

NW Power & Conservation Council Draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan

Public Comment Period Open through November 19, 2021

NW Energy Coalition webinar | Oct. 6, 2021



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Welcome!

Please put first name, pronouns, organization in the chat.



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Chat Guidelines and Expectations

We encourage you to engage in the chat on the topics speakers are discussing during this panel, and it is very important to ensure your messages are on topic and respectful of the speaker and other participants.



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NW Energy Coalition

Who are we?

- The NW Energy Coalition is an alliance of over 100 environmental, civic, and human service organizations, utilities, and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and British Columbia

What's our mission?

- The NW Energy Coalition advances clean, equitable, and affordable energy policies by leveraging our analytic expertise and convening a broad alliance of people and organizations



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What is the Northwest Power Plan?

- Emerged in response to a series of issues related to energy forecasting, planning, and environmental protection
- Anchored to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act which was passed on December 5, 1980



Photo credit: Jonathan Miske



What is the Northwest Power Plan?

- A primary source of information on energy demand, supply, and resources for the Northwest region since 1983
- 20-year plan that aims to ensure an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply for the NW region while mitigating adverse effects on fish and wildlife
- Released by the NW Council and is updated every 5 years



Photo credit: Jason Blackeye



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Why is the NW Power Plan important?

- The Plan guides the Bonneville Power Administration's decisions over the resources that should be used to meet the electricity needs of their customers.
- The region's utilities, regulatory commissions, and policy-makers use the Plan, with all its data and key findings about the energy system of the Northwest, in their system planning.
- The Council seeks feedback from different stakeholders, from the public to state agencies to utilities, to consider their opinions and needs before issuing the final version of the Plan.



What is the Council?



Northwest **Power** and
Conservation Council

- An interstate agency established on April 28, 1981 between four states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
- Is in charge of the development of the Northwest Power Plan and the Fish and Wildlife program and advances its implementation
- Consists of eight members, two from each NW state, who are appointed by the Governors of those states, and several committees

<https://www.nwcouncil.org/contact/members>



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What is the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Bonneville
POWER ADMINISTRATION



- A nonprofit self-funded federal agency formed in 1937 that manages and markets power across the NW region
- Currently manages power coming from 31 federal dams, several private power plants, and one nuclear power plant
- Owns and operates the largest high-voltage transmission grid in the region
- Supplies approximately one-third of the Pacific Northwest's electricity



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What do I need to know?

The 2021 Northwest Power Plan is important, because it comes at a critical time for the region:

- The 2021 Power Plan must provide a solution for replacing the energy and capacity services from retiring coal plants, while maintaining reliability and affordability.
- Oregon and Washington have adopted aggressive economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals, which will require widespread deployment of clean energy and increase electric load due to electrification of transportation and buildings.
- Extreme weather events including droughts, wildfires, and heatwaves in the Pacific Northwest are becoming more frequent, which puts more stress on the power system.
- Changes to hydropower system operations are necessary to recover declining salmon populations.



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Key Issues in the Draft Plan

The 2021 Power Plan must chart a course to transform our electricity system over the next twenty years. The Draft includes the following elements, which we support:

- **Addressing the Impact of Climate Change:** For the first time, the Draft Plan considers the impacts of climate change on our electricity system.
- **Renewables:** 3500 MW of renewable resources (primarily solar and wind). The Council is right to include more renewable energy than any previous plan, in recognition of our region's leadership in renewable energy development and the extensive opportunities to develop additional, cost-effective wind, solar and other renewable resources across our region.
- **Equity:** The Draft plan takes the first steps to incorporate an equity lens on regional electric system planning.



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Key Issues in the Draft Plan (continued)

Climate-Adjusted Baseline

- The Council consulted with climate scientists and is using three global climate models downscaled to the Northwest
- The Council baseline shows that climate change has already started to shift monthly Northwest hydropower and increase peak demand



Key Issues in the Draft Plan (continued)

Energy Efficiency: The Draft plan adopts a diminished role for energy efficiency in the region during the Action Plan period (2022-2027):

