



Climate Change Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday May 20, 2026
5:30pm - 7pm

City Hall Council Conference Room
280 Madison Ave N
Bainbridge Island, WA

and

Remote Meeting on Zoom
<https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/83875258271>

or Telephone: US: +1 (253) 215-8782

Webinar ID: 838 7525 8271

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order / Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Agenda / Conflict of Interest Disclosure**
- 3. Public Comment**

In person public comment is accepted at this time on any topic of public interest. Each commenter will have three minutes, or such amount as the meeting chair determines, to speak. Public comment is not taken on individual agenda items during the meeting. Public comment is simply received by the Committee, with no response, and the Committee cannot deliberate on items that are not on the agenda. The lack of comment is not an endorsement or a denial of the comment.

Please refer to guidelines and instructions for public comment, including orderly behavior and civility in remarks, on the City's website. Remote public comment is allowed with advance notice by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before the meeting by emailing cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov, provided that all remote commenters shall be required to display their true name and to keep their camera turned on to show their true uncovered face while delivering their comments.

4. Climate Manager Updates

- 4.A Presentation from Ben Silesky, Solarize Bainbridge Campaign
- 4.B Updates on Community Climate Efforts & Climate Solutions Dinner, Mike Cox
- 4.C PSE Meeting, Kevin Thomas
- 4.D Bill Doweys Proposed CCAC Project, Kevin Thomas
- 4.E CCAC 2026 Approved Workplan
- 4.F Updates on City Climate-related Projects
- 4.G CAP Update: Public Survey & Timeline

5. Regular Business

- 5.A Amendment to December's Regular Business Minutes
- 5.B Approve April Minutes

6. Adjournment

The City of Bainbridge Island's meetings are wheelchair accessible. The City also provides auxiliary aids and services for effective communication such as assistive listening devices, closed captioning, and print materials in digital format. For other reasonable accommodations and/or modification to programs, services, or activities, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Anshu Wahi at awahi@bainbridgewa.gov or 206-947-0803 as soon as possible, preferably at least two business days prior to the meeting.

From: Climate Change Advisory Committee with input from members of the Utility Advisory Committee

To: Laura Ryser, Climate and Sustainability Manager COBI

Subject: Questions for the Meeting with PSE and the City of Bainbridge Island and potential areas for collaboration

Date: May 13th, 2026

Background

There are three activities happening in our community for which we believe collaboration with PSE is important to achieve success.

- The Climate Action Plan
COBI is in the process of updating the Climate Action Plan with assistance from the Cities Climate Change Advisory Committee.
- The Solarize Bainbridge Program (<https://olysol.org/solarizebainbridge/>)
The City of Bainbridge Island launched a Solarize Bainbridge program in March of 2026. They have had over 200 people sign up for free solar assessments.
- The Bainbridge Solar Collective (bisolar.org)
The Bainbridge Solar Collective, a program of Sustainable Bainbridge, was formed in February 2026. Their mission is to accelerate solar and battery storage installation across the island. Their goal is to increase electricity provided by solar energy from 2% to 25% by 2040 and to increase the number of buildings with solar from 5% currently to 25% by 2040.

Request

We understand COBI will hold their annual meeting with PSE in late May. Given the short time for the COBI-PSE meeting, we are requesting a separate meeting to explore the questions presented below. We believe addressing these questions are critical for the success of the three programs described above and would be beneficial to PSE to help meet their goals.

Streamlining Solar Permitting

As part of its overall mission to encourage more people to adopt solar, The Bainbridge Island Solar Collective has, as one of its projects, an effort to simplify the process of getting solar installed on residential rooftops. To install solar on Bainbridge requires inspections from the city to get a building permit and inspections from the Department of Labor and Industries to get the electrical permit.

- Can PSE simplify the process for obtaining permission to connect a new solar system to the grid?
- If permits have been obtained from L&I and the City -- complete with inspections, could PSE provide Permission of Operate without a physical inspection?

- Our understanding is that such inspections often take 5 weeks to carry out. What would it take to speed that up?
- Would PSE accept provisional solar installation completion dates ONLY to schedule PSE commissioning? We hope that if our residents can get on your schedule earlier, their systems could be commissioned closer to final inspection by COBI/L&I.

Working with Solarize Bainbridge, Bainbridge Solar Collective, and the CCAC

Collaborating with PSE would help advance the programs highlighted above. These groups rely on data from PSE to evaluate progress and make plans.

