

# Tacoma Power 2026 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP): Preliminary Findings

May 27, 2026

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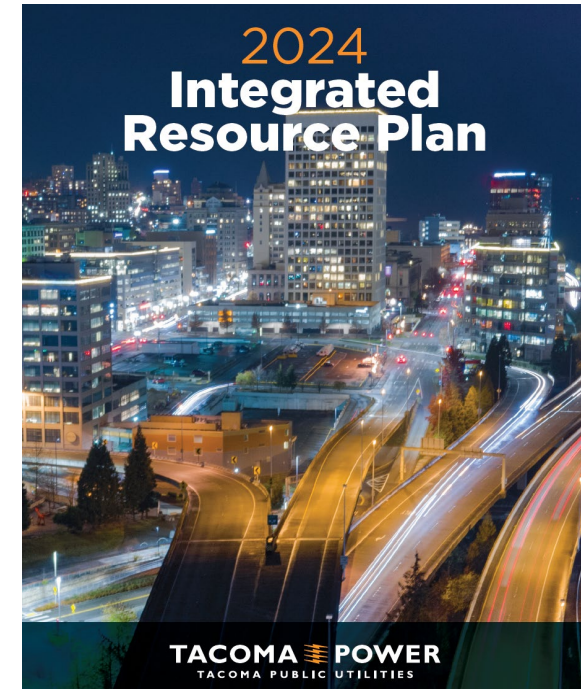
# About our Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

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## An integrated resource plan is:

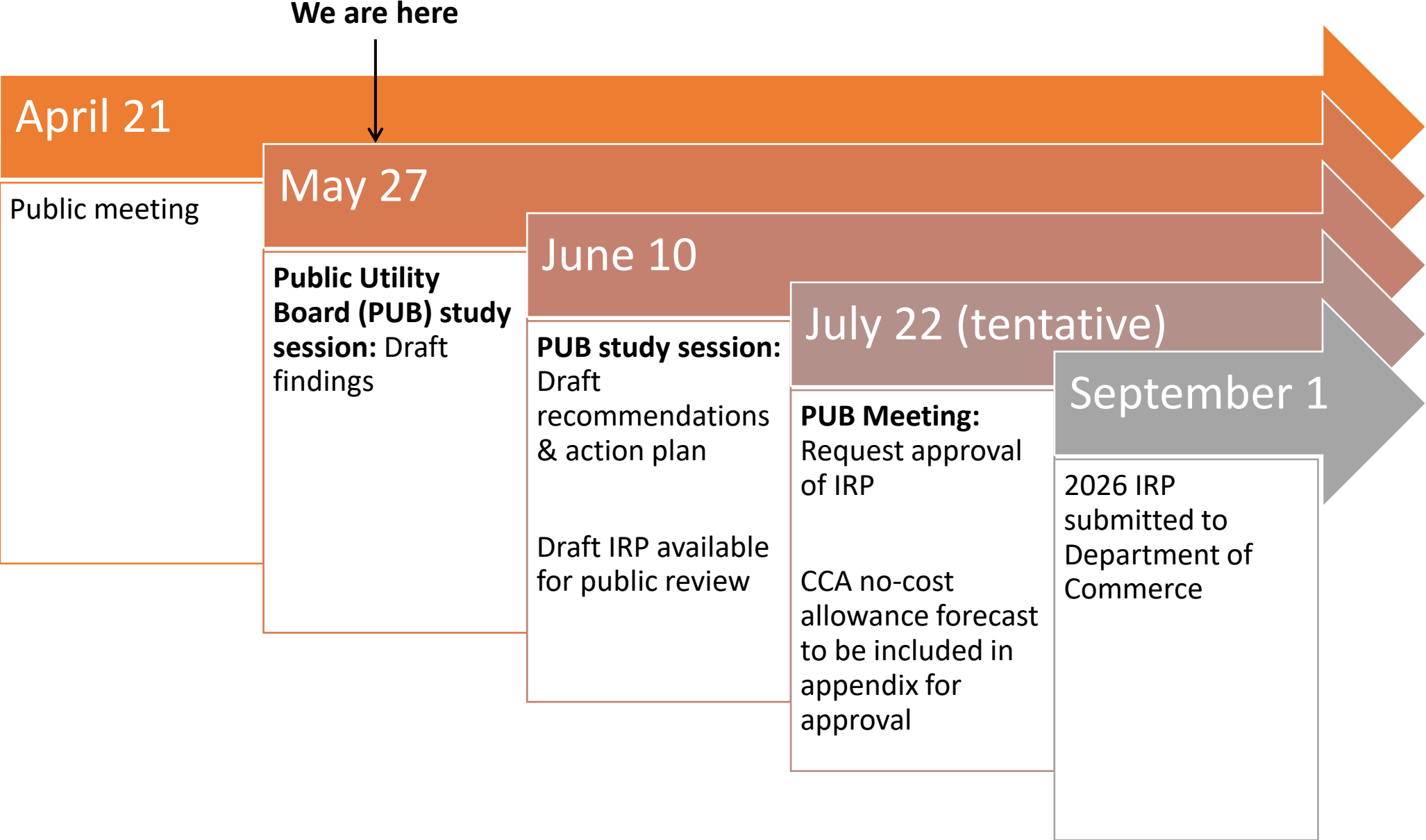
- A plan for providing reliable and low-cost power in an uncertain future
- Required by Washington State law (19.280 RCW)
- Updated every two years
- Consistent with Tacoma Public Utility Board's Guiding Principle of Resource Stewardship and Sustainability

