



Ninth Northwest Regional Power Plan Comment Toolkit

Stand up for a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future for the Northwest. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council is accepting comments through October 16 on the Ninth Northwest Regional Power Plan.

We want to get a diverse coalition of people from throughout the region to make their voices heard on the plan. This is our region's plan, and we should all have a say in what is included in it. You can help mobilize your supporters by sharing NWECC's communications or by creating your own using the resources below.

You will find:

- Background
- How You Can Help
- Public Comment Opportunities
- Key Messages
- Communications Templates
- Resources

We want to hear about all the great work you are doing! Please add any actions taken by you or your organization to our [tracking sheet](#).

Background

The Northwest Power Planning Council is an interstate agency headed by two Governor appointees from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The Council produces a Northwest Power Plan every five years to forecast needs, assess supplies, and recommend a resource strategy for the future. The plan steers how the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), utilities, and regional decision makers choose the resources needed to meet the Northwest's electricity demand.

The Ninth Plan may be the most consequential one yet: surging demand, affordability, and climate change are all challenges to face. The plan forecasts surging energy demand from data centers and high-tech industries, building electrification, electric vehicles, and growing population. Historically, energy conservation has enabled the region to serve new growth and maintain affordable bills. Looking ahead, we need a diverse portfolio of clean energy, energy conservation and demand response programs, and battery storage to ensure affordable bills, keep the lights on, meet our climate goals, and help salmon and steelhead survive.

How You Can Help

Since our founding more than four decades ago, the NW Energy Coalition has been concerned about affordability. More so today in the face of growing demand and rising power costs. We have the opportunity to build a better future in the region. We need to take advantage of this critical moment to get it right, and we'll guide you through the process to make sure your voice is heard.

Before adopting the Plan, the Council seeks feedback from broad stakeholders from the public, state agencies, and utilities, to consider their opinions and needs. Now that the draft plan has been approved, you can submit written comments online and participate in public comment hearings across the region during the 60-day comment period, which will last to October 16, 2026. By participating in the process, we have the power to ensure that our future in the Northwest is built on clean, reliable, and affordable energy.

How to Submit Public Comment

The public comment period is open from August 12 through **Friday, October 16, 2026**. There are multiple ways you can submit comments. We encourage you to share comments in person if possible for maximum impact, but any way that you can make your voice heard matters.

- **In person.** You can show up at any of the following Council meetings and public comment forums in your area and comment on the plan in person.
 - **Council Meetings.** The Council will be meeting once a month during the comment period, and the second day of the meeting will be open to the public to make comments on the plan.
 - **September 9-10** Portland, Oregon
 - **October 14-15** Donnelly, Idaho

- **Public Comment Hearings.** There are seven scheduled public forums throughout the region during the comment period where you can attend in person and make comments. You can also join the meeting via webinar to make comments (instructions listed in the link for each city). More will be added here as the Council makes further announcements:

- [Portland, Oregon](#)
 - 4:30 - 6:30 pm PT Wednesday September 9
 - Council Central Office, 851 SW 6th Ave, Suite 1100
 - One week prior, you can register to attend the meeting online [here](#)
- [Spokane, Washington](#)
 - 4-6 pm PT Monday September 14
 - Spokane City Council Chambers, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
- [Coeur d'Alene, Idaho](#)
 - 4:30 - 6:30pm PT Monday September 14
 - Idaho Fish and Game Office, 2885 W Kathleen Ave, Ste 1
- [The Dalles, Oregon](#)
 - 4:30-6:30pm PT Tuesday September 29,
 - Columbia Gorge Discovery Center MJ Murdock Theater, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, OR
- [Webinar](#)
 - 4-6pm PT Thursday October 1
 - Online via Zoom
- [Idaho Falls, Idaho](#)
 - 4:30-6:30 MST, Tuesday October 6
 - Idaho Fish and Game Office, 4279 Commerce Circle
- [Missoula, Montana](#)
 - 4:30 - 6:30pm MST, Monday, October 5
 - Edgewater, Bitterroot/Blackfoot Room, 100 Madison St.
- [Seattle, Washington:](#)
 - 4-6pm PT Wednesday October 7
 - Seattle University, Oberto Commons, Sinegal Room 200, 901 12th Ave, Seattle, WA

- **Online.** You can submit your comments any time during the comment period via the Council's website: <https://projects.nwcouncil.org/powerplan>

Key Messages

Speak in your own voice about the issues you care about. The Council will get many technical comments. They also need to hear directly why a clean energy future is important to you. You do not need to be an expert in any area. The Council knows it is a public agency and should listen to people's everyday experiences.

Use these points in your written or verbal comments and tailor them to your own personalized message.

Priorities for the Ninth Plan

1. Prioritize affordable, adequate resources to meet our needs, and a reliable system.
2. Maximize energy conservation and demand response, renewable energy, storage and data center flexibility
3. Help salmon and wildlife by reducing pressure on the river through a clean resource strategy.
4. Meet the clean energy and conservation priorities adopted by states and utilities.
5. Ensure the region continues to meet our economic needs while protecting our natural heritage.

