

NEWS RELEASE

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**City of Kirkland challenges its residents and businesses
to become the greenest town in the Puget Sound**

*“Take Charge Green Power Challenge” could earn city up to \$40,000 for
community solar project from Puget Sound Energy*

Puget Sound Energy and the city of Kirkland are teaming up to challenge local residents and businesses to become the greenest town in the Puget Sound through the “Take Charge Green Power Challenge.” If 400 PSE electric customers in Kirkland enroll in PSE’s Green Power Program in 2013, the energy company will provide the city with a \$20,000 grant to fund a community solar photovoltaic project.

The Take Charge Green Power Challenge is a combined effort between PSE, the cities of Kirkland, Snoqualmie, Tumwater, Anacortes and Bainbridge Island, as well as local businesses and residents. The aim is to increase the development of electricity generated from renewable energy sources in the region.

“The Kirkland City Council has made protecting and enhancing our natural environment one of our top goals,” said Kirkland Mayor Joan McBride. “Greater utilization of renewable energy options such as those supported by the Take Charge Green Power Challenge keeps Kirkland moving forward to the future that we desire.”

Currently, more than 1,600 PSE customers in Kirkland participate in the Green Power Program. When the challenge goal of reaching 2,000 participating customers is achieved, PSE will provide \$20,000 toward a community solar project in Kirkland. Each participating city that meets its individual challenge goal will be awarded a \$20,000 grant to go toward a community solar project in their city. Each city will determine where its project will be located and how it will be implemented.

The city with the highest percentage increase in new Green Power Program participants compared to other cities will be dubbed the “Greenest town in the Puget Sound” and awarded an additional \$20,000 to go towards their city’s solar project.

In addition to helping their city earn a solar project, customers who enroll in PSE's Green Power Program from February 21 through September 30 will be automatically entered to win a solar panel system valued at \$10,000 for their own home. Existing Green Power customers can enter for a chance to win by upgrading to 100 percent participation. Customers who already participate at 100 percent will be automatically entered to win.

PSE's voluntary Green Power Program gives PSE electric customers a way to guarantee that some or all of the energy they use is matched in the electric grid with clean electricity from wind, solar, biogas and other renewable energy sources from the West. None of the renewable energy in PSE's Green Power Program is generated by PSE; it all comes from independent producers of renewable power.

With two participation options, PSE residential customers can purchase 100 percent green power for approximately \$10 to \$12 a month based on their actual usage or buy a specific amount, with a minimum purchase of \$4 per month for 320 kilowatt hours (kWh). Additional green power can be bought in increments of \$2 for 160 kWh. Business customers can also participate at rates specific to their situation.

For more information about the Take Charge Green Power Challenge, or to sign up for PSE's Green Power Program visit PSE.com/GPChallenge or call a PSE Energy Advisor at 1-800-562-1482, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

About Puget Sound Energy

Washington state's oldest local energy utility, Puget Sound Energy serves 1.1 million electric customers and more than 760,000 natural gas customers in 10 counties. PSE meets the energy needs of its customers, in part, through cost-effective energy efficiency, procurement of sustainable energy resources, and far-sighted investment in energy-delivery infrastructure. PSE employees are dedicated to providing great customer service that is safe, dependable and efficient. For more information, visit www.PSE.com, or follow PSE on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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