Our last IRP was completed in 2024, and the current IRP is due September 1, 2026



**Link to IRP webpage:** <https://www.mytpu.org/about-tpu/services/power/integrated-resource-plan/>

# IRP Schedule



# Community input process

- Community input process advertised through multiple channels
  - Website, social media, newsletter announcements, tabling at community events, and direct outreach by TPU community & business liaisons
- Four ways to participate

Community survey to identify priority topics

- 8 respondents

Public meeting discussing draft results

- 7 participants representing a variety of interests
  - 2 large commercial and industrial customers
  - 2 City of Tacoma staff members
  - BPA account executive
  - 1 residential customer

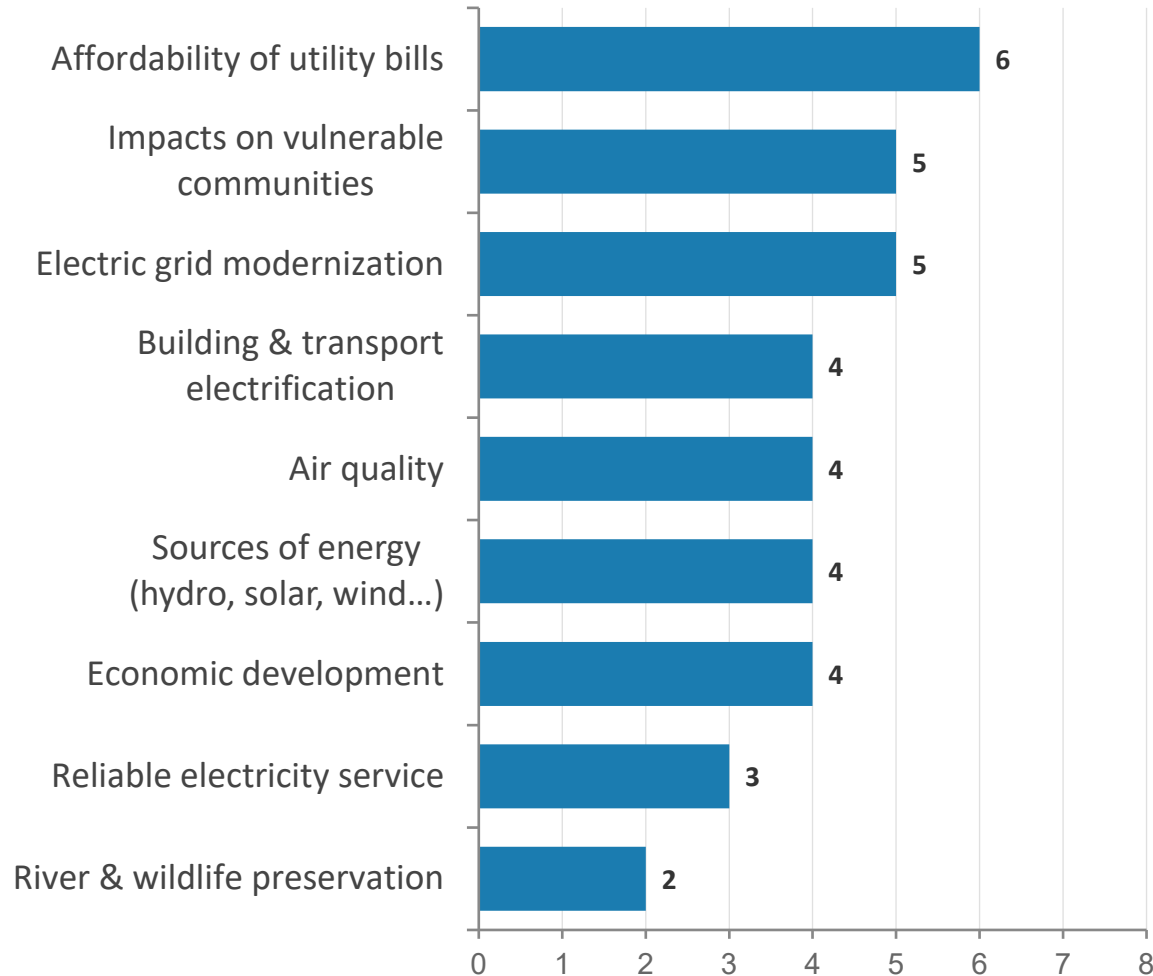
Submit comments online via email

- None received so far

Comment on draft IRP before it is final

- To be circulated by June 10

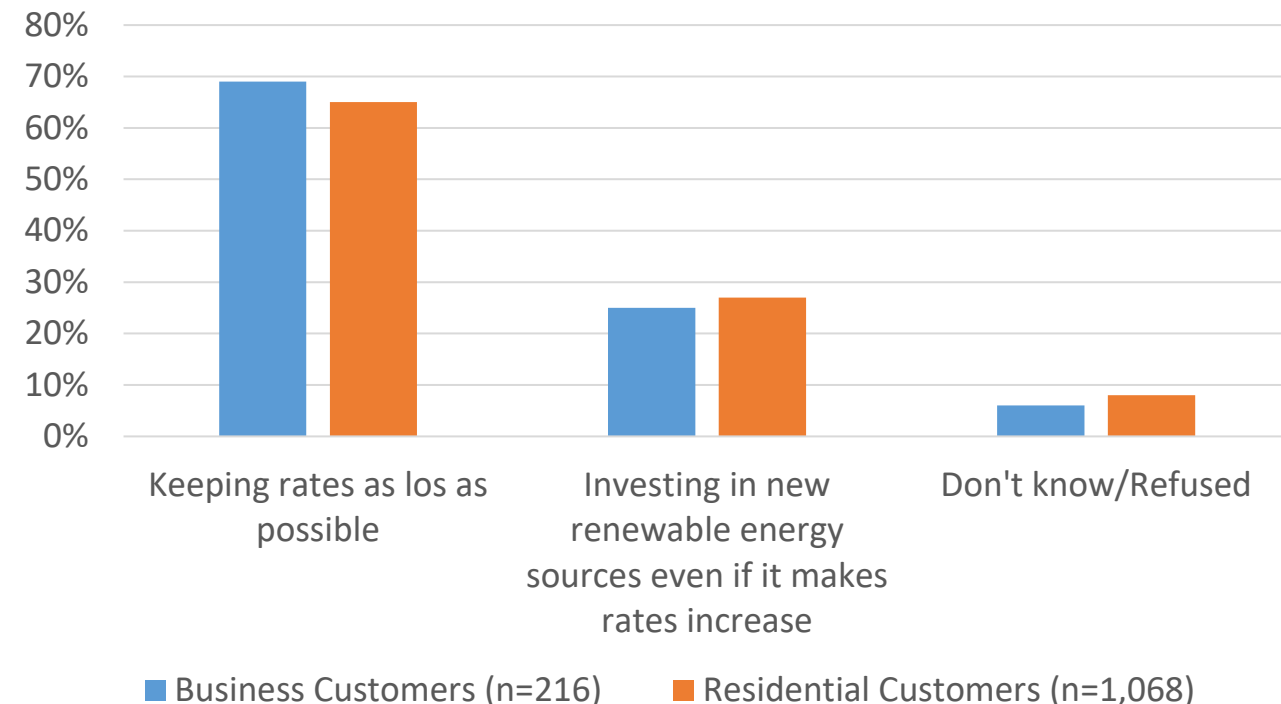
# Affordability was topic of most interest in IRP community survey



