



Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025, 5:30 PM
Council Conference Room, City Hall
280 Madison Ave N
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

The Utility Advisory Committee will hold this meeting in person, in the **City Hall Council Conference Room**. Attendance may be in person or the meeting is also accessible via the Zoom meeting platform.

Remote meeting on Zoom
Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/83426304914>

or Telephone: 1 253 205 0468
Webinar ID: 834 2630 4914

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 5:30 PM**
- 2. Approval of Agenda/Conflict of Interest Disclosure**
- 3. Council Liaison Report**
- 4. Public Comment**

In person public comment is accepted at this time on any topic of public interest. Each commenter will have three minutes, or such amount as the meeting chair determines, to speak. Public comment is not taken on individual agenda items during the meeting. Public comment is simply received by the Utility Advisory Committee, with no response, and the Utility Advisory Committee cannot deliberate on items that are not on the agenda. The lack of comment is not an endorsement or a denial of the comment.

Please refer to guidelines and instructions for public comment, including orderly behavior and civility in remarks, attached below. Remote public comment is allowed with advance notice by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before the meeting to cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov, provided that all remote commenters shall be required to display their true name and to keep their camera turned on to show their true uncovered face while delivering their comments.

[Link to Instructions for Public Comment](#)

Utility Advisory Committee meetings are wheelchair accessible. If you require additional ADA accommodations, please contact the Public Works department at 206-842-2016 or cityadmin@bainbridgewa.gov by noon on the day preceding the meeting.

5. Regular Business

- a) Approval of minutes from the June 11, 2025 meeting – 5 min
- b) Review and finalize the Draft Comprehensive Plan Utilities Element update – 30 min
- c) Public Works Update – 15 min
 - a. Major project update
 - b. Bond issuance update
 - c. October meeting date re-schedule

6. Good of the Order

7. Adjourn

2/28/17

UTILITIES ELEMENT

Style Definition: Heading 6: No underline

Reviewed by:
Jones 2/11
Schulze 2/11
Maron 2/14
Brandt-Erichsen 2/17

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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 investor-owned 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.

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.

Commented [CW1]: Make reference to how this section relates to the water resources element, particularly stormwater.

UTILITIES VISION ~~2036~~2044

The City of Bainbridge Island has ensured that all residents have reliable electric power ~~and~~, telecommunications services to meet their needs, as well as potable water, solid waste and recycling services, 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, and private wells, but most are served by water purveyors that cover broad areas of the Island.~~ 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.

Commented [TJ2]: What is the year for our Vision? 2045?

Commented [AM3]: Do we say something about discouraging new wells, even though COBI has no authority to do anything about that. State law and KC Health District deals with private wells.

The Groundwater Management Plan, based on the which is informed by the groundwater model guides the public and private sector in all aspects of water supply, stormwater management and sewage. 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.

Commented [CW4R3]: Nothing added to address this

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, ~~which in some cases has~~ facilitated ride sharing and reduced dependence on private automobiles for commuting and daily errands. Broadband service is readily available for all homes and businesses. Persistent gaps in cell phone coverage have been mostly eliminated.

Hardened utility infrastructure serves emergency neighborhood hubs and disaster response facilities enabling rapid and sustained response to natural disasters and other emergencies 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 utility services are available to all Bainbridge Island residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, and income, and to all businesses and institutions.

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 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.

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.

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Commented [CW5]: Consider whether this is needed

Commented [CW6R5]: Kept this

Commented [TJ7]: I feel we should have some words here to address race equity, underserved neighborhoods and low income/senior residents. Lets work on that.

Commented [SB8R7]: Suggested text added for discussion

Commented [CW9R7]: Keep

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 eCity 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 opportunities, and by assigning to the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) or other city organizations the responsibility for advising the City Council on matters regarding all utility services on Bainbridge Island.

