

STRATEGIC ENERGY PLAN OVERVIEW

Climate change and power outages are a growing risk to the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe as the reservation is at the “end of the line,” meaning power restoration takes longer for our community than others during storm or emergency events. Waiting multiple days for power restoration can lead to spoiled food, failed heating/cooling, and other negative impacts. The Strategic Energy Plan focuses on enhancing resilience through diversification of energy sources, increased self-reliance, and sharing knowledge with the community.

ENERGY VOCABULARY

- **Energy Conservation** is reducing energy usage to get the same job done by changing behaviors and habits, like turning off the light when you leave the room.
- **Energy Efficiency** is using less energy to get the same job done by adopting new technology or system, like swapping an incandescent lightbulb with an LED.
- **Energy Resilience** refers to the ability of communities and energy systems to positively adapt to challenges like power outages and achieve a high quality of life. Includes enduring cultural networks, economic vitality, durable infrastructure, and sustainable resource management for present and future generation.
- **Carbon Footprint** is the amount of greenhouse gas emissions (mainly carbon dioxide and methane) associated with a person’s lifestyle. Emissions contribute to climate change.
- **Critical Load** is the energy needed to power essential building functions – these will vary based on the building owner’s priorities, but often include refrigerators, sump pumps, internet, and lighting.
- **Renewable Energy** is made from natural resources that will not run out such as solar and wind.

ENERGY VISION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Resilience

Understand resilience needs and identify resilience improvements for critical infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency

Conduct strategic energy planning for Tribal government buildings, including establishing an energy baseline and identifying energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities.

Energy System Transformation

Create a framework for energy transition workforce planning and development.

Capacity Building

Provide education and outreach to build capacity within the Tribal Council, staff, and community members to understand and address energy topics.



ENERGY GOALS

Following the four guiding principles above, the Tribe developed five actionable goals to work towards:

1. Enhance the resilience of Tribal government buildings and critical infrastructure
2. Increase flexibility of energy sources in case of emergency
3. Foster a local clean energy workforce
4. Improve the energy efficiency of Tribally owned buildings
5. Reduce carbon footprint by electrifying the Tribal fleet vehicles

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Energy management reduces the cost of utilities over time by saving energy. As part of the strategic energy plan, Tribally owned buildings were evaluated for energy efficiency, known as an energy audit. PGST has joined Puget Sound Energy's Commercial Strategic Energy Management program, geared at implementing low cost solutions such as swapping aging appliances with energy efficient replacements and adjusting thermostat schedules. The program also encourages behavior change with energy conservation tips.

Energy efficiency can also happen on a smaller scale in the community as well. Energy efficiency measures that individuals can take can include switching to more energy efficient light bulbs, buying energy efficient appliances, upgrades to insulation, and automated thermostats for heating and cooling.

ENERGY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Developing a robust workforce in the clean energy sector is important to achieving the Tribe's goals. The Tribe aims to give individuals the skills and knowledge necessary to gain employment in the renewable energy field. To foster learning and skills development related to energy efficiency, the Energy Sovereignty Program will host trainings and workshops. Energy education is also important for younger generations and will be addressed through energy-focused field trips, an energy coloring & adventure book, and more.

ENERGY PROJECTS

While the Strategic Energy Plan was only recently formalized, work on projects has already been happening. Some examples include:

- **Microgrids**, which are local independent electrical grids, can increase the Tribe's resilience to climate impacts. The Clinic's Microgrid which comprises solar, battery storage, and a generator can power the facility for up to seven days, ensuring continued Tribal use of the facility in the event of a power outage. This project was supported by the Washington Department of Commerce
- Purchase of a **solar generator trailer** to increase resilience and provide mobile power for community events like Canoe Hosting.
- Installation of **two EV Chargers and 61.6kW of solar** for the wastewater treatment plant, funded by Puget Sound Energy.

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