**IRP Survey Question:** "What part of the energy puzzle would you like to understand better?" (select all that apply)  
**Total respondents: 8**

Interest in affordability is consistent with broader TPU customer surveys identifying affordability as top priority

**Question:** *Which do you feel is more important for TPU to prioritize...?*



# Overview of our Power Supply



# Our power sources

## Cushman Hydroelectric Project

Cushman No. 1 Cushman No. 2



LaGrande



## Nisqually River Project

Alder



## Wynoochee River Project

Wynoochee



Conservation



Mayfield



Mossyrock



## Cowlitz River Project

Contracts



# Tightening Regional Power Supply

Multiple studies of power supply in the Northwest project that the region **will not have enough supply to meet demand** within the next 5 years

- Growth in electricity demand from vehicle electrification, building electrification and data centers
- Resource retirements
- Speed at which new resources are being built is not keeping pace with need
- Low water years

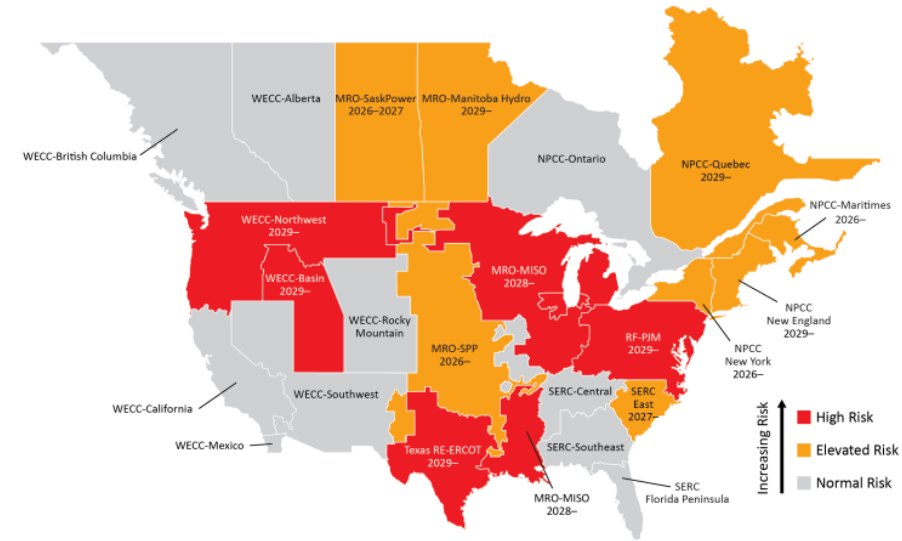
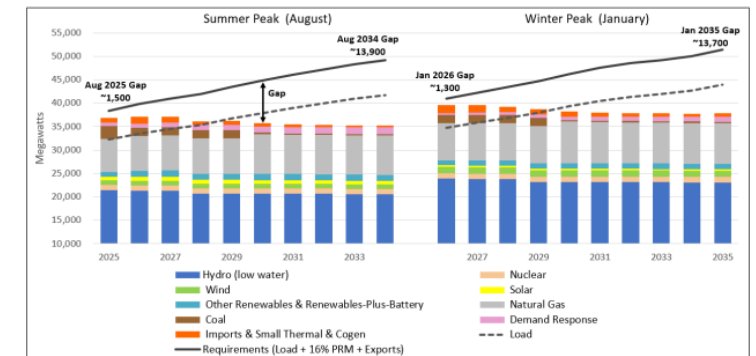


Figure 1: Risk Area Summary 2026–2030  
Shows highest risk classification that occurs in the first 5 years and states initial year of occurrence