GOAL U-10

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

GOAL U-11

Exercise the use of the City's Equity Toolkit evaluation 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. 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.~~

Commented [CW10]: Consider language regarding use of the equity toolkit as part of the project review or other processes. Also, potentially add a focus on resiliency.

Commented [CW11R10]: Added goal

Commented [CW12]: Determine which elements of utilities to review. Consider how utilities address "performance, cost, scope, risk and opportunity."

Commented [CW13R12]: Added

Commented [AM14]: This is moved up from Potable Water, as it is applicable to all utilities.

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Commented [CW15]: Consider adding a percentage for how many customers are served by large water systems/companies

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Commented [AM16]: This is moved up above, and the mention of water only is deleted

GOAL U-412

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

Commented [CW17]: How / or should this section address the relationship between the city and other water purveyors. Requirements to coordinate water systems for the public good - spirit to lead.

Commented [CW18R17]: Added

Policy U 124.1

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 124.2

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

Policy U 124.3

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

Commented [CW19]: Consider whether this "may" is a "should" - remove at it's discretion

Commented [CW20R19]: Added

Commented [CW21]: Consider more proactive language here to address the consolidation of systems or the expansion of the public system.

Policy U 124.4

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.

~~**Policy U 11.6**~~

~~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.~~

Commented [TJ22]: We got that done, right?

Commented [AM23R22]: I think this has been accomplished, and the policy may be deleted.

Commented [CW24R22]: Consider proactive language

Commented [CW25R22]: Move 11.2 and 11.6 together

Commented [CW26R22]: Eliminated fire flow policy; Did not merge 11.2 and 6

Policy U 124.65

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 124.7-6

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 124.8-7

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 under City management or ownership.

Commented [AM27]: This clause was proposed by UAC in 2016, but deleted by Planning Commission or City Council.

Policy U 124.98

Implement conservation measures through education and regulation with emphasis on limiting and reducing demand.

Commented [CW28R27]: Long-term direction

Commented [CW29R27]: Keep

PUBLIC SEWER

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Currently, there are two public 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 by Kitsap County Sewer District #7, serves the Fort Ward area. Kitsap County Sewer District #7 is in the process of a merger with the Kitsap Public Utility District (KPUD) which would dissolve the former and transfer owner and management of the Fort Ward sewer system and wastewater treatment plant to KPUD.

Commented [CW30]: Make note in this section about the consolidation of SD7 and KPUD

Commented [CW31R30]: added

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 treatment plant pursuant to an interlocal agreement. See note above regarding the merger between the District and KPUD.

GOAL U-4213

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 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 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 based on impacts to the environment, support for existing development and the expansion of affordable housing options, 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 serve 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 4213.5

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 4213.6

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

Policy U 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 4213.78

Investigate the development of tertiary sewer and sewer greywater systems.

Policy U 4213.98

Study cooperation (such as shared operations), ~~or consolidation~~ or joint ownership of sewer collection and/or treatment systems owned by the City and the ultimate owner/manager of the Kitsap County Sewer District #7 facilities. Consider a timeframe for a joint ownership agreement of the Fort Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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.

GOAL U-4314

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

Commented [CW32]: Tweak these policies to reflect the upcoming changes to the connection policies being considered by Council. Where is the best place for this language? Is it too specific for the Util element? Consider "develop criteria" language.

Commented [CW33R32]: Consider condensing this language into concepts

Commented [CW34R32]: Condensed into major themes

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Commented [CW35]: Consider including the creation of a large utility coordination process for both water and sewer.

Commented [CW36R35]: Maybe this belongs in the overall section

Commented [CW37R35]: I didn't add this - wasn't sure if we want to encourage a large overall study at this time.

Commented [CW38]: Include a policy addressing pre-treatment?

Commented [CW39R38]: added

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Commented [CW40]: Change this entity?

Commented [CW41R40]: Should this policy include a recommendation that the systems should eventually be consolidated? Dedicate resources? What is the best means of providing sewer in the south island?

