



TO: Public Utility Board
FROM: Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities
DATE: [OBJ] April 10, 2024
RE: [OBJ] TPU GP5 Environmental Sustainability Annual Update

Measurements

1. Report progress on ongoing TPU and joint TPU-General Government initiatives related to environmental stewardship and climate change (*Rochelle Gandour-Rood*)
2. Track community outreach and communication activities related to environmental stewardship, customer rebates, decarbonization, and electrification, as well as customer participation in programs (*Breanna Chance*)
3. Report on our work on environmental and climate-related policies at the local, state, and federal levels. (*Rosa McLeod, Logan Bahr, Clark Mather, Rochelle Gandour-Rood*)

Measurement 1. Report progress on ongoing TPU and joint TPU-General Government initiatives related to environmental stewardship and climate change

[Contributor: Rochelle Gandour-Rood]

- TPU continues to make progress towards the goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Notably:
 - **Tacoma Power** completed an electrification study that forecasts new loads, which is information for the 2024 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) currently in development.
 - **Tacoma Water** has finished advanced meter (AMI) installation and launched a paperless notification program to notify customers of continuous water use.
 - **Tacoma Rail** was awarded \$15.99M to acquire 3 battery-electric locomotives.
- TPU met all their goals for the 2023 departmental Resource Conservation and Climate Plans (RCCPs):
 - **Tacoma Power** met all 3 goals, including jointly enrolling TPU/City of Tacoma in Low Carbon Fuel Standards administration and began reporting.
 - **Tacoma Water** met all 4 goals, including beginning implementation of the Watershed Strategic Plan and phase 1 of a light-fixture replacement program installing LEDs.
 - **Tacoma Rail** met all 3 goals, including conducting research and analysis to support reduction of diesel emissions.
- TPU worked in partnership with City of Tacoma Environmental Services, Pierce County Planning & Public Works, and Pierce Conservation District to lead the third year of a workshop series for teachers focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and



Math (STEAM) Education for Climate Literacy. The TPU's themes for 2023 were building HVAC energy efficiency and rail transport efficiency.

Measurement 2. Track community outreach and communication activities related to environmental stewardship, customer rebates, decarbonization, and electrification, as well as customer participation in programs

[Contributors: Breanna Chance]

- In 2023, Tacoma Power staff attended 47 different public outreach events resulting in more than 1,800 program related conversations. Events ranged from multi-day events like the Tacoma Home and Garden Show, to local celebrations such as Summer Fest, Juneteenth at Stewart Heights Park, and the Hilltop Street Fair. The overwhelming majority of conversations were involving EV charging, solar, Bill Credit Assistance Plan, and home heating.
- Tacoma Power's Income Qualified Rental Conservation program was designed to help rental property owners and tenants with energy efficient home improvements. Since launch in late 2022 this program has assisted 19 property owners in making their rental homes more comfortable with lower energy bills for tenants.
- Tacoma Water staff attended 44 public events and youth programs, reaching more than 3,664 people. In total, they distributed 994 water savings kits and 82 rebates on weather-based irrigation controllers to promote efficient landscape water use. Primary topics included summer peak water reduction, water sources, water supply abundance, and the Water Service Line Grant and Loan Program.

Measurement 3. Report on our work on environmental and climate-related policies at the local, state, and federal levels.

[Contributors: Rosa McLeod, Logan Bahr]

- Local
 - Staff continued to make progress on TPU-specific items included in the Tacoma Climate Action Plan, including the completion of an electrification study, the installation of advanced meters (AMI), and paperless notification programs. More information is provided in Measurement 1.
- State
 - Staff actively advocated on various policy bills this legislative session related to energy, climate change, and the environment. TPU also supported the passage of a law creating new consumer protections for customers considering residential solar systems. TPU was awarded three budget items in the 2024 supplemental budget: a distribution grid upgrade project; a zero-emission service vehicle project; and a pumped storage feasibility study at our Mossyrock project.



- Federal
 - Staff supported federal funding requests that produced major investments in Tacoma Rail's electric locomotive project and new funding for Howard A. Hanson dam downstream fish passage improvements
 - TPU policymakers and staff traveled to DC to advocate to Congressional offices and federal agencies on various policy topics including the importance of the hydropower system, emerging energy markets, and the Columbia River Treaty.