

UTILITIES ELEMENT

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UTILITIES INTRODUCTION

The *Growth Management Act* requires all comprehensive plans to include a utilities element consisting of the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including but not limited to electrical lines, telecommunication lines, drinking water and sewer lines (RCW 36.70A.070(4)). On Bainbridge Island, these utilities are provided by a combination of the City of Bainbridge Island, State regulated utilities, federally licensed communications companies and a municipally franchised cable television company.

The City of Bainbridge Island provides some sewer and water services. Other public and privately held water and sewer purveyors on the Island also provide services to residents of the City. Private households provide for a large percentage of the City’s utility infrastructure with individual and on-site wells and septic systems.

A private corporation based on the Island provides solid waste disposal and recycling services to residents and businesses and is regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (**WUTC**).

Regional telecommunication and electric utilities serve the City of Bainbridge Island. The electric and telecommunication utilities are regulated by the WUTC.

UTILITIES VISION 2036

The City of Bainbridge Island has ensured that all residents have reliable electric power, telecommunications services to meet their needs, potable water, solid waste and recycling services, and stormwater facilities that prevent flooding and erosion, eliminating pollutants before the water enters Puget Sound.

Coordinated water and sewer systems serve the more densely populated areas. Private homes on larger lots rely on septic systems, but most are served by water purveyors that cover broad areas of the Island. The City, working with other water purveyors, coordinates a monitoring program to ensure that the quantity and quality of potable water are sustained at safe levels.

Household water rates encourage conservation and limit consumption during the dry season. Sewer systems provide for the reuse of treated water to recharge aquifers, for irrigation and to reduce outflow into Puget Sound. Tertiary treatment has been implemented to improve water quality in Puget Sound.

Materials in the waste stream continue to decline, while composting and recycling are standard practices on the Island. A state-of-the-art telecommunication network has increased cooperation among neighbors and across the Island; it has facilitated ride-sharing and reduced dependence on private automobiles for commuting and daily errands. Alternate ecological and innovative energy sources now supply much of the Island’s electricity, and geo-thermal heating systems have proven their effectiveness in reducing demand for electric power.

GOALS & POLICIES

GOAL U-1

Ensure that reliable utility services are available to all Bainbridge Island residents.

GOAL U-2

Ensure that the utility services are comparable in terms of cost, quality, and technology to services available in similar jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region.

GOAL U-3

Ensure that utility services are adequate to meet current demands, and that utility providers plan for future demands.

GOAL U-4

Ensure that the provision of utility services is environmentally responsible and sustainable, and encourage utility services that are carbon neutral and do not contribute to climate change.

GOAL U-5

Ensure that new or major renovations to existing utility facilities are designed to minimize adverse impacts on residents and the environment.

GOAL U-6

Ensure that permits and approvals for utility facilities are processed in a fair, timely manner and in accord with development regulations and this Plan.

GOAL U-7

Ensure that all utility providers give timely public notice and solicit community input on the siting of proposed facilities and on any other substantive projects before seeking City approval.

GOAL U-8

Cooperate with other jurisdictions and utility providers in planning and implementing utility facility additions, improvements, maintenance, and emergency response, so that such activities are coordinated to address utility needs.

GOAL U-9

Ensure that sufficient city resources are provided to implement the above goals by adopting systems and processes for meaningful and timely review of utility services, and by assigning to the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) or other city organization the responsibility for advising the City Council on matters regarding all utility services on Bainbridge Island.

POTABLE WATER

Currently, potable water is provided to citizens of Bainbridge Island by the City, Kitsap County Public Utility District, private for-profit water companies, not-for-profit companies or homeowner associations, and private wells. All water providers must comply with a variety of federal and state laws and regulations.

GOAL U-10

Ensure that city-managed and to the extent possible, non-city managed utility services, are sufficient, cost effective, reliable, and that safe water utility service is provided.

GOAL U-11

Operate in a manner that preserves and protects the water resources of the Island.

Policy U 11.1

Map public water systems service areas and evaluate modifications to their system boundaries based on maintaining sufficient and sustainable capacity to meet the present and future needs of the service area.

Policy U 11.2

As an approved Satellite System Management Area (SMA), the City may elect to provide water system management services to other utility providers.

