

**Planning Commission Public Hearing:**

**City Council Public Hearing:**

**Planning Commission Review:**  
Goals and Policies 2/7/23  
Full Chapter 8/29/23

**City Council Review:**  
5/8/24

# Chapter 10. Utilities

## 10.1 PLAN CONTEXT

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the City to include a Utilities Element within its Comprehensive Plan consisting of the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication lines, and natural gas lines (RCW 36.70A.070(4)).

The Utilities Chapter contains the goals and policies necessary to guide the siting of utility services in the city. The main purpose of this chapter is to ensure that utility services provided by both public and private purveyors will be supportive of the comprehensive plan and be available to support the growth and development anticipated during the planning period. The goals and policies also address the quality, reliability, safety, and regulation of the services provided.

Like many cities, Poulsbo utilities are provided by a combination of city-managed and non-city-managed providers. Depending on their service, these are state regulated, federally licensed and/or municipally franchised providers.



## 10.2 GOALS AND POLICIES

### City-Managed Utilities

City-managed utilities include Sewer, Water, Solid Waste, and Storm Water Utilities. These utilities are enterprise operations that are self-supporting and separate from the city General Fund. Detailed descriptions and assessments of these utilities are included in Section 2 Capital Facility Plan.

- *The Sewer Utility* operates, maintains, and extends the sewage collection system to respond to the needs of residents and commercial establishments. The collection system discharges into interceptors owned and operated by Kitsap County, which transport the sewage to the Central Kitsap Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- *The Water Utility* operates, maintains, and distributes water through mains constructed, operated, and maintained by the city to residential and commercial users.
- *The Storm Water Utility* operations include flood control, maintenance and enhancement of surface water quality, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance, and public education.
- *The Solid Waste Utility* provides for the collection, hauling, and disposal of solid waste.

#### **GOAL UT-1**

**Provide the development and maintenance of all city-managed utilities at the appropriate levels of service to accommodate the City of Poulsbo's projected growth.**

#### ***Policy UT-1.1***

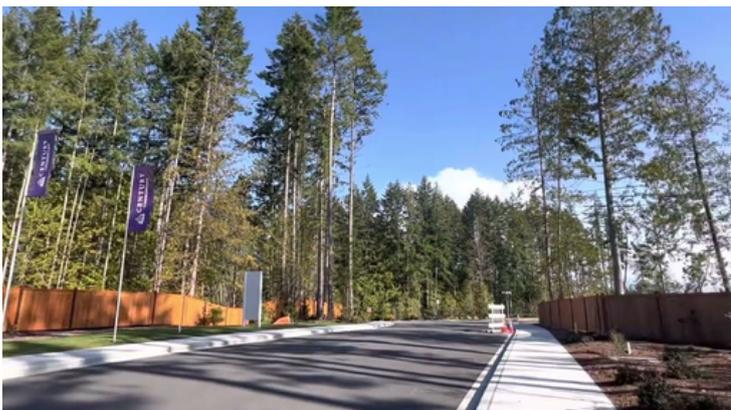
*The City shall adopt design and construction standards for all City-managed utilities. The City shall review their utility construction standards at a minimum of every five years to ensure the City's standards remain contemporary and relevant to the changing needs of the city.*

#### ***Policy UT-1.2***

*It is the City's policy not to hold itself as a public utility and therefore generally requires that properties annex to the city limits before City public utilities are to be extended. There may be circumstances, however, that the City may decide, at its sole and absolute discretion, to allow extension of utility service to property prior to annexation. The Poulsbo Municipal Code establishes the procedures and policies for utility extensions prior to annexation.*

#### ***Policy UT-1.3***

*Require sewer and water connections for all new development and land use redevelopment, consistent with City construction standards.*



**Policy UT-1.4**

Allow existing single family homes with working septic systems and private wells to continue to utilize these facilities, providing there are no health or environmental problems.