2025 Long-Term Reliability Assessment

## NERC Long Term Reliability Assessment



## Northwest Regional Forecast – Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee



NW Power and Conservation  
Council NW Regional Power Plan

### Resource Adequacy and the Energy Transition in the Pacific Northwest Final Report

April 2026

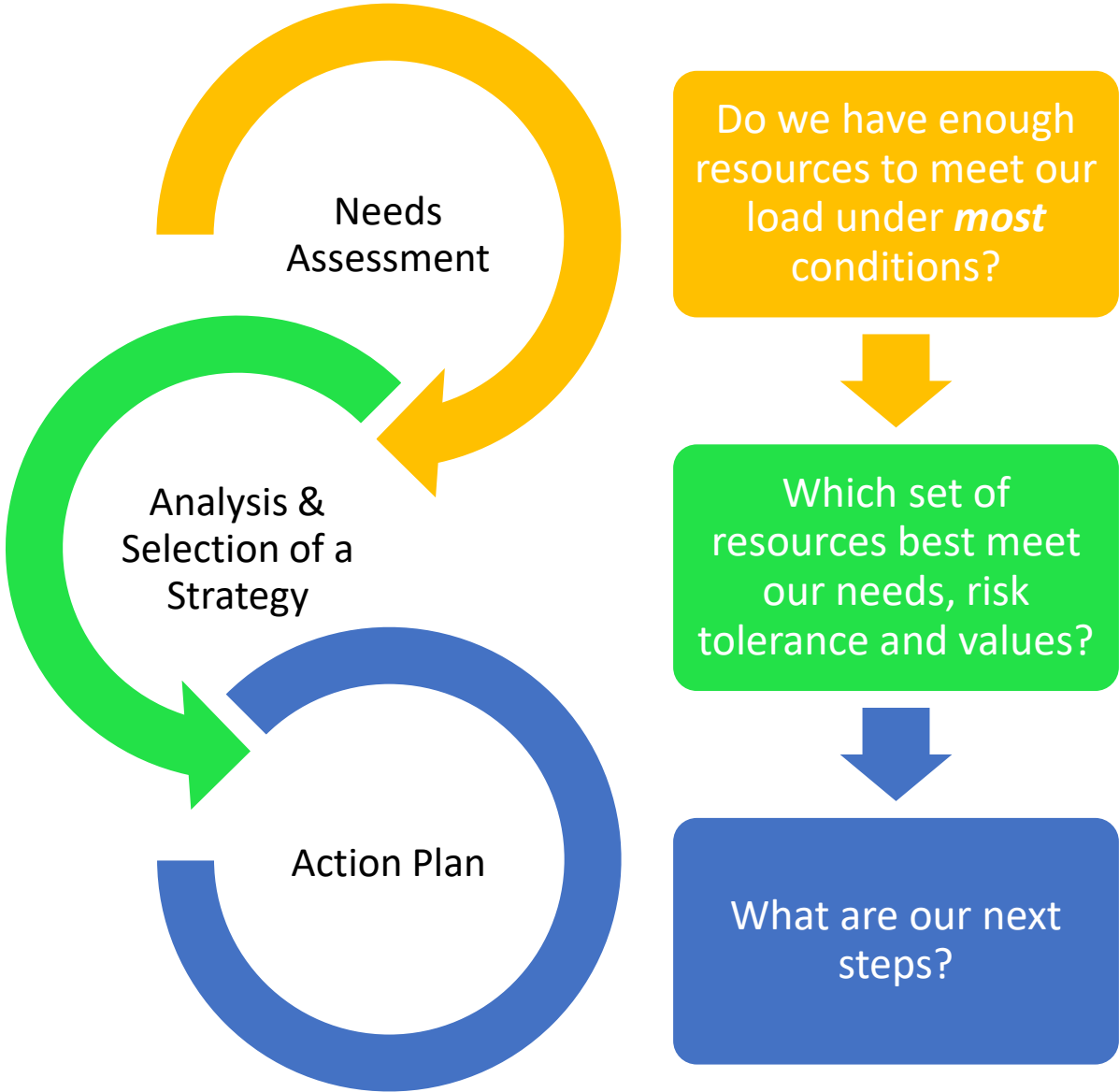
Energy + Environmental Economics

## Resource Adequacy and the Energy Transition in the Pacific Northwest - E3

# Our Analysis Process



# Overview of IRP Process



**If you are sure of tomorrow, there is  
no fool greater than you!**

Mehmet Murat ildan



# Major uncertainties we address

## Weather

- Multiple different water and temperature conditions
- Range of climate change adjustments

## Customer demand

- Different trajectories of growth in residential and commercial demand (e.g., electrification, Home in Tacoma, etc.)
- Significant industrial load growth

## Resource Capabilities

- What if restoration of Riffe Lake elevation takes longer than planned?