Policy U 11.3

Encourage new development in previously unserved water service areas to connect to existing public water systems. The City, at its discretion, may require new water systems be dedicated to the City.

Policy U 11.4

Require engineering specifications for new public water systems and expansions or improvements to existing public water systems that are to be located within the City's rights-of-way to meet standards set forth by the City. Adopt standards that differentiate between urban and non-urban density fire flow requirements. A differential policy is needed to promote cost effective water system upgrades by the many small water systems on the Island.

Policy U 11.5

Encourage and support water utilities to enter into cooperative activities, such as jointly managed operations, shared storage, and construction of interties, to manage water resources and systems more efficiently economically, and safely.

Policy U 11.6

Encourage and facilitate consolidation of water systems, with particular emphasis on mergers of contiguous and small systems, to manage water resources and systems more efficiently, economically, and safely.

Policy U 11.7

Conduct a study of consolidation of water systems owned by the City and Kitsap Public Utility District. Pursue long-term consolidation of larger water systems.

Policy U 11.8

Implement conservation measures through education and regulation with emphasis on reducing peak seasonal irrigation demand.

PUBLIC SEWER

Currently, there are two public sewer systems on Bainbridge Island. One, owned by the City of Bainbridge Island, serves the Winslow areas and the Rockaway Beach, Pleasant Beach, and Lynwood areas (“the Southend System.”) The other, owned by Kitsap County Sewer District #7, serves the Fort Ward area.

The service area for the Winslow Public Sewer System is designated in the City’s General Sewer Plan. Treatment for this part of the system occurs at the Winslow Wastewater Treatment Plant. The sewer service area for the Southend System is also designated in the City’s General Sewer Plan. Treatment for this system occurs at the Kitsap County Sewer District #7 treatment plant pursuant to an interlocal agreement.

GOAL U-12

Ensure that adequate, cost effective, and reliable sewer service is provided to those areas of Bainbridge Island served by public sewer systems and designated in the General Sewer Plan for future public sewers.

Policy U 12.1

Emergency service or other minor modifications to sewer service areas may be allowed with approval by the City Council via resolution so long as there is sufficient sewer facility capacity, and, with regard to the Southend System, sewage quality meets the standard outlined in the interlocal agreement with Kitsap County Sewer District #7.

Policy U 12.2

Within public sewer system service areas, new construction should provide for eventual connection to public sewer systems.

Policy U 12.3

Sewer connections will not be required where existing septic systems that are fully functional and maintained, except as provided by law.

Policy U 12.4

A new public sewer facility or major expansion of an existing public sewer facility may occur following development of a Comprehensive Plan amendment. In planning and establishing a service area for a new public sewer facility, or major expansion of an existing public sewer facility, service area boundaries will be evaluated taking the following into consideration:

- a. Areas that have an environmental need for sewer due to 1) a group of documented failing septic systems; or 2) proximity to sensitive bodies of water that are unsuitable for on-site septic systems according to the Kitsap County Health District.
- b. Areas used or planned for development that serves a public need, such as a public school.
- c. Areas designated for commercial and mixed use.
- d. Areas designated for residential use at densities of four units to the acre (R4) or greater.
- e. Areas planned for an increase in density through a special planning area process.

Policy U 12.5

Plan and design treatment facilities that re-use treated wastewater for irrigation, recharge, and other non-potable uses. Require that facilities be consistent with health and safety considerations and consider financial impacts to ratepayers and taxpayers.

Policy U 12.6

Improve the quality of effluent discharged to Puget Sound.

Policy U 12.7

Conduct a study of cooperation (such as shared operations) or consolidation of sewer systems owned by the City and Kitsap County Sewer District #7.

STORM AND SURFACE WATER

The City of Bainbridge Island utilizes its storm and surface water utility to operate and manage its stormwater runoff measures and facilities.

GOAL U-13

Manage stormwater runoff to protect life, property and habitat from flooding and erosion; to channel runoff to minimize impacts to daily activities; to protect the quality of groundwater, surface water, and the waters of Puget Sound; and to provide recharge of groundwater where appropriate.

Policy U 13.1

Maintain a comprehensive storm drainage plan that identifies problems, proposes solutions, provides a strategy for implementation and funding, and establishes design and development guidelines.

Policy U 13.2

Require new development to provide both on-site and off-site improvements necessary to avoid adverse water quality and quantity impacts.

