



energize**EASTSIDE**

project newsletter

Spring 2017 project update

About Energize Eastside

The Eastside is outgrowing the backbone of the area’s electric grid. PSE's Energize Eastside project will build a new substation and upgrade approximately 18 miles of existing transmission lines from Redmond to Renton. Combined with continued aggressive electric conservation, Energize Eastside will keep the lights on in our Eastside communities for years to come.

We’re not all old enough to remember ...

FIFTY YEARS! That’s how long it’s been since we last did a major upgrade of the backbone of the Eastside’s electric grid. During that span, the Eastside’s population has grown eight-fold, leading Northwest companies have been launched in our communities, and the need for electricity to power our homes and economy has grown. We’ve also learned how to conserve energy and become increasingly more energy efficient. **But it’s not enough. We need Energize Eastside now.**

Electricity is not just a convenience ...

... **it’s a necessity.** It helps us live comfortably in our homes year-round, regardless of the weather. Safe and reliable electricity is essential for businesses, hospitals, schools, industry and homes. Electricity arrives at its destination at almost the same moment it is produced. When you flip a switch, the electric power is there for your use.

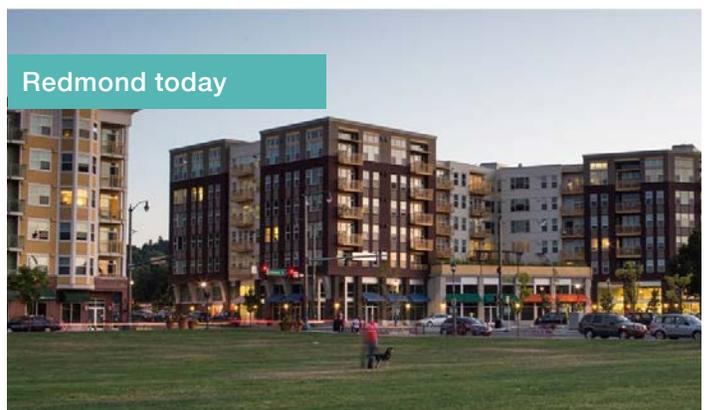
Behind the scenes, PSE employees are hard at work planning, operating and maintaining the complex electric transmission grid so it can reliably provide power to the homes and businesses that need it. **Electric system reliability contributes to our quality of life and economic well-being, and is essential for economic growth.**

Benefits of a reliable transmission system

- Ensures that equipment dependent on electricity—from medical devices in hospitals to laptops at home—operates uninterrupted
- Allows businesses to confidently expand
- Enables our modern, interconnected technology to continue to enhance our everyday lives



Redmond circa 1956



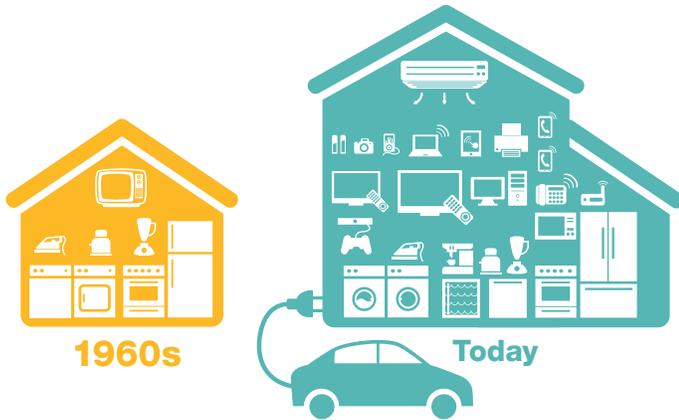
Redmond today

Is demand for energy really growing?

Yes! On the Eastside, customer electric power demand—the amount of energy used at one moment—has been growing dramatically in recent years. We see demand peaks daily, especially on winter evenings when customers get home, turn on their appliances and plug

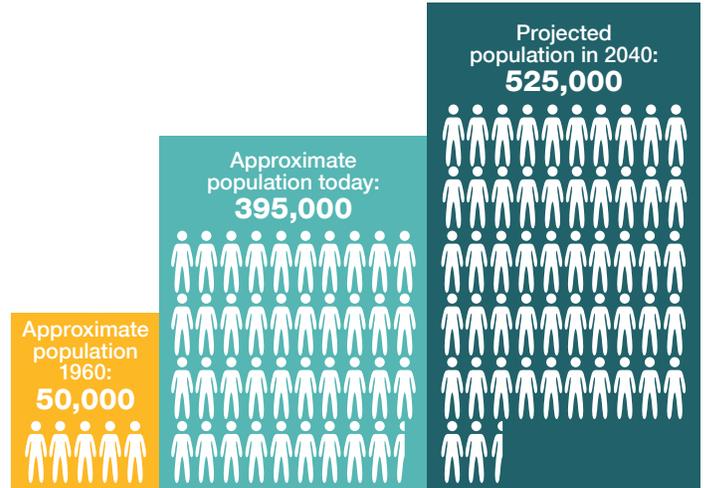
in their electronics, and during the summer when more customers use air conditioning. And we have more customers than ever before driving those demand peaks. Energize Eastside will ensure the electric grid can handle this growth into the future.

