

# Clean Energy Implementation Plan Benefits Survey

In 2019 the WA legislature passed the Clean Energy Transformation Act. This law requires the Town of Steilacoom to file a Clean Energy Implementation Plan. We are looking for your input for this plan.

Clean energy is electricity that does not produce carbon or other greenhouse gases as it is generated. Examples are Hydro, Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Renewable Natural gas or hydrogen, Tidal power, some Biodiesel fuels, or Biomass energy.

The Town of Steilacoom purchases 100% of its power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Most of that power is carbon-free, typically reported as 90% or more. As our area's electrical needs have increased, BPA has continued and it is probable that they will continue to be able to meet our power requirements.

As we develop our Clean Energy Implementation Plan, we want to understand how our residents view their communities and how the transition to cleaner electricity could help shape the future.

**1. What are the top 3 challenges your community faces today?**

- Access to jobs
- Affordable housing
- Climate change
- Education
- Environmental pollution [air, water, noise]
- Healthcare
- High cost of living [including energy costs]
- Homelessness
- Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**2. On a scale of 1-10, how concerned are you about climate change?**

Not concerned Extremely concerned  
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

**3. What potential benefits do you consider the most important? Please choose up to four.**

- Bring innovation and technology to my community
- Create more jobs in my community
- Decrease our reliance on fossil fuels
- Improve the air quality in my region
- Make my community more prepared for natural disasters
- Make my home more comfortable
- Reduce climate change impacts
- Reduce personal energy consumption
- Reduce the environmental impacts of the electric system
- Spend less on my energy bills
- Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What potential challenges concern you most? Please choose up to three.**

- Increase in costs resulting in potential bill increases
- Potential job losses in industries that depend on fossil fuels
- Potential environmental impact of source materials
- Dependability of variable clean electricity sources like wind and solar
- Construction impacts for new electric infrastructure
- Lack of readily available information on clean electricity programs
- Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

## **Clean Electricity Benefits and Priorities**

There are many benefits that can come out of this transition to cleaner energy, such as cleaner air, better public health, new jobs, or different ways to meet electric energy needs. We want to know which benefits are most important to you.

### Public Health

Benefits from clean electricity generation (versus coal or natural gas plants) could include reduced diseases from improved air quality.

**5. How important are public health benefits to you?**

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**6. What public health benefits would you like to see from cleaner electricity?**

- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### Environment

Benefits from clean electricity could include cleaner air, cleaner water, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and protecting culturally significant resources.

**7. How important are environmental benefits to you?**

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**8. What environmental benefits would you like to see from cleaner electricity?**

- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### Economic

Benefits from clean electricity could include more jobs related to clean energy development, training programs and more work for local business in the clean energy market.

**9. How important are economic benefits to you?**

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**10. What economic benefits would you like to see from cleaner electricity?**

- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### Affordability

Benefits from clean electricity could include using less electricity by upgrading buildings and appliances or reduced rates tied to the timing of electric use.

**11. How important are affordability benefits to you?**

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**12. What affordability benefits would you like to see from cleaner electricity?**

- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Clean Electricity Participation

Benefits from clean electricity could include installing solar panels, or solar panels with battery storage, for your home or business or sharing solar panels with your community.

**13. How important are clean electricity participation benefits to you?**

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**14. What clean electricity benefits would you like to see from cleaner electricity?**

- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Accessibility

Benefits from clean electricity could include assistance paying utility bills and in conserving electricity through home weatherization or other actions.

**15. How important are accessibility benefits to you?**

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**16. What accessibility benefits would you like to see from cleaner electricity?**

- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Energy Resiliency

Benefits from clean electricity could include the ability to generate your own electricity after a major emergency or natural disaster.

**17. How important are energy resiliency benefits to you?**

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**18. What energy resiliency benefits would you like to see from cleaner electricity?**

- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Comfort and satisfaction

Benefits from clean electricity could include feeling comfortable in your home due to weatherization improvements, having a sense of self-sufficiency or a sense of helping address environmental challenges in your community.

**19. How important are comfort and satisfaction benefits to you?**

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**20. What comfort and satisfaction benefits would you like to see from cleaner electricity?**

- Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**21. When you think about the clean electricity future, which values are most important to help your community thrive?** Please rank the options below in order of more important to less important (1 being the most important).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Public health
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Economic
- \_\_\_\_\_ Affordability
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clean Electricity Participation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accessibility
- \_\_\_\_\_ Energy Resiliency
- \_\_\_\_\_ Comfort and Satisfaction

**22. Are there other values or benefits not previously listed that are part of your vision for an equitable and clean electricity future in your community?**

- Please share: \_\_\_\_\_

Access to the Town of Steilacoom's Programs

The Town of Steilacoom is working to increase participation in our existing energy programs, such as energy efficiency upgrades including weatherization.

**23. How can we help you (and others) participate in clean energy programs?**

Select all that apply.

- Help me understand if I qualify for programs
- Help me understand the benefits of participating in clean electricity programs
- Design programs for people who rent their homes
- Provide (or increase) financial incentives for residents to participate
- Simplify the application process
- Reduce or remove up-front costs, if applicable
- Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations are defined as communities that experience a disproportionate cumulative risk from environmental burdens due to: (a) Adverse socioeconomic factors, including unemployment, high housing costs relative to income, access to food and health care, and linguistic isolation, and (b) Sensitivity factors, such as low birth rate and higher rates of hospitalization.

**24. Please indicate which socioeconomic factors and sensitivity factors you feel are significant in the Town of Steilacoom.**

Select all that apply.

- Unemployment
- High housing costs relative to income. (Sometimes defined as payment more than 30% of income towards housing and housing related costs.)
- Access to food and health care
- Linguistic isolation
- Low birth rate
- Higher rates of hospitalization
- Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**25. Please indicate which populations or communities you feel are vulnerable in the Town of Steilacoom.**

Select all that apply.

- Individuals/families encountering challenges paying their utility bills
- Seniors (65+) living alone
- People with disabilities
- Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language
- Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**About You**

Please tell us about yourself to help us understand who we're hearing from. This is for informational purposes only and will remain anonymous.

**26. Are you a Town of Steilacoom resident or employer located within Steilacoom?**

- Yes, I purchase electricity at home or work from the Town of Steilacoom.
- No.

**27. What ZIP code do you live in?** \_\_\_\_\_

**28. What age group are you in?**

- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-65
- 65+

**29. What language(s) do you speak at home?**

- English
- Spanish
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**30. Including yourself, how many people currently live in your household?**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 or more

**31. Which category best describes your 2020 total household income before taxes?**

Please include the income of all of the people living in your home.

- Less than \$10,000
- Between \$10,000 and \$24,999
- Between \$25,000-\$49,999
- Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
- Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- Between \$100,000 and \$149,999
- Between \$150,000 and \$199,999
- Over \$200,000
- Prefer not to answer

**32. Do you own or rent your home?**

- Own
- Rent
- Other (roommate, in transition) \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You**

Thank you for sharing your clean energy priorities with us. Your input will help us understand the benefits our residents want to see from the transition to clean energy and help us identify the types of programs to develop to benefit our residents as we implement the Town of Steilacoom’s first Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP).