

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~~locations, proposed ~~location~~locations, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including but not limited to water lines, sewer lines, electrical lines, and telecommunication lines, ~~drinking water and sewer lines~~ (RCW 36.70A.070(4)). Contrary to some other cities in Washington State, on Bainbridge Island, these utilities are provided by a combination~~multitude~~ of governmental districts and other providers manage utility services – complicating management issues and the City~~public's understanding~~ of Bainbridge Island, State regulated utilities, federally licensed communications companies and a municipally franchised cable television company~~their service provider network~~.

The City of Bainbridge Island provides ~~some~~water and sewer ~~and water~~ services to portions of the community. 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.

The vision, goals and policies outlined in the Utilities Element are closely related, and in some cases overlap with the Water Resources Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

UTILITIES VISION 2044

In the year 2044, the City of Bainbridge ~~Island has ensured~~Island's vision for utilities is to ensure that all residents have access to reliable electric power, telecommunications services to meet their needs, potable water, solid waste and recycling services, wastewater processing, and stormwater facilities that prevent flooding and erosion, maximize infiltration and eliminate pollutants before the water enters Puget Sound.

Coordinated water and sewer systems serve the more densely populated areas. ~~Some~~In lower density areas, private homes continue to rely on septic systems, ~~but most are served by water purveyors that cover broad areas of the Island and private wells~~. The City, working with other water purveyors, coordinates a groundwater monitoring program to ensure that the quantity and quality of potable water are sustained at safe levels for present and future generations.

The Groundwater Management Plan, which is informed by best available science, guides the public and private sector decision-making of water supply and related water-resource issues. Water use is managed to encourage conservation and limit consumption. 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.

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Materials in the waste stream continue to decline, while composting and recycling are standard practices on the Island. A Bainbridge Island moderate-risk waste facility encourages the proper disposal of materials such as paints, solvents and cleaners. ~~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.~~

The telecommunications and broadband network is readily available for all homes and businesses. Persistent gaps in network coverage have been mostly eliminated.

Hardened utility infrastructure serves emergency neighborhood hubs and disaster response facilities enabling rapid and sustained response to natural disasters, other emergencies, and outages that may interrupt the utility and transportation infrastructure.

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

APPLICABLE TO ALL UTILITIES

GOAL U-1

Ensure that reliable, equitable, adequate, safe, and cost-effective, and sustainable utility services are available to all Bainbridge Island residents, businesses and institutions.

GOAL U-2

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

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 to be 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.

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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-related facility additions, improvements, maintenance, and emergency response, so that such activities are coordinated for maximum efficiency and public benefit.

GOAL U-9

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

GOAL U-10

Ensure regular and routine reviews of City-owned utility rates, with a specific focus on equitable outcomes and affordability programs as necessary to meet the needs of all community members.

GOAL U-11

Exercise the use of the City's Equity Toolkit evaluation and community engagement process as part of the development and implementation of utility projects and programs to ensure equitable outcomes for customers and the community.

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. - approximately 75% of customers are served by Group A and Group B water systems. All water providers must comply with a variety of federal and state laws and regulations.

GOAL U-~~10~~12

Ensure that ~~city-managed and to the extent possible, non-city managed utility services,~~ are sufficientadequate, cost effective, ~~and~~ reliable, ~~and that safe,~~ equitable and

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sustainable water utility service is provided to those areas of Bainbridge Island served by public water systems and designated in the Water System Plan for future public water service.

GOAL Policy U-44 12.1

Require utilities water utility managers and purveyors to operate in a manner that preserves and protects the water resources of the Island. Lead and inspire those entities to cooperate in a manner that recognizes water resources as a public good.

Policy U 412.24

~~Map~~ Maintain maps of public water ~~systems~~ system 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~~ areas.

Policy U 412.32

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

Policy U 412.43

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 may be dedicated to the City, at its discretion.

Policy U 412.54

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~~ ensure standards set forth by the City are met.

Policy U 412.5

~~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-12.611.6

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, and devote resources to implementation of this policy.