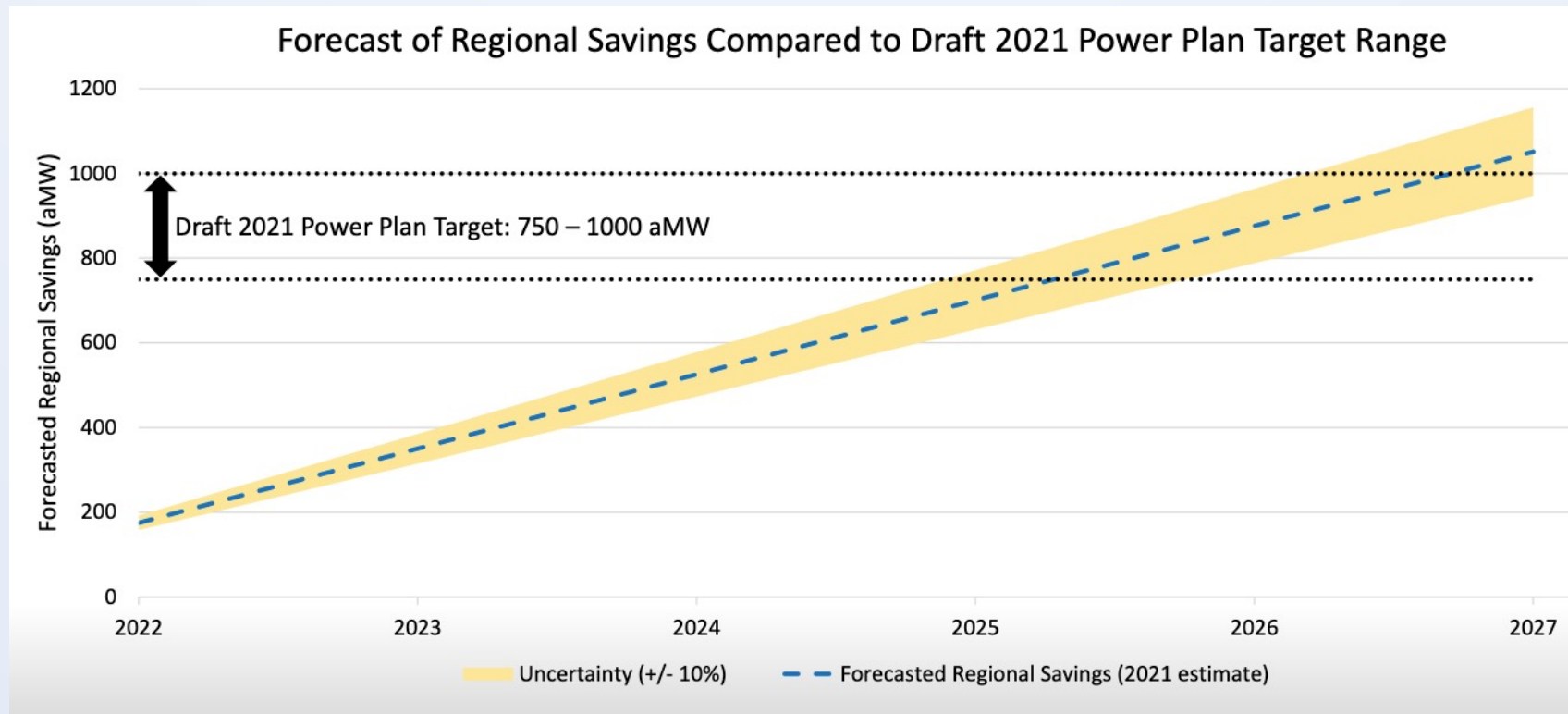
- It adopts a **much lower regional target for energy efficiency (750 – 1000 MW compared to 1400 MW in the 7th Plan)** and **reduces BPA's share** of the regional target. This is a concern because:
- The Northwest has long been a leader in energy efficiency, one of the major reasons utility rates and bills are among the lowest in the country.
- Energy efficiency programs are popular with customers, provide significant employment and local economic benefits, and are critical to implementing equitable climate policy.
- Reducing BPA's role is unfair to customers of small rural utilities, since many rural areas rely on BPA's program as the only source of funding for energy efficiency.



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Key Issues in the Draft Plan (continued)

The NW is already on track to meet the high end of the Energy Efficiency target (1000 aMW):



Source: Regional Conservation Progress Report presentation to the Council by Jennifer Light (Sept. 15th, 2021)



