




## Fall 2020 project update

The Energize Eastside project has reached a major milestone with construction beginning at Richards Creek substation. Construction of the new substation in south Bellevue is the first step in constructing the project. Combined with continued electric conservation, Energize Eastside will keep the lights on for the Eastside's growing communities for years to come.

### In this newsletter:

- Richards Creek substation construction update
- Permitting update
- Photo simulation of the project in Newcastle
- What's next for the project?
- Property owner meetings

Thank you for  
your interest in  
Energize Eastside.

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## Upgrading the grid to keep up with growth

The backbone of the Eastside's electric grid was last upgraded in the 1960s. Since then, our population has grown eight-fold, and now the grid is being pushed beyond its capacity.

PSE's Energize Eastside project will build a new substation and upgrade approximately 16 miles of transmission lines within the existing corridor from Redmond to Renton.

With continued electric conservation, Energize Eastside will keep the lights on for years to come.



Photo courtesy of Eastside Heritage Center.



## What's next for the project?

We expect to begin construction of the southern portion of transmission lines in spring 2021 after we've worked through the necessary permitting process. Additionally, we've initiated the permitting process for the north half of the project. We'll keep the local community informed as we get closer to construction.

## Is PSE meeting with property owners?

Yes—we want to meet with you! The project team continues to meet with property owners along the existing corridor to discuss landscaping and tree replacement plans. It's our goal for there to be more trees when the project is complete, not fewer.

If you have questions about vegetation on the easement within your property, please visit [energizeeastside.com/meetings](https://energizeeastside.com/meetings) to schedule a meeting.



## energize**EASTSIDE**

project newsletter

## Progress continues with Energize Eastside reaching major milestones



### Richards Creek substation construction underway

The new Richards Creek substation is a critical component of the Energize Eastside project that will provide reliable energy for the area's growing communities. We aim to complete the work safely, efficiently, and with minimal disruption to neighbors. Construction will take place in stages, and continue through fall 2021.

As part of this construction project, PSE will replant native trees, conduct stream restoration and enhance wetlands. Once complete, the substation will be connected to the electric grid by the upgraded transmission lines, and will provide additional capacity to ensure the Eastside's electric system can accommodate our customers' growing energy needs into the future.



### Permitting moves forward

The project continues to advance through the permitting process—we've received Conditional Land Use Permit approvals for south Bellevue and Renton, and anticipate a permitting-related hearing in Newcastle soon.

Consistent with our phased construction approach, we've focused on permitting the south half of the project first. Our plan is to build and energize the new Richards Creek substation in Bellevue and upgrade the transmission lines in south Bellevue, Newcastle, and Renton first, then construct the northern portion in Bellevue and Redmond.



### Studies support using the existing corridor to minimize impacts

The project has undergone seven years of extensive study and community dialogue, along with environmental review and permitting, which confirmed that by using the existing corridor, impacts to communities and the environment are limited.

These reviews include the Partner Cities' Final Environmental Impact Statement, as well as analyses by multiple independent experts. Most recently, the King County Superior Court denied appeals by project opponents on the South Bellevue Conditional Land Use Permit.

Energize Eastside uses the existing transmission line corridor that has served the Eastside for nearly a century. Detailed maps are available on our website.

#### LEGEND

- Final route
- ▲ Existing substation
- △ New Richards Creek substation

Map for illustrative purposes only.



### Photo simulation in Newcastle



Existing conditions



Conceptual project

Energize Eastside will replace poles and upgrade transmission lines along the existing utility corridor. To view more photo simulations of the current conditions and proposed project, visit our website.