# Celebrating Washington's Clean Energy Success

# I-937 has brightened our energy future

Voters passed Initiative 937 in 2006 to build on Washington's clean energy heritage. At the time, new renewable energy made up less than 1% of the region's electricity mix, even though new renewables would reduce risks and boost our economy.

Opportunities also existed for upgrades that would wring more hydropower out of existing dams. Energy efficiency – our cheapest and cleanest new power source – was stuck riding a rollercoaster of up-and-down utility achievement.

The NW Energy Coalition was a leader in the Clean Energy Initiative campaign. I-937 requires large electric utilities to:

- Secure the maximum energy efficiency that will save money for all their customers.
- Gradually increase new renewables in their power mix to 15% by 2020. It protects consumers by limiting how much utilities have to pay for that new power.

Six years in, I-937 is doing exactly what Washington voters wanted. Official utility reports show all 17 are meeting or exceeding their clean energy targets. And Washington is benefiting from billions of investment dollars, local economic stimulus, new jobs, lower electric bills, healthier homes and cleaner air.





Source: Washington Department of Commerce



### Before I-937: Utility energy efficiency acquisition rollercoaster

Prior to passage of I-937, energy efficiency achievements by Bonneville Power Administration and Northwest utilities were wildly inconsistent, as the above graphic from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council illustrates.

Energy efficiency and clean renewable power improve people's health – especially children's health – by avoiding the pollution that comes with fossil-fueled power. Coal plants, for example, cause birth defects, asthma, heart attacks and deaths. An energy efficient, well-insulated home is a healthier home.

# Clean energy - good for people, good for the economy

According to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, energy efficiency has met half of Washington's new electric needs over the past 30 years, saving consumers nearly \$1 billion a year on their power bills. These energy savings have avoided five coal or gas plants and annual emissions of more than 8 million tons of climate pollution.



Energy efficiency advances have avoided construction of five new fossil-fueled power plants and their associated pollution.

In the past 10 years, according to the Renewable Northwest Project, I-937 and other policies have convinced renewable energy developers to invest more than \$8 billion — so far — in Washington state. In addition to creating more than **5,000** construction jobs and 2,200 permanent jobs, wind, solar, geothermal and biomass projects have provided more than **\$85** million to local governments and paid thousands of dollars a year to each property owner hosting a wind farm.





# I-937 is working!

The 17 electric utilities covered by I-937 submitted reports in June 2012 showing that all are meeting or exceeding their targets. More consumers are saving more energy than ever before. The utilities met the initial 3% renewable standard mainly with wind and efficiency upgrades at existing hydropower dams.



In meeting I-937's energy efficiency targets, utilities saved 231 average megawatts of electricity from 2010-2011. That's a year's power for **160,000 homes** -- about the number of households in Spokane and Tacoma combined.



Getting 231 average megawatts of energy efficiency rather than generating that power in fossil-fueled plants avoided more than three-quarters of a million tons of carbon pollution – equal to taking nearly **150,000 vehicles** off of Washington's roads. (Source: Sightline Institute.)



New wind, hydro upgrades lead the way

New wind leads the way, but utilities told the Washington Department of Commerce they plan to meet nearly a quarter of their 2012 renewables target by improving existing hydropower facilities. (Graphic assumes Puget Sound Energy meets 3% of its load with wind resources.)



## I-937 utilities beat energy efficiency targets

Utility energy efficiency achievements have charted strongly upward since voters passed I-937 in 2006. I-937's first biennial compliance period was 2010-11, and qualifying utilities greatly exceeded their expected savings. (Source: Utility reports)

# The best is yet to come

Initiative 937 is propelling Washington toward a clean and affordable energy future. Utilities and their customers are achieving record levels of energy efficiency, reducing bills and avoiding pollution. Not only did all utilities meet their initial renewables targets, some already have acquired additional renewables toward the next target.

We have abundant opportunities for new efficiency and renewable energy development. The region's official power plan says energy efficiency and new renewables comprise the least-cost, least-risk path. I-937 is critical to realizing that goal and continuing to bring much-needed jobs, economic development and improved health to Washington.



### Energy efficiency program aids family business

Through its *EnergySmart Grocer* program, Tacoma Power is helping a long-time neighborhood grocery store shave more than \$16,000 a year off its electric bill. Tacoma Power incentives funded a third of the cost of the Stadium Thriftway project, which includes an energy-efficient compressor for the refrigeration system, new LED case lighting, computerized controls and other improvements that collectively reduce the store's electricity use by more than 325,000 kilowatt-hours a year. The family business will recoup its own investment in six years. Programs and partnerships such as this helped Tacoma Power greatly exceed its initial I-937 energy efficiency target. (Source: Tacoma Power.)

### How renewable energy helps our communities

The Maryhill Museum of Art, a leading museum in the region and a unique cultural resource overlooking the Columbia River near Goldendale, is one of the many beneficiaries of renewable wind energy development. The developer, Cannon Power, donated \$500,000 toward museum expansion and is paying a minimum of \$100,000 a year to lease museum land for 15 wind turbines. In 2011, those lease payments actually totaled \$245,000, covering a major chunk of the museum's \$1.3 million operating budget. (Source: Renewable Northwest Project.)





NW Energy Coalition for a clean and affordable energy future

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