## Changes to the larger grid

- Broad range of price assumptions used for resource evaluation

# Our Resource Position



# How we measure our position

## Peaking capacity

- Ability to meet high demand for **a few hours**

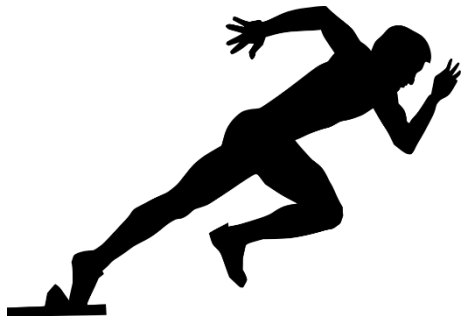
## Sustained capacity

- Ability to meet high demand **over multiple days**

## Monthly energy

- Ability to meet demand **over the course of a month**

100 meter sprint



5,000 meter run



Marathon



# Changes to energy position over time

1. **New BPA contract (October 2028):** Change to contract formula means we will get a little more energy in worst winter droughts and less in summer
2. **Load growth (continuous):** Energy needs grow as electrification progresses, but BPA contract adjusts so long as growth is not too high
3. **Climate change (continuous):** We expect to get more energy in winter and less in summer because of climate change, but changes are not dramatic enough to compromise our energy position

## Major risk factors:

- Steep acceleration of load growth would necessitate new energy resource acquisition by early to late 2030's, depending on the pace of growth



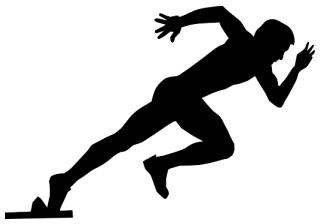
**Result:** We do not have an imminent need to acquire additional energy resources beyond conservation.

# Changes to peaking capacity position over time

1. **New BPA contract (October 2028):** Change to contract formulas means we will have less capacity in both winter and summer
2. **Peak demand growth (continuous):** As electrification progresses, peak demand growth outpaces energy growth
3. **Riffe restoration (October 2033):** Riffe Lake restoration restores capacity lost during extended drawdown

## Major risk factors

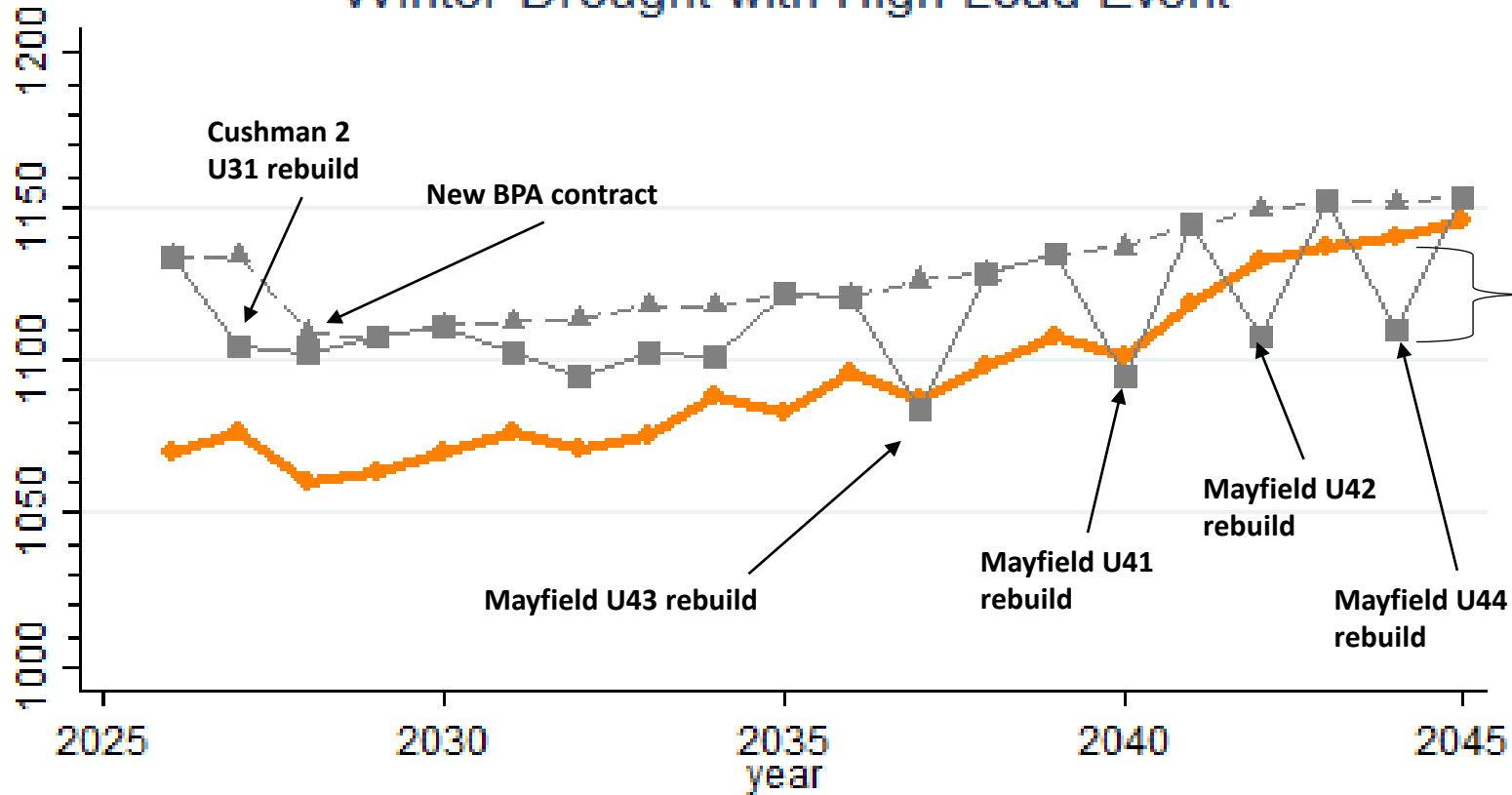
- Delays in restoration of Riffe Lake restoration
- Rebuilds needed on aging generator infrastructure could cause temporary gaps in early 2040's
- Acceleration of load growth would require new capacity resource sooner than anticipated