Policy U 41.712.76

Encourage ~~and~~, facilitate, and devote resources to 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 41.812.87

~~Conduct a study~~ Study how City, regional, and private water purveyors can best coordinate and partner for services provided on Bainbridge Island. Pursue management and ownership models that maximize opportunities for water conservation measures and enforcement of consolidation of water systems owned by the City and Kitsap Public Utility District. Pursue long-term consolidation of larger water systems under City management or ownership.

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Policy U ~~11.912.98~~

Implement conservation measures through education and regulation with emphasis on limiting and reducing demand consistent with the Water System Plan and the Groundwater Management Plan.

PUBLIC SEWER

Currently, there are two public sanitary sewer systems on Bainbridge Island. One, owned by the City of Bainbridge Island, serves the Winslow area and the Rockaway Beach, Pleasant Beach, and Lynwood areas (“the Southend System.”) The other, owned and managed by the Kitsap ~~County Sewer~~Public Utility District #7,(KPUD) 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~~the Southend System occurs at the ~~Kitsap County Sewer District #7~~KPUD wastewater treatment plant pursuant to an interlocal agreement.

GOAL U-4213

Ensure that adequate, cost effective, safe, equitable 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 4213.1

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~~Public Utility District ~~#7~~.

Policy U 4213.2

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

Policy U 4213.3

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

Policy U 4213.4

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~~should~~ be evaluated taking the following into~~with~~ consideration: of impacts to the environment, support for existing development and the expansion of affordable housing options.

- ~~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 serve a public need, such as a public school.~~
- ~~c. Areas designated for commercial and mixed use.~~

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- ~~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 ~~42~~13.5

When utilities plan, renovate, or build treatment facilities, ~~require~~ utilities ~~to~~ should consider constructing facilities that facilitate the re-use of 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 ~~42~~13.6

Improve the quality and reduce the quantity of effluent discharged to Puget Sound.

Policy U ~~42~~13.7

Adopt a pre-treatment policy that responds to the specific characteristics of the Island's sewer collection and treatment system and results in the reduction or postponement of large-scale centralized treatment capacity upgrades.

Policy U ~~13~~8

Investigate the development of tertiary ~~sewer and sewer greywater systems~~ wastewater treatment and the beneficial re-use of wastewater.

Policy U ~~42-8~~13.9

Study ~~cooperation (such as shared operations) or~~ advance consolidation or joint ownership of sewer collection and treatment systems owned by the City and ~~Kitsap County Sewer District #7KPUD.~~ Develop timeframes for a joint ownership agreement of the Fort Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Policy U ~~13~~10

Monitor PFAS and pursue technologies to remove forever chemicals from the waste stream and encourage the same for non-city owned systems.

STORM AND SURFACE WATER

~~The City of Bainbridge Island operates a storm and surface water utility for the purposes stated in BIMC Section 13.24.010.~~

The City of Bainbridge Island operates a City-wide storm and surface water utility that is regulated through the State of Washington's National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater permit. The revenue collected from all owners of developed property pay a fee to the City to contribute to the system operations and maintenance, including minimizing property damage, promoting and protecting public health, safety, and welfare, minimizing water quality degradation by preventing siltation, contamination and erosion of the city's waterways, protecting aquifers, and ensuring the safety of city roads and rights-of-way.

GOAL U-~~13~~14

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~~14.1

~~Maintain a comprehensive storm drainage plan that identifies~~ Follow the guidance outlined in the Stormwater System Plan when identifying problems, ~~proposes~~ proposing solutions, ~~provides~~ providing a strategy for implementation and funding, and ~~establishes~~ establishing design and development guidelines.

Policy U ~~13~~14.2

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

Policy U ~~13~~14.3

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~~14.4

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

Policy U ~~13~~14.5

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~~14.6

Manage ~~surface water in~~ stormwater through implementation of a ~~manner which~~ source control program that prevents pollutants from industrial, commercial, and agricultural land uses from entering ground or surface waters.

Policy U ~~13~~14.7

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.

Policy U 14.8

Continue to expand a program of identifying, funding and implementing critical fish passage improvements.

