

# Advanced Meters Communications and Outreach

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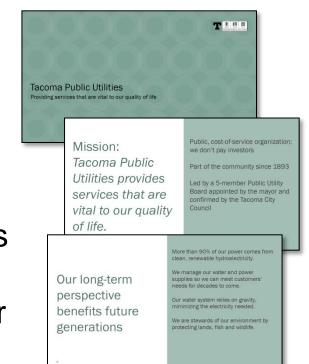
#### Background

- Recalibration of business case is complete
- Recommendations from outside AMI experts have been reviewed
- Clarity on customer benefits and project timing achieved
- Need to proactively provide accurate information to customers
- Proven model for public education from Director Search and Budget and Rates Outreach will be deployed



## **Communications and Outreach Strategies**

- Provide ongoing messaging updates to leadership, employees, and customerfacing materials
- Highlight customer benefits and value
- Coordinate messaging timelines with project phases
- Use all available marketing channels as well as community and stakeholder relationships for outreach, similar to our budget and rates process
- Respond to emerging market issues





#### **Near Term Plan**

- Complementary to Phase 2 Deployment recommendation from consultant
- PUB and City Council
  - Briefings and materials for responding to questions
- TPU and General Gov. employees
  - Educate staff so they can address customer questions confidently
- Stakeholder and public outreach
  - Briefings and materials to PUB and City Council
  - Meet with community groups and business leaders
  - Make sure the public has access to accurate information about our specific project
  - Educate the public on the long-term benefits
  - Enlist advocates who understand the benefits



#### **Previous Outreach**

- Briefings to new Tacoma City Council Members and Mayor Woodards
- Briefings for City Managers and Mayors in franchise cities
- Lakewood City Council Study Session presentation
- AMI project mentioned during budget and rates outreach to franchise cities, neighborhood and community groups, and Metro Parks Commission
- First Creek Block Group Presentation Nov. 7, 2018



# **Planned Outreach**

- Tacoma's Neighborhood Councils
- Black Collective
- Korean Women's Association Group
- Neighborhood Block Groups
- Community Organizations (Rotaries, Kiwanis, etc.)
- Centro Latino
- City of Federal Way
- City of Fife
- City of Fircrest
- City of Lakewood
- City of University Place
- Pierce County government
- Metro Parks
- Joint Municipal Action Committee (City, Metro Parks, Pierce Co., Port of Tac., Tac. Public Schools)



## **Previous Communications**

- Developed message map and confirmed customer benefits to highlight
- Updated web content and FAQs
- Provided talking points to leadership and outreach staff
- Responded to customer and community group questions (incl. online contact form)





## Since Last Study Session

- Developed near term, campaign approach Communications Plan to complement the consultant's recommendations for deployment communications
  - ≻Two phase approach
    - Public Information
    - **4**,3,2,1
- Updated summary of the project and talking points
- Updating web content and FAQs, incl. graphics
- Developing project fact sheet for the public



#### **Planned Communications**

- Educate staff
  - Newsletter updates
  - Intranet resources
  - Educational presentation in the auditorium
  - Post updates around campus and provide updates to managers to share with employees
  - Include General Gov. employees



## **Planned Communications**

- Stakeholder and public outreach
  - Follow proven process used for Director Search, Budget and Rates Outreach
  - Provide resources to outreach staff
  - Update web content as program details develop -fact sheets, videos
  - Publish testimonials from AMI and prepay advocates
  - Media outreach: TNT, Q13, TV Tacoma
  - General updates to customers referring them to web
  - Possibility for translated materials
  - Email marketing program



#### **Customer Narrative**

- What problem we're solving- customer benefits
  provided by Advanced Meters
- What would happen if we didn't invest in AMI
- Benefits to customers by group (tech enthusiasts, low and fixed income, seniors, general population)
- How customers can stay informed
- Provide accurate info specific to our project



#### **Customer Resources**

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- More notice and resources for public meetings
  - Use available channels to announce dates in advance
  - Have handouts at meetings that refer customers to online resources
  - Post links to video and documents for those who couldn't attend





#### **Customer Resources**

Home

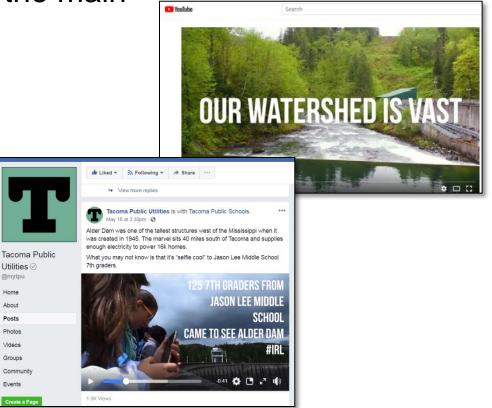
About

Posts Photos

Videos

Events

- Video series addressing the main topics related to AMI
  - Health and safety
  - $\succ$  Economic impacts
  - Data privacy





## **Outreach Timeline**

- Targeted presentation schedule for February— April to include:
  - Neighborhood Councils
  - Safe Streets Neighborhood Block Groups
  - Other Community Organizations
  - Black Collective, Centro Latino
  - Franchise cities and governmental entities

## **Communications Timeline**

- Phase 1: Feb Dec
  - Employee education
  - Testimonials from advocates
  - Public Information Campaign
- Phase 2: Four months prior to deployment (dependent on contract timelines)
  - 4,3,2,1 model from consultant
  - Encourage paperless
  - Installation notifications

4: *By* at least 4 months prior to meter installation: Finalize overall install comms strategy and schedule; develop/approve materials. Add to website and other background resources. Introduct/socialize broadly.

> 3: At 3 months prior: Educate employees on installation specifics and inform community leaders; ramp up community awareness building.

> > 2: At 2 months prior: Engage the target community broadly via general education and awareness. Finalize escalation procedures.

1: At 1 month prior: Notify individual customers and impacted parties, as applicable. Knock; provide post-install notification (e.g., door hanger); followup research.