Policy U 13.3

Use low impact development standards wherein infiltration of stormwater is preferred over surface discharge to downstream systems, so as to encourage the return of uncontaminated precipitation to the soil at natural rates near where it falls through the use of detention ponds, grassy swales, and infiltration facilities.

Policy U 13.4

Design and construct stormwater systems that provide for removal of pollutants and sediment through bio-filtration or other means.

Policy U 13.5

Minimize disruption and/or degradation of natural drainage systems, minimize impervious areas by restricting site coverage, and encourage site permeability by retaining natural vegetation and buffers, and specifying use of permeable materials.

Policy U 13.6

Manage surface water in a manner which prevents pollutants from industrial, commercial, and agricultural land uses from entering ground or surface waters.

Policy U 13.7

Consider a program of retrofitting existing roads with water quality and quantity stormwater system improvements in order to minimize pollution from runoff from roadways to natural drainage systems and the waters of Puget Sound.

ELECTRICAL

The City is currently served by Puget Sound Energy (PSE), which provides electricity generation sources, transmission, distribution and maintenance of electrical facilities throughout the island. PSE is regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC.) It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

GOAL U-14

Ensure adequate, cost effective reliable, and environmentally responsible electric service to the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

Policy U 14.1

Develop a plan together with the electric service provider to undertake energy efficiency improvements and other alterations of electric utility facilities to provide capacity for future growth.

Policy U 14.2

Encourage the conservation of electrical energy, especially during periods of peak usage, and encourage energy saving building code strategies, local renewable energy, and other cost effective approaches to meeting the island's energy needs, including distributed energy systems.

Policy U 14.3

Encourage the electric service provider to improve reliability, with particular attention to adding transmission redundancy and mitigating impacts on service from storms or other natural events.

Policy U 14.4

Encourage undergrounding new and existing electric transmission and distribution power lines, and develop a long term strategy for future undergrounding, to include maximizing opportunities with new construction, and prioritizing the work that affects the greatest number of households and businesses.

Policy U 14.5

Encourage the electric service provider and electricity users to use carbon neutral electricity generation, local electricity generation, and innovative technologies such as solar power that are reliable, cost effective, preserve resources, provide minimal environmental impact, and do not contribute to global warming.

Policy U 14.6

Periodically undertake comparative evaluations of electric service reliability, cost, and environmental impact, **customer service and customer support and** evaluate opportunities to provide improved and less costly electrical service from alternative service providers.

Policy U 14.7

New taxpayer-funded public buildings shall be designed and engineered to use **carbon-neutral renewable** energy for heating, cooling, and operational use to the maximum extent practical within site specific and existing technology limitations.

Policy U 14.8

Encourage new development to integrate ecological and innovative energy systems.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

Currently, Bainbridge Disposal, Inc., a private corporation based on the Island, is the exclusive provider of solid waste disposal and recycling services to City. Bainbridge Disposal is regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), which is charged with ensuring the utility provides reliable, safe and economical service.

GOAL U-15

Ensure adequate, cost effective, reliable, and environmentally responsible solid waste, recycling and composting service to the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

Policy U 15.1

Seek a method to provide on-island collection site for moderate risk waste or household hazardous waste including oil based paints, stains, adhesives, aerosols, paint thinner, corrosive cleaners, yard chemicals, and pool/spa chemicals and a means for transferring these substances in a timely manner to the Kitsap County site.

Policy U 15.2

Support non-governmental organizations that provide outreach and education to citizens to ensure that the populace is informed about the latest waste reduction, composting, recycling and hazardous waste practices.

Policy U 15.3

In addition to WUTC regulation, the City should perform periodic reviews to ensure that Bainbridge Disposal is providing safe, reliable, cost effective and responsive solid waste, compost and recycling collection. Evaluate opportunities to provide improved and cost effective services from alternative providers.

Policy U 15.4

Coordinate with Bainbridge Disposal and the County to improve access to updated information on solid waste, recycling and composting collection and disposal services. Increase visibility and outreach for special events for hard-to-recycle materials such as hazardous waste or polystyrene foam.

Policy U 15.5

Consider methods to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed, e.g. material bans, composting or compaction, or by the conversion of solid waste to energy, e.g. using a biodigester.