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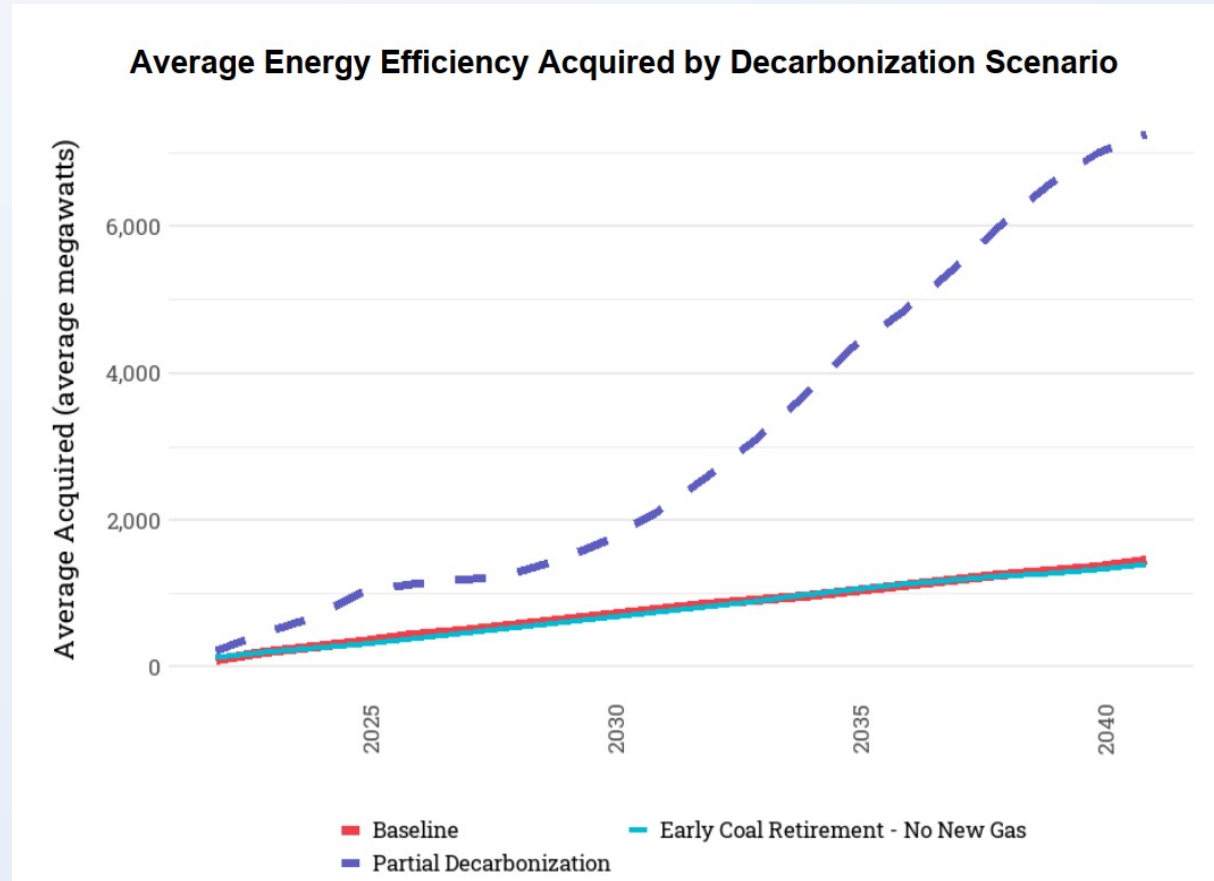
Key Issues in the Draft Plan (continued)

- **Demand Response:** The Draft plan defines a limited role for demand response (720 MW) from implementing time-of-use rates and distribution voltage reduction. Analysis by the Council staff and the Demand Response Advisory Committee indicates that more than 2500 MW of demand response is available over the next decade.
- **Storage:** The Draft plan does not include any energy storage, despite the fact that renewables + storage systems are already under development in the region.



Key Issues in the Draft Plan (continued)

- The Draft Plan includes a **Pathways to Decarbonization scenario**
- The decarbonization analysis has a more balanced resource strategy including substantially more energy efficiency, demand response, storage and additional renewable energy



Call to Action

We encourage the Council to improve the Draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan to keep the region on track toward a clean, reliable and fair power system. We urge the Council to adopt a **more balanced resource strategy** that:

- **Better reflects the role of energy efficiency in a clean energy future**, by adopting a target that is more consistent with the trajectory from the 7th Plan (e.g., **at least 1000 MW**). Now is not the time to back off on our commitment to energy efficiency – the Council should stay the course.
- **Continues BPA's leadership role** in providing energy efficiency and clean energy equitably in the region, especially in rural communities
- **Incorporates other clean energy technologies** that are already available and cost-effective in the region, especially demand response, energy storage, and renewable + storage systems
- **Recognizes the role of customer-side resources, distributed generation, and electrification** in meeting aggressive decarbonization goals in Washington and Oregon



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How do I participate in a public comment hearing?

<https://app.nwcouncil.org/energy/powerplan/2021/hearings>

Sign up to participate in one of the following hearings:

- September 27, 5-7pm Mountain, 4pm-6pm Pacific, hosted by Montana
- October 7, 5-7pm Pacific, 6pm - 8pm Mountain, hosted by Washington
- October 12, 1:30-3:30pm Pacific, 2:30-4:30pm Mountain hosted by Oregon
- October 14, 5pm-7pm Mountain, 4pm-6pm Pacific, hosted by Idaho

Attend any of three Council meetings: Oct 12-13, Nov 16-17



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How do I submit written comments?

<https://app.nwcouncil.org/energy/powerplan/2021/comment/>

Comment on the draft 2021 Northwest Power Plan

The Council invites your review and comment on the draft power plan through **November 19, 2021**. You can:

Provide written comments: Use our [**online comment page**](#) or email comments to [**comments@nwcouncil.org**](mailto:comments@nwcouncil.org).



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How do I learn more?



<https://www.nwcouncil.org/2021-northwest-power-plan>



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Questions? / Discussion

Please contact us!

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