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-1415

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

Policy U ~~14~~15.1

~~Develop a plan together~~Maintain regular communications with ~~the~~ electric service provider to ~~undertake energy efficiency improvements and other alterations of~~ensure information needed by the City to achieve the goals of this comprehensive plan is available.

Policy U 15.2

~~Ensure electric utility facilities to provider actions requiring permits or other approvals from the City go through an equity evaluation consistent with the City and the provider's equity policies and practices, as appropriate.~~

Policy U 15.3

~~Ensure adequate public outreach is conducted by electric provider for projects that will relocate, expand or provide capacity for future growth, new electrical infrastructure and ensure outreach is provided to all neighborhoods compliant with the City and the provider's equity policies, as appropriate.~~

Policy U ~~14.2~~15.4

~~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.~~ Increase public awareness of existing conservation programs including distributed energy systems, energy audits, discounts, tax credits, etc. offered by the energy provider or government agencies.

Policy U ~~14.3~~15.5

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~~15.6

~~Study strategies to require~~ Encourage undergrounding new and existing electric transmission and distribution power lines to reduce wildfire risk and power outages. ~~and~~ Encourage the electric energy provider to develop a long-term strategy for future undergrounding, ~~to include~~including maximizing opportunities with new construction, ~~and prioritizing the work that affects the greatest number of households and businesses.~~

Policy U ~~14.5~~15.7

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Encourage the electric service provider and electricity users to use carbon neutral electricity generation, local electricity generation, [solar](#), and innovative technologies such as [solar power distributed energy systems](#) that are reliable, cost effective, preserve resources, provide minimal environmental impact, and do not contribute to [global warming climate change](#).

Policy U ~~14.6~~15.8

~~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 buildings shall use carbon neutral energy for heating, cooling, and operational use.~~ [Incorporate energy conservation measures for new construction or significant remodels of taxpayer-funded buildings](#) to the maximum extent practical within site specific and existing technology limitations.

Policy U ~~14.8~~15.9

Encourage new development to integrate environmentally responsible and innovative energy systems.

Policy U ~~14.9~~15.10

~~Explore ways to obtain 100% green electricity including investing in new renewable energy projects.~~

[Work with electricity provider to ensure disaster and climate resiliency is being addressed for electrical equipment and infrastructure on the Island.](#)

Policy U 15.11

[Pursue City-owned renewable energy generation to minimize City facility energy costs and/or mitigate green house gas emissions.](#)

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 collection](#) services to City, [and the owner of the waste transfer center](#). 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-~~45~~16

Ensure adequate, [convenient](#), cost effective, reliable, and environmentally responsible solid waste, recycling and composting service to the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

Policy U ~~45~~16.1

Seek a method to provide on-island collection site for moderate risk waste or [common](#) household hazardous waste ~~including oil based paints, stains, adhesives, aerosols, paint~~

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~~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 ~~45~~16.2

Encourage solid waste collection policies and practices, including development requirements, that require and ensure the proper space planning for recycling and yard waste/composting options for all multi-family residential properties.

Policy U 16.3

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 ~~45.3~~16.4

~~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 ~~45.4~~16.5

Coordinate with Bainbridge Disposal and the County to improve access to updated information on solid waste, recycling and composting collection and disposal services. Obtain information from Bainbridge Disposal regarding where collected material is sent for recycling and reuse rates for recyclable materials. Increase visibility and outreach for special events for hard-to-recycle materials such as hazardous waste or polystyrene foam.

Policy U ~~45.5~~16.6

Consider methods to reduce the amount of solid waste ~~disposed~~ disposal, 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 technology of communication at a distance by electronic transmission of alphanumeric, audio, video and other data over wired and wireless delivery systems. On Bainbridge Island, telecommunication utilities provide telephone, television, and internet services.

Telephone utilities are regulated by the WUTC. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates wireless service providers.

Comcast (d.b.a Xfinity) and CenturyLink are the largest telecommunication service providers on Bainbridge Island.