Electric demand has changed

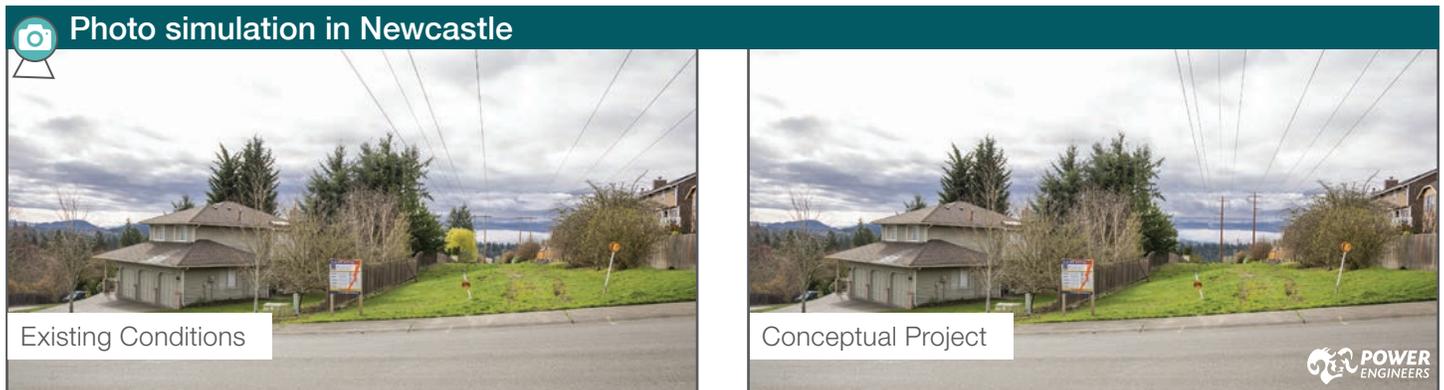


Eastside population has grown

(people shown in increments of 10,000)



Puget Sound Regional Council 2013 Land Use Baseline: Maintenance Release 1 (MR1) Update, April 2014



The photo simulations above show what the new transmission lines might look like, along with an image of existing conditions for comparison. Visit pse.com/energizeeastside to view additional photo simulations.

Four questions for the Energize Eastside project team

1. Will Energize Eastside improve reliability?

Yes! Energize Eastside will improve the reliability of the Eastside's transmission system to help keep the lights on under stressed conditions.

Federal regulations require PSE to have sufficient infrastructure to meet foreseeable demand or plan for intentional rolling blackouts to customers. If PSE plans to use rotating blackouts to meet its federally-mandated requirements, we must discuss that plan publicly.

Energize Eastside builds a new substation and upgrades existing transmission lines to ensure the system can reliably serve growing communities and avoids the need to develop and announce a rolling blackout plan.

2. Can Energize Eastside safely co-exist with the Olympic Pipeline?

Yes, it can! Safety is PSE's top priority. Our transmission lines and Olympic's pipelines have safely coexisted in the existing corridor for decades. Newer technology and updated safety regulations allow PSE to build to the highest safety standards. We've worked with DNV GL, a leading national expert in pipeline safety, to assist in developing design and operational parameters to help ensure the continued safe operation of the co-located utilities.

And we continue to partner with Olympic to plan and implement safe construction practices that protect the pipelines and nearby neighborhoods.

3. Has PSE been listening to us in the community?

Yes, we have ... and still are! As a company, our goal is to be a responsible neighbor in the communities we serve. Energize Eastside is no exception.

Since launching the project, we've heard from nearly 2,000 people during the Community Advisory Group process, at open houses, at meetings, and through comments. Using this input, our plans minimize impacts to the environment by primarily using the existing corridor, limiting pole heights, and avoiding sensitive areas.

