

WHIDBEY CLIMATE ACTION

eNews

August 2026

"From Earth Overshoot Day [July 30 this year] on we are living on borrowed time—as we have been doing so every single year since 1971—drawing down the last remaining stocks of fisheries, top soils, forests, you name it in the process."

– [B from The Honest Sorcerer](#)



Want to get involved? Have ideas? [CONTACT Us](#)

Island Conversations

DOWN-TO-EARTH TALK ABOUT WHIDBEY'S FUTURE

What's REALLY Raising our Electric Rates?

Thursday, September 3, 6 PM

Snacks & Social 5:45 PM

St. Hubert's Church

804 3rd St, Langley



Have you noticed high electric bills? **Our rates have gone up 50%** in four years and PSE is asking the Utilities & Transportation Commission to approve **another 30% rise** over the next three years. Utilities plead that it is expensive to comply with the Clean Energy Transformation

Act, which requires electricity generation to be **carbon-free by 2045**. But PSE is proposing to meet rising energy demand by building several **gas "peaker" plants**. This proposal would cost billions of dollars, far outweighing the cost of renewable and efficiency alternatives. In an age of **climate-fueled disasters**, why is investment going to fossil fuel infrastructure rather than renewables or efficiency? And what can we do to save our climate commitments and keep our electric bills affordable?

And if we are to have any hope of a carbon free future, powered by solar, wind and efficiency, we need **battery storage**, or we need to dramatically **reduce our electric use** (preferred!). Although battery safety has increased dramatically since 2018, some communities fear they are not safe. Sadly, opposing battery installations may make gas turbines inevitable. See these Seattle Times stories on [gas plants](#) and [battery storage](#).

Join us and the **Whidbey Island Democratic Club** for a discussion of the story behind rising electric rates, and what we can do to keep our power affordable AND clean.

PSE 2026 Rate Case [Public Comment Toolkit](#)

READ More

Wetlands and Water



Wildes Rd property. Photo by Joe Menth

Water does not come from a faucet. Practically all of nature plays a part in providing us this life-giving substance: aquifers, streams, lakes, forests, rain, soils, and, not least, our **vulnerable, habitat-rich wetlands**.

County Wetlands

Whidbey Environmental Action Network has produced a beautiful, powerful, urgent call to **action for wetlands in Island County**, [Wetlands: Critically Endangered](#).

- "Our critical areas are being failed by the County's current administrative system. We need better administration and enforcement of the legally mandated mitigation required of

landowners when land development impacts critical areas such as wetlands...

Everyone's voice is valuable in this process, and community members are encouraged to provide direct feedback to Island County about how it can improve its Critical Areas Ordinance [updates this fall] to better protect Island County's wetlands, shorelines, and other critical ecosystems."

Clear-cut Endangers Wetland

WEAN members who might be impacted by this logging please contact WEAN immediately!

The wetland headwaters of Quade Creek, in the Maxwellton watershed, are threatened by the **Wildes Rd logging application**, which has been (prematurely) **approved**. It would clear-cut 37 acres on steep slopes and wetlands. Read about the proposal and what you can do about it in WEAN's [action](#) and our [post](#). **Bill Poss**, former Island County Public Works Development Coordinator had this to say:

- "The County certainly can express concern about the potential adverse impacts of this project on public resources, such as public and private roadways, streams and aquatic resources and community aquifers...This project is a poster child example of why industrial forest practices are not appropriate on these small saltwater islands. Frankly, I don't think these type of forest practices are appropriate anywhere because they result in monoculture stands that have been depleted of important species, diversity, soil nutrients, and result in increased fire risk."

Protect Our Water

Regenerative Whidbey invites us all to a [Stewardship of a Sole Source Aquifer](#). Here are some things you can do today:

- [Whidbey's Water Future](#): Read about protecting our shared water.
- [Whidbey Water Fact Sheets](#): Read about the challenges.
- [Water Wisdom Pool](#): Share what you know, notice, remember and wonder about Whidbey water.

Book Nook

A member reports: We're reading locally this month. WCA members David W Haskell and Perry Lovelace have created *A Guide for Whidbey's Water Future* (download [here](#), or [contact us](#) to purchase a copy). The Guide is an eminently readable story of Whidbey's water past, a sober analysis of our current situation, and a passionate call to

work together to become aquifer stewards for the future. There are thousands of wells across the island, many of them under pressure from aging infrastructure, a rising population, and climate changes—sea level rise and changing rainfall patterns. “We can restore recharge. We can modernize our systems. We can build a governance model rooted in science, local control, and regenerative practice. We can ensure that our children inherit an island that still has abundant, clean water.” Read it and join the movement!

WHIDBEY CLIMATE FUND

The Climate Fund will **open for applications on October 1**. With increased participation from you, our donors, we are hoping to have over \$40,000 to award. We encourage local non-profits to develop a proposal!

Thank you for contributing!

LEARN More

Calendar

- Sat, Aug 29, 4:00 PM - Democratic Club: [Out There: A National Parks Story Film](#)
 - Thu, Sep 3, 6:00 PM - Island Conversations: [What's REALLY Raising Our Electric Rates?](#)
 - Fri, Sep 11, 6:00 PM - Kicking Gas: [Heat pump and electric appliance subsidies info session](#)
 - Mon, Sep 28, 12:00 PM - Kicking Gas: [Heat pump and electric appliance subsidies info session](#)
-



KICK Gas!

New enrollment period will run through Dec 15! Replace your fossil or wood fueled appliances with generous financial incentives and dedicated one-on-one client support!



ACT NOW!

WEAN protects Whidbey ecosystems and brings the community together for education and action. Check out their [ACT NOW](#) page, [podcasts](#), and [wetlands report](#).



LISTEN to Youth!

USL uplifts youth voices around climate action, equity, educational reform, intersectionality, and social justice issues.



RECYCLE Your Food Scraps!

Whidbey Compost Collective is now open to individual memberships for food scraps drop-off! Don't send them 400 miles to the dump, return those nutrients to the soils right here. See [website](#) for additional services and commercial offerings.



REPURPOSE Your "Trash"!

If you can't reduce it and it's not recyclable, repurpose it with [rePurpose Whidbey](#). Check out their membership, accepted materials, and drop-off hours, and note their drop-off site has moved.



PREPARE Yourself!

South Whidbey Prepares helps neighborhoods organize themselves for when disaster strikes and EMS cannot respond. [CONTACT SWP](#) to get prepared.

Whidbey Climate ACTION

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