**Result:** We will likely need additional capacity by the early 2040's. Need is intermittent until after 2045 if peak demand grows as expected and consistent if growth is slightly accelerated.

# As peak demand grows, our position tightens and shrinks nearly to zero

### Winter Drought with High Load Event



Tightening capacity position combines with generators being offline for rebuild work to produce intermittent gaps of 25 to 30 MW in the early 2040's.

- ◆— 1 in 10 Peak + Reserves
- Drought capacity with rebuilds
- -▲- - Drought capacity without rebuilds



# Summary of needs assessment

## 1. We do not have an imminent need for additional energy resources

- Even with expected changes to climate, current resources are enough to meet energy needs under most likely load scenarios

## 2. We will likely need additional capacity resources to maintain our ability to meet high load events during drought years starting in the late 2030's or early 2040's.

- Around 30 MW in certain years only in early 2040's under base case, around 15 MW to 30 MW by mid-2030's under somewhat higher electrification growth

## 3. We would need additional energy and capacity resources to meet growth from a steep acceleration of electrification

- 30 MW to 40 MW of energy and 100+ MW capacity by the mid to late 2030's

## 4. We would need additional energy and capacity resources to meet demand from new large industrial loads

- Specific need will depend on specifics of the industrial load

## 5. We have time to prepare

# Options for filling the gaps

Early findings



# Resource options modeled in our IRP

## Utility-scale Resources

- Wind
- Solar
- Nuclear
- Short-duration battery
- Addition hydro capacity
- Pumped storage hydro
- Natural gas peaking plant

## Demand-side (Customer) Resources

- Energy efficiency/  
Conservation
- Demand response
- Rooftop solar

# Preliminary recommendations and findings on resource options

## Recommendations

- Acquire all energy efficiency identified as cost-effective in CPA
- Ramp up demand response efforts to manage peak demand
- Develop strategy to prepare for intermittent capacity risks during generator rebuilds

## Other findings

- It is worthwhile to conduct further analysis on opportunities for adding hydro capacity
- Battery storage is next-best capacity alternative that complies with 2045 100% carbon-free requirements
- A combination of energy and capacity would be needed if load growth accelerates steeply
  - Wind typically “wins” as lowest-cost energy resource in model but does not provide sufficient capacity
  - Carbon-free capacity resources do not provide energy

# Next steps



# IRP Schedule