Commented [CW42R40]: Fold 12.5,6,7 into a policy

Commented [CW43R40]: Consider moving to "joint ownership" of the WWTP? - Could this lead to better rates, better financing options? Maybe this is a second sentence related to the WWTP.

Commented [CW44R40]: Added

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groundwater, surface water, and the waters of Puget Sound; and to provide recharge of groundwater where appropriate.

Policy U 14.1

~~Maintain a comprehensive storm drainage plan that~~ 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.

Commented [CW45]: Convert this language to address the Stormwater System Plan

Commented [CW46R45]: Revised

Policy U 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 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 14.4

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

Policy U 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 14.6

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

Commented [CW47]: Consider language regarding the maintenance of stormwater systems

Commented [CW48R47]: Added source control

Policy U 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.

Commented [CW49]: ...and enhance/restore fish passage environment.

Commented [CW50R49]: added

Policy U.14.8

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

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ELECTRICAL

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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-4415

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

New Policy UxxPolicy U 15.1

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

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Commented [CW51]: Consider that all neighborhoods get outreach

Commented [CW52R51]: added

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Commented [WS53]: I don't understand what this is getting at

Commented [WS54R53]: I think we decided to delete this one at the Feb meeting

Commented [CW55R53]: Remove 14.1

Commented [CW56R53]: removed

Commented [WS57]: I think we should keep this one focused on conservation.

Commented [WS58R57]: local energy and distributed energy are mentioned in 14.5

Commented [CW59R57]: Keep

Commented [WS60]: lets discuss this are we saying go beyond Fed or State requirements?

Commented [WS61R60]: deleted language about "code strategies" code is code.

Commented [CW62R60]: Keep

Commented [WS63]: This language can be incorporated with below policy on reducing carbon. check for consistency with environmental and other elements

Commented [CW64R63]: Unsure about whether this should be moved somewhere else?

Commented [TJ65]: Transmission lines are much harder to underground. The vault space for splices is immense. Being at the top of the poles they are best protected from trees unless the tree comes down.

Commented [CW66R65]: keep

New Policy UxxPolicy U 15.2

Ensure Electric provider actions requiring permits or other approvals from COBI go through an equity evaluation.

New Policy UXXPolicy U 15.3

Ensure adequate public outreach is conducted by electric provider for projects that will relocate, expand or provide new electrical infrastructure and ensure outreach is provided to all neighborhoods compliant with COBI equity guidelines.

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 44.215.4

Encourage the conservation of electrical energy, especially during periods of peak usage. Increase public awareness of existing conservation programs including energy audits, discounts, tax credits, etc. offered by the energy provider or government agencies, 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 44.315.5

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 44.415.6

Encourage undergrounding new and existing electric transmission and distribution power lines. Encourage and assist the electric energy provider in development of to develop and 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 44-515.7

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

Policy U 44.6

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 44-715.8

New construction or significant remodels of taxpayer-funded buildings should incorporate energy conservation measures use carbon neutral energy for heating, cooling, and operational use to the maximum extent practical within site specific and existing technology limitations. Measures to be considered include carbon neutral heating/cooling, rooftop solar, building envelope design, landscape planning etc.

Policy U 44-815.9

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

Policy U 44.9

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

New Policy UXX Policy U 15.10

Work with electricity provider to ensure climate resiliency is being address for electrical equipment and infrastructure on the Island

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-4516

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

Commented [TJ67]: Let's mention the worst served customers as well. That is the rationale for asking PSE to report on a line or segment basis vs. island wide averages.

Commented [CW68R67]: Added

Commented [TJ69]: The Island Power initiative was about cost, reliability and sustainability. But I think that ship has sailed. I think leaving this in here now is more antagonistic than cooperative. Discuss?

Commented [CW70R69]: Consider deleting this reference

Commented [CW71R69]: Deleted this policy

Commented [WS72]: this seem to duplicate 14.5 except that this sets a policy for COBI to invest in energy projects - in what way?