**Policy UT-1.5**

All new water and sewer mains shall be installed in public right-of-way, and the use of private easements for such locations shall be minimized to the extent feasible.

**Policy UT-1.6**

Sewers intended to serve new development shall be gravity unless topography or technical design reasons prevent obtaining gravity flow. In those specific cases where gravity flow cannot be achieved, lift stations may be considered by the city.

**Policy UT-1.7**

Provide a water supply that complies with all federal and Washington State Department of Health drinking water regulatory requirements and standards.

**Policy UT-1.8**

Provide for adequate design, construction, sampling, management, maintenance, and operation practices to supply safe and high-quality drinking water in a reliable manner with quality suitable for intended use including for domestic usage, irrigation usage, and sufficient supply for emergencies and fire flow protections.

**Policy UT-1.9**

Develop and implement a proactive water use efficiency and conservation program, based upon the goals and recommendations set forth in the most current water system functional plan. Any such efficiency and conservation program shall identify incentives for water conservation.

**Policy UT-1.10**

Maintain water quality by looping new water systems and connecting to existing systems to the extent feasible.

**Policy UT-1.11**

Manage the storm water system in Poulsbo to protect public safety, prevent public and private property damage, protect and work to enhance water quality and improve the water quality in the aquatic habitat, and provide for the safety and enjoyment of citizens, including the ongoing maintenance of stormwater facilities.

**Policy UT-1.12**

The City shall implement programs, projects, and maintenance measures in order to comply with the Washington State Department of Ecology Phase II NPDES permit requirements.

**Policy UT-1.13**

Maintain a cost-effective and responsive solid waste collection system. Require single-family residential garbage to be collected weekly at the curbside on public streets. Require commercial and multi-family garbage collection in City provide containers.

**Policy UT-1.14**

Promote the recycling of solid waste materials by providing opportunities for convenient recycling and distributing educational materials on recycling, composting and other waste reduction methods.

**Policy UT-1.15**

Continue participating in Kitsap County's solid waste management planning to ensure a regional approach to solid waste management.



## Non City-Managed Utilities

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) has the authority from state law to regulate the services and define the costs that a utility can recover, to ensure that the utility acts prudently and responsibly.

### Electrical Service

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is a private utility providing electric and natural gas service to homes and businesses in Puget Sound region, covering 10 counties and approximately 6,000 square miles. PSE's regional and local electric planning efforts are integrated and centered on providing safe, dependable, and efficient energy service.

PSE's operations and rates are governed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). PSE electric utility operations and standards are further governed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the National Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) that monitor, assess, and enforce compliance and reliability standards.

The residents of City of Poulsbo and region rely on the coordinated effort between PSE and City for the adoption and enforcement of codes to protect transmission and distribution line capacity and support federal and state compliance of safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of PSE's electric facilities. Routine utility work and vegetation management is required to maintain compliance with these FERC, NERC, and WECC regulations.

In order for PSE to meet regulatory requirements, to provide dependable and cost-effective service, PSE updates and files an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the WUTC every two years. The IRP is an analysis that considers policies, costs, economic conditions, and the physical energy system, and proposes the starting point for making decisions about what resources may be procured in the future and presents a long-term forecast of the lowest reasonable cost combination of resources necessary to meet the needs of PSE's customers over the next 20 years. The current IRP was published on April 2, 2021.

To provide the city with electricity, PSE builds, operates, and maintains an extensive integrated electric system consisting of generating plants, transmission lines, substations, switching stations, sub-systems, overhead and underground distribution systems, attachments, appurtenances, and metering systems.

Within the City of Poulsbo, PSE operates and maintains: ~3.8 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) high-voltage transmission lines, 2 distribution substations (Poulsbo sub on Viking Way and Serwold sub on Lincoln Rd.), and 1 transmission switching station (Foss Corner), ~28.7 miles of overhead and ~53.4 underground 12.5kV distribution lines, and approximately 3,976 metered customers.