- How could PSE work with the COBI and the Bainbridge Solar Collective to increase installation of solar systems on the Island?
- At the end of each week or month, could PSE send an automated email to the Bainbridge Solar Collective stating how many new systems have been commissioned during that period? We want to show community progress with a publicly displayed, regularly updated thermometer.
- Would PSE share solar install numbers on other islands? We're looking for an island to possibly do events with, and Mercer or Vashon are our current top contenders.
- Would PSE share the addresses where new solar installations have been made? We're collecting permit data from COBI and WA L&I and would like PSE's data, which tends to be more complete. The data would help inform our group's messaging and community outreach, for example, should we hold events in Rolling Bay or Lynnwood?
- Would PSE be willing to include a co-written blurb and link to the Bainbridge Solar Collective on customer bills?

Increasing the Use of PSE's Community Solar Program

PSE's Community Solar Program could be very helpful in meeting the goals of the Climate Action Plan and the Bainbridge Solar Collective. The questions below would help us understand the status of the program and how we could help to accelerate it.

- Are there any Community Solar projects currently underway or planned on BI? Is PSE interested in collaborating or revisiting this topic? We understand that PSE has announced new community solar projects in places like Auburn, Kent, and Renton. It has been several years since we explored community solar on Bainbridge.
- What model would PSE prefer — utility-owned, third-party operated, or subscriber cooperative? What has worked best in Auburn, Kent, and Renton? We are open to considering different ways to achieve this goal.

Increasing the Number of EV Charging Stations

As we move toward finalizing a new sub-area plan for Winslow, there may be a window for new construction on the island. This may give the City an historic opportunity to shape policy for implementing our climate plans. EV adoption is central here.

- What is PSE's strategy for supporting EV charging infrastructure on Bainbridge, particularly for multi-family housing and public sites?

Increasing Participation in PSE Programs

PSE has numerous powerful programs to help people reduce their energy use and increase their use of renewable energy. We would like to promote those programs. We believe the groups identified above could help community members better understand how to take advantage of the programs discussed below.

- Green Power Program
What can COBI and the Bainbridge Solar Collective do to increase participation in the Green Power program?
- PSE Energy Audit Program
Does PSE have a home energy audit program, or would they be interested in starting one? During the Solarize Bainbridge workshops, we have heard it is good to start planning for solar with an energy audit.
- Flex Battery Program
What is PSE's long-term roadmap for the Flex Battery program? Are there plans to expand enrollment capacity or integrate additional battery technologies? How does PSE use aggregated residential battery storage in grid operations, and how does that benefit ratepayers? We want to increase our focus on resiliency and disaster preparedness, and batteries can play a role. Battery technologies have changed a lot over the past ten years, although costs remain prohibitive for many.
- Heat Pump Program
What is the timeline for PSE's support for heat pump deployments both residential and commercial?

Providing Statistics to the Community on Reliability and Resilience Issues

*We believe it is important for customers to understand PSE's reliability issues in our community and the status of infrastructure issues that have an impact on power **reliability and availability**. In addition, we believe information and collaboration on resiliency issues would be beneficial to our Community?*

- **Would** PSE share metrics that describe the duration and frequency of interruptions on the Island (System Average Interruption Durations Index (SAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) **broken down by major distribution branches and for the island**. And **would** you compare those with **service** in Kitsap County, as well as elsewhere in the PSE service area? **Would** you compare those metrics with other major public/private utilities in Washington State?
- What is the updated timeline for the missing link construction? **How can the city expedite this process?**
- What is the design and the schedule for the power upgrade to charge boats at the ferry terminal?
- What are PSE's policies/guidelines/timelines, for regional and residential BESS deployments?

- Could PSE provide a technical staff person or representative that will respond to resilience questions pertaining to PSE's internal current and developing policies/legislation?
- Could PSE participate in resiliency education programs sponsored by regional governing bodies?

Complying with the Clean Energy Transformation Act

Our state has set a goal that all sources of electricity are to be free of carbon emissions by 2045.

- What are PSE's plans to meet those goals? How much will be solar? How much will be wind? How much will be hydro? Will any be from nuclear? Will any be from geothermal or other clean energy sources?

Reference: REBI Nov 2021 Climate Action Plan Goals

Mitigation: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2045 compared to 2014 levels with interim milestones of 25% reduction by 2025 and 60% by 2035 compared to 2014 levels.

