



Public Power on Bainbridge Island

Bainbridge Island citizens have the opportunity to own and control our own not-for-profit electric utility, as do more than 60 other Washington communities. Publicly owned utilities, from the City of Blaine to Seattle City Light, provide clean, reliable power that is locally controlled and owned.

In 2008 our neighbors in Jefferson County (Port Townsend) voted to give electric authority to their public utility district, Jefferson PUD and buy out PSE. Today they have their own 100% carbon-free, locally controlled, not-for-profit power system. If Jefferson County can control its own power system so can Bainbridge.



Island Power

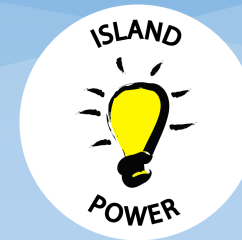
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Island Power

Locally Grown. Locally owned.



Island Power

Take a stand against global warming.
Help fill our grid with carbon-neutral power.



FAQs

Why now?

The Bonneville Power Administration has set aside a small amount of low cost tier one power (Grand Coulee and the other federal dams) for new not-for-profit utilities. Of the 190 megawatts of power currently available Bainbridge would need about 50 megawatts. If we are to make the move at all, we should do so now to lay claim to this low cost power.

What are the steps to create our own utility?

There are three basic steps in creating our own utility:

1. Vote to have the city establish an electric utility.
2. Buyout PSE's electrical infrastructure on the island.
3. Transfer electricity service from PSE to the Island Energy utility.

What's better about a locally grown, locally owned utility?

Greener Power: We currently have no say in the type of power that fills our grid, the majority of which comes from fossil fuels, 24% from the Colstrip Montana plant (one of the top ten CO2 polluters in the U.S. A locally grown and owned utility would allow us to buy power from the Bonneville Power Administration and other clean energy sources

Benefits Local Economy: Currently PSE has no employees on the Island. A locally owned utility would create several dozen Island jobs at wages that support families. A significant portion of the utility's operating costs would also be spent here – on office rent, salaries and local services – growing our local economy and tax base.

Another consideration is that Bainbridge Islanders currently pay some of the highest electric rates in Washington. Transition to a not-for-profit utility model and local ownership of our local electric facilities makes economic sense.

Local Control: Currently, Bainbridge gets its electricity from PSE, which is owned by a foreign corporation, based in Sidney, Australia. The company's board meetings not open to the public. A Bainbridge Island non-profit utility would be responsive to local concerns, fully focused on timely resolution of Island outages, and motivated to work with BI citizens to promote development of renewable, solar and energy efficiency resources on the Island.



Island Power Public Meeting
May 9th at the Grange Hall