To meet regional and citywide electric demand, new transmission lines and substations may need to be constructed, in addition, existing facilities will need to be maintained and possibly rebuilt to serve current and future demand. Specific transmission and substation construction that is anticipated in the City of Poulsbo in the next 10 years includes a possible fourth transmission tie from the south to the Foss Corner switching station that may go through city limits.



## **Natural Gas**

Cascade Natural Gas (CNG) builds, operates and maintains the natural gas facilities serving the City of Poulsbo. The Pacific Northwest receives natural gas from various regions of the United States and Canada. Natural gas is transported through the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho via a network of interstate transmission pipelines owned and operated by Northwest Pipeline Corporation.

The location, capacity, and timing of improvements within CNG's service area depends primarily on opportunities for expansion and the location of city growth. There are usually several alternative routes possible when connecting to the existing system. The ultimate route will depend on right-of-way, environmental impacts, and the additional opportunity to install mains concurrent with new development, or other underground infrastructure improvements.

## **Telecommunication Services**

Telecommunication is the transmission of information in the form of electronic signals or other similar means and includes telephone, wireless services, microwave, cable, broadband, and fiber optic.

Telecommunications utilities are provided by private companies and their infrastructure is located throughout the city and includes lines, poles, cables, antenna, towers and system hubs. In most cases, these telecommunication services will use existing utility corridors, public rights-of-way, and city owned properties other than rights-of-way. Poulsbo encourages the shared use of facilities.

The telecommunications industry continues to change rapidly. Poulsbo supports technological advances, while still considering the implications of continuing availability of basic communication services to all residents and businesses.



## **GOAL UT-2**

**Encourage provision of non-City managed utilities, facilities and services that meet the needs of the City and accommodate future population and economic growth.**

### **Policy UT-2.1**

*Work with providers to appropriately site new utility facilities to maintain a reliable level of service and accommodate growth. Provide data and population projections to assist providers in their utility planning.*

### **Policy UT-2.2**

*Ensure the City's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations are consistent with and does not impair the fulfillment of public service obligations imposed upon utility providers by federal and state law. Work with utility providers to review local regulatory barriers for alternative and renewable energy sources and, if any are found, remove these barriers.*

### **Policy UT-2.3**

*Ensure reasonable access to rights-of-way for all providers consistent with federal and state laws. Require compliance with the City's permitting process for any activity within city right-of-way.*

### **Policy UT-2.4**

*Ensure that utilities are provided consistent with applicable rules, regulations, and prudent utility practices.*

## **GOAL UT-3**

**Locate utilities to minimize impacts on public health and safety, the surrounding development, the environment, and interference with other public facilities.**

### **Policy UT-3.1**

*Promote affordability and equitable access of public services to all communities, especially the historically underserved. Prioritize investments to address disparities.*

### **Policy UT-3.2**

*Place utility facilities along public rights-of-way and encourage underground distribution lines in accordance with City and state rules and regulations.*

### **Policy UT-3.3**

*Coordinate the design and timing of installation and repair of utilities with street improvements whenever possible.*

### **Policy UT-3.4**

*Protect the City's rights-of-way from unnecessary damage and interference and ensure restoration to pre-construction condition or better.*

### **Policy UT-3.5**

*Minimize visual impacts of personal wireless telecommunication facilities (excluding small wireless facilities) by establishing location priorities. Placement for new personal wireless telecommunication facilities shall be in the following priority: 1) Attach on existing telecommunication facilities; 2) attach antennas within rights-of-ways and on existing structures (power poles, buildings, water towers); 3) Non-residential zoning districts; 4) Residential zoning districts.*

### **Policy UT-3.6**

*Wireless telecommunication facilities shall be camouflaged by employing the best available technology. This may be accomplished by use of compatible materials, location, color, stealth technologies, and/or other strategies to achieve minimum visibility of the facility as viewed from public streets or residential properties.*