Adaptation: Bainbridge Island is climate savvy, and can withstand the impacts of climate change.

Community Engagement: COBI inspires community action and partners with local and regional organizations to take meaningful and equitable climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

Having reviewed (and produced summaries) of the Energy and Building sections of the Nov 2021 CAP, I am of the opinion that in order to capture what has happened (2022-2025), in these areas and to advance these sections of the plan into 2026-27, the following action(s) needs to take place.

Conduct a EcoAdapt Rapid Vulnerability Adaption Tool (RVAT) review, of Energy supply and Building systems for residence, business, schools, emergency hubs in conjunction with stakeholders (PSE, Builders, Bainbridge Prepares, and a consortium of BI residents).

Sponsored by CCAC Time? (Fall2026?).

(I am ready to discuss this further, either with the CCAC or a subset/sub-committee of CCAC members).

Topics within the RVAT.

PSE: (understanding that BI is just one branch of the WA tree)

Steps and timeline to Energy Resilience

Renewable Energy Incentives:

- Solar

- Wind:

- Govt promotions

- Community Solar Buy-in opportunities

Battery Energy Storage:-to offset propane generation

- Residential

- Businesses

- COBI

- Utility:Flow batteries, trailer based systems

Microgrids:

- Disaster Hubs

- Apartments

- Neighborhoods

Alternative Electric Power supply feeds:

- Secondary Island feed as an alternative to Agate Pass.

- Micro Nuclear: feasibility, trailer based systems

Fast charging for EV's

- Line upgrades

- Transformers

Potential follow-on activities after RVAT.

Promotions:

Flyers in Billings

Govt: local

Committees: Displays/Workshops
Resilience row

Propane/Gasoline abatement: Carbon based fuel elimination- Timeline

Electric Grills-promotion & incentives

Local Govt legislative restrictions and timeline

Leaf blowers

Local Government:

Incentives for

Conversion to All-Electric

Heat Pumps/Mini Splits

Community Solar fields with rotating Low income electric billing relief: grant pursuit

Building Systems

As a result of the Energy/Building RVAT review with stakeholders, develop for contractors:- system recommendations and education outlines.

For COBI, based on the Builders guidelines:- permitting development recommendations.

2026 CCAC Work Plan Priorities

1. Climate Action Plan

Support Work to Update, Revise, Enhance Draw on past experience and new perspectives to work with the Climate Manager to advance the CAP; conduct analysis on the current document and participate in community outreach, public surveys, and public meetings. Ensure that prior studies — including the ETIPP federal partnership analysis and the Fehr & Peers transportation study — are incorporated into the updated plan.

2. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Support Finalization, Utilize for Other Work Support the Climate Manager in finalizing the updated GHG inventory following the consultant's April 21 Council presentation; use the updated emissions data to inform CAP revision priorities.

3. Electric Vehicle Charging Code for Multifamily Buildings

Mine Past Analysis for Future Enhancements Work with City staff to advance updates to the EV charging code that broaden access to Level 2 charging in new multifamily buildings, building on the 2024CCAC report and the intern's 2025 analysis.

4. Solarize Bainbridge

Lean in to Help Promote Support and extend the work of the Climate Manager and of Olympia Community Solar to promote outreach efforts for the Solarize Bainbridge program; leverage collaborations with the newly formed Bainbridge Solar Collective.

5. Solar and Battery Feasibility Study: Provide Feedback and Support

Review the feasibility study report and assist the Climate Manager in identifying potential funding opportunities for implementation.

6. Climate Mitigation Strategies for Bainbridge Island to Address Rising Sea Levels

Work with Climate Manager to address sea level rise impacts on public infrastructure.

7. Progress Dashboard: Help Visualize Data and Insights

Work with the Climate Manager to develop a public-facing dashboard tracking the City's progress toward CAP goals.

8. Intercounty Climate Partnership: Share Knowledge & Seek Allies

Participate in the six-county regional climate partnership, which convenes quarterly.

9. Climate Lens

Support the Climate Manager to pilot climate informed decision making at the city using the climate lens tool.

10. Community Outreach & Engagement

Support the Climate Manager and City Staff with communications, events, and the development of public outreach materials.

11. City Council Requests

The CCAC always stands ready to respond to ad hoc requests from the City Council for information, analysis, or recommendations on climate-related matters.