TELECOMMUNICATION

Telecommunication is the transmission of sound, images, text and/or data by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. On Bainbridge Island, telecommunication utilities include standard conventional telephone, wireless communication, Internet service, and cable and satellite television.

Conventional telephone service is provided by established telephone providers and may be provided by a cable company as well. Telephone providers are regulated by the WUTC. Cellular telephone service is currently provided by a number of wireless service companies. The Federal Communications Commission regulates the cellular telephone industry and controls which carriers can operate and what frequencies can be utilized in their operation.

Cable television services are currently provided by one national provider, Comcast. Satellite services are also available as an alternative to cable television service.

Internet services are provided by several different internet providers including Comcast and CenturyLink and are additionally provided by telephone, cable and satellite. Additionally, Wi-Fi services are available in certain locales within the City limits. Internet connections can also be made through personal cell phones using broadband internet that is currently provided through several cell phone providers.

GOAL U-16

Ensure adequate, cost effective, reliable, and environmentally responsible telecommunication service to the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

Policy U 16.1

Encourage shared use of facilities and the use of existing utility corridors, public rights-of-way and city owned properties.

Policy U 16.2

Require the placement of cellular and/or wireless communication facilities in a manner that minimizes the adverse impacts on adjacent and surrounding land uses.

Policy U16.3

Encourage major telecommunication utility providers to work with the City to identify potential sites for infrastructure and facility expansion to address future growth and development and meet the demands for additional utility service.

Policy U 16.4

Encourage all providers to serve all parts of the City equally.

Policy U 16.5

The City expects all providers to evaluate the capacity of their facilities regularly to ensure that new facilities are installed in a timely basis to meet new and future demand. Providers are expected to provide facilities to accommodate growth within the City.

Policy U 16.6

Pursue internet service of the highest standards for governmental and educational institutions, business and commerce and personal use.

Policy U 16.7

Require new development to have underground conduits suitable for existing and foreseeable new utilities such as cable and broadband.

Policy U 16.8

Ensure that emergency communication services are universally available to assist residents in emergencies.

Policy U 16.9

In addition to WUTC regulation, the City should perform periodic reviews to ensure that various telecommunication providers are providing safe reliable, cost effective, and responsive telecommunication services. During such reviews, the City should evaluate opportunities to obtain improved and cost effective services from alternative providers.

UTILITIES IMPLEMENTATION

To implement the goals and policies in this Element, the City must take a number of actions, including adopting or amending regulations, creating partnerships and educational programs, and staffing or other budgetary decisions. Listed following each action are several of the comprehensive plans policies that support that action.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

U Action #1 Coordinate the City's plans and investment programs with those of other entities responsible for provision of other utility services on the Island.

GOAL U-8 Cooperate with other jurisdictions and utility providers in planning and implementing utility facility additions, improvements, maintenance, and emergency response, so that such activities are coordinated to address utility needs.

GOAL U-10 Ensure that city-managed and to the extent possible, non-city managed utility services, are sufficient, cost effective, reliable, and that safe water utility service is provided.

GOAL U-11 Operate in a manner that preserves and protects the water resources of the Island.

GOAL U-12 Ensure that adequate, cost effective, and reliable sewer service is provided to those areas of Bainbridge Island served by public sewer systems and designated in the General Sewer Plan for future public sewers.

GOAL U-14 Ensure adequate, cost effective, reliable, and environmentally responsible electric service to the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

GOAL U-16 Ensure adequate, cost effective, reliable and environmentally responsible telecommunications service to the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

MEDIUM PRIORITY ACTIONS

U Action #2 During the review of the Land Use Code, identify and adopt amendments that will facilitate achieving the objectives of both the City and the utility service providers.

GOAL U-4 Ensure that the provision of utility services is environmentally responsible and sustainable, and encourage utility services that are carbon neutral and do not contribute to climate change.

GOAL U-6 Ensure that permits and approvals for utility facilities are processed in a fair, timely manner and in accord with development regulations and this Plan.

GOAL U-7 Ensure that all utility providers give timely public notice and solicit community input on the siting of proposed facilities and on any other substantive projects before seeking City approval.

Policy U 13.5 Minimize disruption and/or degradation of natural drainage systems, minimize impervious areas by restricting site coverage, and encourage site permeability by retaining natural vegetation and buffers and specifying use of permeable materials