KPUD also provides ~~a public wi-fi~~ broadband services to a growing service ~~in Winslow area on~~ Bainbridge Island.

GOAL U-4617

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

Policy U ~~46~~17.1

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

Policy U ~~46~~17.2

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 U~~46~~U17.3

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 ~~46~~17.4

Encourage all providers to serve all parts of the City equally— well, including providing options for telecommunications that retain service during power outages.

Policy U ~~46~~17.5

~~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 ~~46~~17.6

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

Policy U ~~46~~17.7

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

Policy U ~~46~~17.8

Ensure that emergency communication services are universally available to assist residents in emergencies. Work with cell phone providers to ensure more robust coverage at all emergency neighborhood hubs and emergency response facilities.

Policy U ~~46~~17.9

~~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.

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Policy U 16.10

~~Conduct a study to support the creation of an Island-wide high-speed internet service.~~

UTILITIES IMPLEMENTATION

To implement the goals and policies in this Element over the 10-year period leading up to the next Comprehensive Plan update, the City must take a number of actions, including adopting or amending regulations, creating partnerships and educational programs, and developing staffing or other budgetary decisions, plans and budgets. Listed following each action are several of the comprehensive plan policies that support that action – some actions are identified as “high” priorities.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

U Action #1 ~~Develop a (HIGH)~~ – Utilize the equity and climate lens “toolkits” on relevant projects and programs and engage the Utility Advisory Committee in the evaluation process ~~for periodic review of Island~~ and decision-making.

GOAL U-1

Ensure that reliable and equitable utility services are available to all Bainbridge Island residents, businesses and institutions.

GOAL U-5

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

U Action #2 (HIGH) – Fund and prepare a utility rate study every 3-5 years in accordance with the City’s financial policies and engage the Utility Advisory Committee in the evaluation process and decision-making.

GOAL U-9

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

U Action #2 ~~Support~~3 (HIGH) – Fund the ~~development~~action items identified in the Water System Business Plan and the Groundwater Management Plan that advance the coordination and consolidation of ~~sewer tertiary treatment and sewer greywater~~water systems.

Policy U 12.1

Maintain maps of 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 areas.

Policy U 12.2

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Evaluate becoming a state approved Satellite System Management Area (SMA), so the City may elect to provide water system management services to other utility providers.

Policy U 12.6

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

Policy U 12.7

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

U Action #4 – Fund the completion of the preliminary and final design of the Wastewater Beneficial Re-use project.

Policy U 13.5

When utilities plan, renovate, or build treatment facilities, require utilities to consider constructing facilities that facilitate the re-use of 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 13.6

Improve the quality and reduce the quantity of effluent discharged to Puget Sound.

~~**U Action #3 – Facilitate cooperation among or Policy U 13.9**~~

~~Study and advance consolidation or joint ownership of water systems.~~

~~**Policy U 11.6**~~

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

~~**U Action #4 – Continue the investigation of the creation of an Island-wide high-speed internet service.**~~

~~**Policy U 16.10**~~

~~Conduct a study to support the creation of an Island-wide high-speed internet service.~~

MEDIUM PRIORITY ACTIONS

~~**U Action #5 – Proactively encourage, study, and facilitate consolidation of water systems to manage water resources and systems more efficiently, economically and safely.**~~

~~**Policy U 11.7**~~

~~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 11.8**~~

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Conduct a study of consolidation of water treatment systems owned by the City and Kitsap Public Utility District. Pursue long-term consolidation of larger water systems KPUD. Develop timeframes for a joint ownership agreement of the Fort Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant.

U Action #5 – Implement the recommendations in the Stormwater System Plan.

Policy U 14.1

Follow the guidance outlined in the Stormwater System Plan when identifying problems, proposing solutions, providing a strategy for implementation and funding, and establishing design and development guidelines.

U Action #6 – Continue organizing annual, or more regular, coordination meetings between the City and Puget Sound Energy in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding.

Policy U 15.1

Maintain regular communications with electric service provider to ensure information needed by the City to achieve the goals of this comprehensive plan is available.