Strengths of the Ninth Plan

- **Diverse Resource Mix.** The draft plan takes a balanced approach with a diverse portfolio of mostly renewable resources, conservation, and storage. This mix ensures resiliency and reliability and allows everyone in the region to contribute.
- **Fish and Wildlife.** A diverse resource mix will also help with fish protections, reducing the pressure on the hydropower system so we can reduce harm to endangered salmon and steelhead.

Areas to Improve

- **Protect and Restore Salmon and Wildlife.** The Northwest Power Act requires the Plan's strategy to balance hydropower generation with protection and recovery for fish and wildlife. In June 2026, the Council approved the latest Fish & Wildlife program with input from Tribes, state agencies and the public. A strong Ninth Power Plan that prioritizes conservation and a diverse portfolio of clean resources will support the Fish and Wildlife program by reducing pressure on the river for hydro generation.
 - Adopt strong conservation targets and encourage regionwide collaboration to meet these goals.
 - Recommend the region prioritize clean energy and storage resources.

- Encourage BPA to continue and expand the transmission upgrade program.
 - Create a Load Management Forum to develop a regional load management strategy (conservation, demand response, distributed energy resources, data center/high tech load management) so that the region can maximize future flexibility and avoid further strains on the river systems.
- **Energy Conservation and Demand Response.** The NW Power Act requires the Council to prioritize energy conservation. The plan has a great starting point for energy efficiency and demand response but the data shows there is more cost-effective potential available.
 - Adopt a region wide energy conservation goal that encourages collaboration to achieve all cost effective conservation and demand response resources.
 - Support the draft Plan recommendations for Model Conservation Standards for Data Centers and Heat Pump installations. These standards help clarify performance criteria, installation guides, and operational practice to help the region address these growing issues.
 - Recommend that BPA help regional utilities implement demand response programs and modernize energy conservation program delivery especially to address the unique aspects of serving rural communities.
- **Clean Resources.** The draft Plan clearly shows that clean supply sources—wind, solar, and storage—are the economic choice to meet new power demand. Some of the scenarios in the Plan show that delays in expanding the transmission system could result in more gas generation. Meanwhile, learning how to integrate storage and expanded transmission access leads to more clean energy and lower costs.
 - Recommend the region pursue clean resources to meet future needs and remove barriers to connecting across the four states.
 - Recommend BPA consider options to acquire renewable resources and lead the region in expanding transmission capacity in order to integrate them into the grid.
- **Gas Generation.** The Plan identifies 2100 MW of new gas generation in the region. This is risky as the costs of gas infrastructure and fuel continue to climb while the gas pipeline system is already constrained. The Plan sensitivities show that increasing high voltage transmission capacity, especially for BPA, displaces

gas with renewable sources. And the Plan recommends comparing energy storage to specific gas proposals because the cost balance is close.

- Recommend that the region pursue transmission improvements, storage projects, and demand response programs instead of gas generation.
 - Encourage BPA to continue and expand its transmission grid upgrade efforts.
- **Load Management Forum.** A persistent theme throughout the Plan is the need to plan for and manage the massive future load growth on the horizon. Many of the new large loads could be flexible given the right incentives and standards, along with expanding efforts on energy conservation, demand response and local renewable resources and storage. Our region has a history of managing loads to fit within our unique system. And the Council has a history of convening forums to address the big challenges facing the Northwest.
 - Recommend the Council convene the region in a Load Management Forum to develop a strategy including policies, programs, and opportunities to manage regional power demand.
 - Recommend a regional portfolio of load management resources including energy conservation, distributed energy resources, and data center/high-tech load management.

Sample Social Media Posts

Sample posts

- Stand up for a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future for the Northwest! Make your voice heard on the draft Ninth Northwest Regional Power Plan: <https://nwenergy.org/9th-northwest-regional-power-plan/>
- The draft Ninth Northwest Regional Power Plan is here, and as we face challenges from surging demand, affordability, and climate change, this plan is more important than ever. Stand up for a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future for the Northwest by submitting your comments on the plan: <https://nwenergy.org/9th-northwest-regional-power-plan/>

Social media graphics: download from [Google Drive](#) or [Canva](#)



Questions? Please contact:

- For outreach and communications: Sara Burleson sara@nwenergy.org and Elle Gasperini elle@nwenergy.org
- For policy: Fred Heutte fred@nwenergy.org and Ben Otto ben@nwenergy.org

Resources

Northwest Power and Conservation Council [Ninth Power Plan](#)

NWEC Ninth Power Plan Materials

[9th Power Plan webpage](#)

[9th Power Plan fact sheet](#)

[Webinar 1: What You Need to Know About the 9th Northwest Regional Power Plan](#)

[Webinar 2: Make Your Voice Heard on the 9th Northwest Regional Power Plan](#)

[Ninth Power Plan press release](#)