Commented [WS73R72]: We decided to delete this at the Feb meeting

Commented [CW74R72]: Deleted

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Commented [CW75]: BD owns and operates the transfer center that provides services to the Island.

Commented [CW76R75]: revised

Commented [CW77]: Consider adding a policy that focuses on encouraging solid waste services that are offered, particularly compost and recycling, options for multi-family residential - and which they sign up for. Is this an equity issue?

Commented [CW78R77]: included

Commented [TJ79]: In line with Blair's announcement and our prior input we should mention CONVENIENCE. In particular COBI has been asking for household pickup to get closer to the houses on long streets. Trash in gulleys and burn barrels as much a result of the inconvenience of disposal as it is the cost. Not

Commented [CW80R79]: Added

Policy U 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 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 16.2

Encourage solid waste collection policies and practices that require recycling and yard waste/composting options for all multi-family residential properties.

Policy U 4516.32

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 4516.43

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 16.55.4

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 45-516.6

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 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.

Commented [SB81]: How many of these waste streams are currently being accepted at the transfer station? Is this policy already being met, or does it seek expansion of existing transfer station capabilities?

Commented [CW82R81]: Consider referring to common household wastes in lieu of specifics

Commented [CW83R81]: Revised

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Commented [CW84]: Focus should be on providing outreach and education including support for NGOs

Commented [CW85R84]: Maybe we should be doing more than relying on NGOs for outreach

Commented [CW86R84]: revised

Commented [SB87]: Discuss - permitting for biodigesters has proved difficult and their performance has been mixed.

Commented [CW88R87]: Consider removing reference to biodigester.

Commented [CW89R87]: removed

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

~~KPUD is focused on areas within communities that are without or have limited access to residential broadband. Today they have over 700 miles of fibre infrastructure in the County, including some on also provides broadband services to a growing service area on Bainbridge Island. KPUD provides a public wi-fi service in Fort Ward Hall, Winslow.~~

Commented [CW90]: Ensure that this is correct - check with website. Maybe too much detail.

Commented [CW91R90]: Deleted detail

GOAL U-176

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~~17.3

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. ~~Persistent and well documented cell phone coverage gaps exist in many areas of the island. Encourage cell phone providers to be truthful about their advertised coverage areas, including providing options for telecommunications that retain service during power outages.~~

Commented [CW92]: Consider whether this is needed.

Commented [CW93R92]: Address routine gaps as well as covering cell phone ability during power outages.

Commented [CW94R92]: revised

Commented [CW95]: "accurate"

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 4617.8

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 176.9

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.

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 plans and other budgetary decisions. Listed following each action are several of the comprehensive plan policies that support that action – some actions are identified as “high priorities.”

U Action #1 (HIGH) – Utilize the equity and climate lens “toolkits” on relevant projects and programs, and engage the Utility Advisory Committee in the evaluation process and decision-making.

GOAL U-1

Ensure that reliable utility services are available to all Bainbridge Island residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, and income, and to all 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-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 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 organizations the responsibility for advising the City Council on matters regarding all utility services on Bainbridge Island.

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and the consolidation of small 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

City should 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.

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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 under City management or ownership.

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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.

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Study cooperation such as shared operations, consolidation or joint ownership of sewer collection and/or treatment systems owned by the City and the ultimate owner/manager of the Kitsap County Sewer District #7 facilities. Consider a timeframe for a joint ownership agreement of the Fort Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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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.

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Commented [CW96]: Change this entity?

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HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

~~U Action #1 Continually utilize Develop a the developed established process for periodic review of Island utility services.~~

Commented [CW103]: Will the Council consider prioritizing policies again in this next update? Consider whether the UAC should draft a memo that identifies recommended prioritization.

