



# 2024 PUGET SOUND ENERGY CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT COST ALLOWANCE PROCEEDING

Prepared by Public Counsel Unit, Attorney General's Office  
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The Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office represents the interests of residential and small business customers of state regulated electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunications companies and customers of transportation companies regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Public Counsel advocates on behalf of customers before the Commission and courts regarding rates, mergers, business practices, service quality, energy efficiency, safety, and policy matters.

## Puget Sound Energy's Climate Commitment Act Cost Allowance Proceeding

Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed a request with the UTC to allow recovery of costs associated with Washington state's emissions allowances and auctions and fund decarbonization projects. For PSE's natural gas customers, the proposed net effect is a \$45.3 million increase in revenue. The typical residential customer would see an increase of \$1.91, or 2.43 percent, per month. Low-income customers would receive a credit to offset the entire increase, resulting in a \$0 increase. PSE's electricity customers are not impacted by this filing.

PSE argues that the increases are necessary to meet mandatory obligations and implement more decarbonization projects.

## Public Counsel's Position:

Public Counsel has opposed any increases to rates that are not supported by the evidence. Public Counsel provided testimony and analysis arguing that the other parties' proposals are inadequate and do not provide sufficient protections for ratepayers nor the correct incentives for PSE. Public Counsel submitted an analysis illustrating how those proposals could be better structured to protect ratepayers from Company mistakes and incentivize the Company to continue decarbonization efforts.

## Process for Commission Decision

The UTC will hold an evidentiary hearing on October 9, 2024, and will likely issue its decision in December 2024 or January 2025, at which time the new rates go into effect.

## The Intervening Parties:

The UTC considers the recommendations of every party, and no party's recommendation is binding. The following parties are participating in this proceeding:

- Puget Sound Energy
- UTC Staff \*
- Washington Attorney General's Office, Public Counsel Unit (residential and small business customer advocate)
- Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (large industrial customer advocate)
- Washington Conservation Action\*\*
- Climate Solutions (environmental advocate)\*\*
- Northwest Energy Coalition (environmental advocate)\*\*

\* In formal UTC proceedings, regulatory Staff participates like any other party and UTC Commissioners make the decision.

\*\* Washington Conservation Action, Climate Solutions, and NW Energy Coalition are a joint party known as Joint Environmental Advocates (JEA)



## Submit a Comment

The UTC Commissioners appreciate hearing from members of the public about how the Company's rate increases will affect them. The UTC is holding a virtual public comment hearing to take comments on Wednesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:00 pm. You can participate via the Zoom link below or by phone. All information for participating in the public hearing can also be found at the UTC website, [www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov).

**Date:** October 8, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Zoom Link:** <https://utc-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/86748347741?pwd=pCpTCyUXVb1TaaFDUcmjRf1cHktoG.1>

**Meeting ID:** 867 4834 7741

**Passcode:** 319407

**Phone:** 1 (253) 215-8782

If you plan to participate, please call 1-888-333-9882 at least one day before the hearing to sign in. When you join the hearing, please mute your connection using the button with the image of a microphone. If participating via phone, press \*6 or mute your phone.

The public can additionally submit comments in the following ways:

- Via UTC web form at: [utc.wa.gov/consumers/](http://utc.wa.gov/consumers/) (click on "Submit a Comment" link at the top of the web page)
- By e-mail at: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)
- By mail at: UTC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250
- By phone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

Please include the following in your written comment: your name, mailing address, the name of the company (Puget Sound Energy) and the Docket Number UG-230968. For more information, see <http://www.utc.wa.gov/>, or call 1-800-562-6150.