

# THE CLEAN ENERGY UTILITY TRANSITION

## Proactive, climate-forward planning for Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Decarbonization

HB 1589 will require Washington's largest gas utility, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), to proactively plan to meet statutory decarbonization requirements. Without this bill, PSE may continue planning its gas system to be reliant on fossil fuels indefinitely, resulting in stranded assets and higher costs for customers.



### Let's pass HB 1589 to put Washington utilities on track for cleaner air and zero-emissions buildings.

Using gas to heat our homes has harmful consequences: the buildings sector has the fastest growing rate of carbon pollution in Washington State. Burning gas in our homes and buildings also causes harmful indoor and outdoor air pollution and has been linked to a 42% higher risk of children developing asthma.<sup>1</sup> **Considering the health risks and the climate risks of fossil gas, we need utilities to plan for this transition and help customers make the switch.**



### HB 1589 will require PSE to create a decarbonization plan in line with Climate Commitment Act (CCA) emissions ceilings.

Without this bill, business-as-usual planning to invest in new gas infrastructure both undermines Washington's statutory climate targets and is likely to result in stranded assets that are expensive and aren't useful to customers. As high-income customers voluntarily leave the system in a haphazard way, bills will increase for the remaining customers, who will be increasingly low- and moderate-income (LMI). Proactive planning for decarbonization is the necessary first step towards achieving decarbonization in an equitable and managed transition.



### HB 1589 will commit PSE to investing its CCA revenue in clean energy programs for customers.

Many customers, especially LMI customers, aren't able to make the transition off gas without significant support from their utility, even if they want to. Current statute allows gas utilities multiple ways to use CCA revenue, but this bill will go further and direct revenue towards actually shifting off of fossil fuels. PSE has the opportunity to use CCA revenue to switch its customers from gas to electric: better for the climate, better for health, and protecting LMI customers along the way.

<sup>1</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1093/ije/dyt150>