safe and compatible with the primary use.
- Policy UT-3.6 [UT-P10] Ensure utility providers limit disturbance to [non-invasive](#) vegetation within major utility transmission corridors to that which is necessary for the safety and maintenance of transmission facilities.
- Policy UT-3.7 [UT-P11] Encourage utility providers to implement best management practices in utility tree pruning for the safe and reliable delivery of utility services while preventing unnecessary injury to trees and preserving aesthetics to the greatest extent possible.
- Policy UT-3.8 [UT-P12] Educate the public on appropriate vegetation planting and management in the vicinity of underground and/or aerial utilities to avoid preventable conflicts ([e.g., Right Tree, Right Place](#)). Ensure educational materials are accessible and available in multiple languages.
- Policy UT-3.9 [UT-P13] Ensure utility facilities are designed in such a manner as to minimize adverse aesthetic impacts on surrounding land uses.
- Policy UT-3.10 [NEW] Balance improved system reliability, aesthetic standards of the city, and environmental impacts when siting and developing new facilities.
- Policy UT-3.11 [UT-P15] Provide for a common regional site review process for consideration of proposed utility facilities that are essential public facilities of countywide or statewide importance.



See the **Land Use Element** for more information on essential public facilities and related policies.



Goal UT-4. [NEW, UT-G1] The City promotes effective energy conservation and recycling measures, including the reduction of energy consumption in City facilities.

- Policy UT-4.1 [UT-P8] Promote conservation measures to reduce the need for additional utility distribution facilities in the future.
- Policy UT-4.2 [NEW] Facilitate the conversion to cost effective and environmentally sensitive alternative technologies and renewable energy sources while incorporating the latest technologies available into the services provided.
- Policy UT-4.3 [NEW] Encourage the use of energy conservation design strategies in building designs and land use.
- Policy UT-4.4 [NEW] Encourage the use of solar energy for water and space heating and adopt standards to protect solar access.
- Policy UT-4.5 [NEW, UT-P17] Actively participate in King and Snohomish County's regional approach to solid waste management that promotes education, recycling, and composting while maintaining a cost-effective and responsive collection system.



[Intentionally blank]