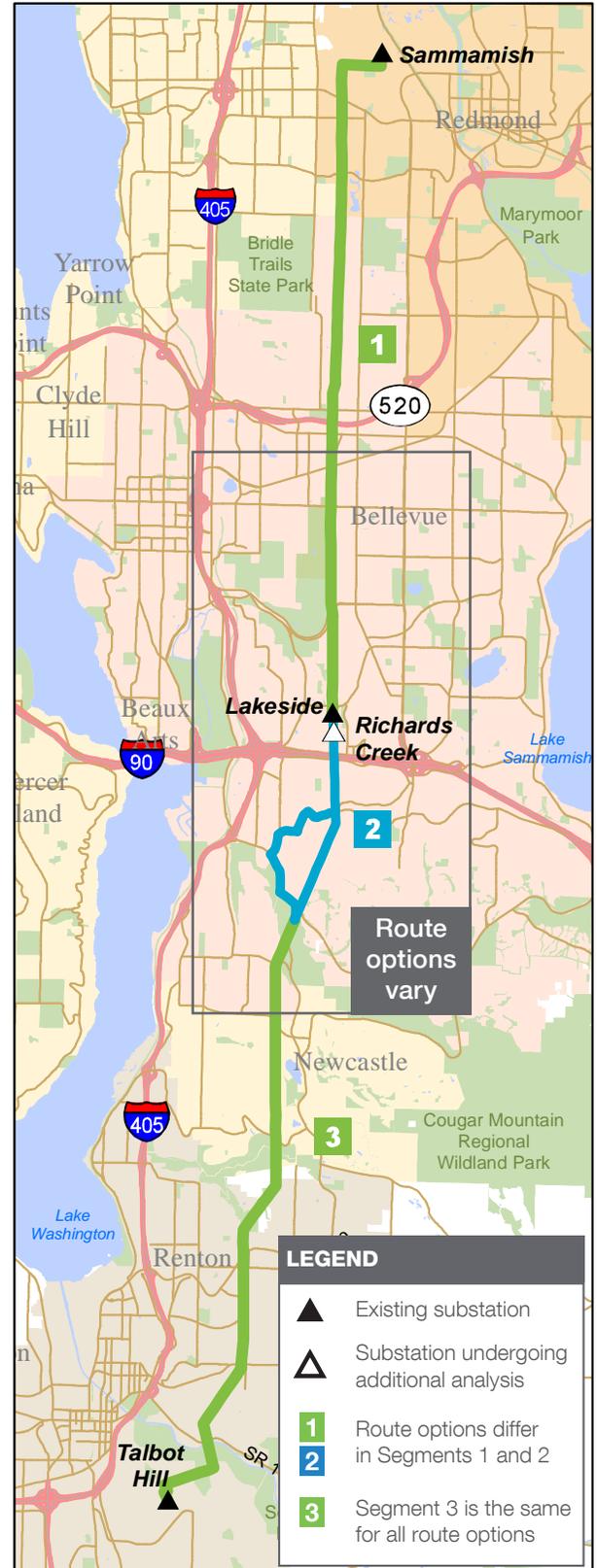
Most recently, we met with individual homeowners, tenants and business owners along the existing corridor to discuss property-specific design and tree replacement plans. These conversations helped us refine our design and better understand customer interests and concerns.

We will continue to listen to community input and use the Cities' Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to help us evaluate our route options.

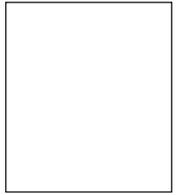
4. Are there independent studies confirming the need for this project?

Yes! A total of five studies—including two conducted by independent experts hired by the City of Bellevue and the Cities' EIS project team—have confirmed that we need to upgrade the Eastside's electric grid now to avoid having to plan for rolling blackouts in the very near future.

PSE's route options primarily use the existing corridor



PSE is currently considering multiple route options that primarily use the existing transmission line corridor. **To view the route options not shown on this map, visit our website.**



What's inside

- Energize Eastside: Where we stand today
- Demand for energy is growing
- Four questions for the project team

For more information

- For the latest news, photo simulations of the upgraded poles, maps, and more, visit pse.com/energizeeastside.
- To learn more about the Bellevue, Newcastle, Redmond and Renton Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and participate in the upcoming comment period, visit EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

Thank you for your interest in Energize Eastside.

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energizeEASTSIDE



Where we stand today

Energize Eastside will build a new substation and upgrade approximately 18 miles of existing transmission lines from Renton to Redmond in the same transmission line corridor that has served Eastside communities for more than 80 years. Together with continued aggressive electric conservation, Energize Eastside will keep the lights on for years to come.

Here are some important—and relevant—developments you will want to know about.



Get involved!

You will have an **opportunity to comment** on the Cities' Phase 2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) once it is published later this spring. The Phase 2 Draft EIS will consider the potential impacts and mitigation associated with the project. For more details on the Cities' EIS and comment opportunities, visit EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

Upcoming fieldwork surveys

This year, Energize Eastside project members are conducting **additional "fieldwork" surveys** to refine our design and inform future permit submittals. You may see crews visiting properties along the existing corridor and conducting utility and archaeological resource surveys. In addition, we're at a point where we can begin **developing property-specific landscaping and tree replacement plans with property owners**. We'll be reaching out to affected property owners about these efforts.