~~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.~~

Commented [TJ104]: Not sure why we are restating the policy or goal under the action. Could we just say see goal# or policy#? Restating them adds to the length and increases chance of errors.

~~U Action #2 Support the development of sewer tertiary treatment and sewer greywater systems.~~

Commented [CW105R104]: Refer to earlier policies, don't repeat them

Policy U 12.6

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

Commented [AM106]: In 2017, this was an added action by the city council; it was not a recommendation from the UAC or Planning Commission. We should discuss this.

~~U Action #3 Facilitate cooperation among or consolidation of water systems.~~

Policy U 11.6

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.

~~U Action #4 Encourage KPUD to complete connection of Bainbridge Island home to broadband and high speed internet where services is not available. Continue the investigation of the creation of an Island wide high speed internet service.~~

Commented [CW107]: This is no longer a high priority.

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Policy U 16.10

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

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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

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.

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 investor-owned 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 a 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

The City of Bainbridge Island has ensured that all residents have reliable electric power and telecommunications services to meet their needs, as well as potable water, solid waste and recycling services, 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. In lower density areas, private homes continue to rely on septic systems, 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 the groundwater model, guides the public and private sector in all aspects of water supply, stormwater management and sewage. 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.

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.

August 15, 2025

A state-of-the-art telecommunication network has increased cooperation among neighbors and across the Island, which in some cases has reduced dependence on private automobiles for commuting and daily errands. Broadband service is readily available for all homes and businesses. Persistent gaps in cell phone coverage have been mostly eliminated.

Hardened utility infrastructure serves emergency neighborhood hubs and disaster response facilities enabling rapid and sustained response to natural disasters and other emergencies 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 utility services are available to all Bainbridge Island residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, and income, and to all businesses and institutions.

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. Encourage utility services to be carbon neutral and 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-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 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 organizations the responsibility for advising the City Council on matters regarding all utility services on Bainbridge Island.

GOAL U-10

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

GOAL U-11

Exercise the use of the City's Equity Toolkit evaluation 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. All water providers must comply with a variety of federal and state laws and regulations.

GOAL U-12

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

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.

August 15, 2025

Policy U 12.2

City should 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 12.3

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

Policy U 12.4

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.

Policy U 12.5

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, and devote resources to implementation of this policy.

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 larger water systems under City management or ownership.

Policy U 12.8

Implement conservation measures through education and regulation with emphasis on limiting and reducing demand.

PUBLIC SEWER

Currently, there are two public 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 by Kitsap County Sewer District #7, serves the Fort Ward area. Kitsap County Sewer District #7 is in the process of a merger with the Kitsap Public Utility District (KPUD) which would dissolve the former and transfer owner and management of the Fort Ward sewer system and wastewater treatment plant to KPUD.

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 the Southend System occurs at the Kitsap County Sewer District #7 treatment plant pursuant to an interlocal agreement. See note above regarding the merger between the District and KPUD.

GOAL U-13

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 13.1

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 13.2

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

Policy U 13.3

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

Policy U 13.4

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 should be evaluated based on impacts to the environment, support for existing development and the expansion of affordable housing options.

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.

Policy U 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.

Policy U 13.9

Study cooperation such as shared operations, consolidation or joint ownership of sewer collection and/or treatment systems owned by the City and the ultimate owner/manager of the Kitsap County Sewer District #7 facilities. Consider a timeframe for a joint ownership agreement of the Fort Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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.

GOAL U-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 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.

Policy U 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 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 14.4

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

Policy U 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 14.6

Manage surface water through a source control program that prevents pollutants from industrial, commercial, and agricultural land uses from entering ground or surface waters.

Policy U 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.

August 15, 2025

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-15

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

Policy U 15.1

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

Policy U 15.2

Ensure Electric provider actions requiring permits or other approvals from COBI go through an equity evaluation.

Policy U 15.3

Ensure adequate public outreach is conducted by electric provider for projects that will relocate, expand or provide new electrical infrastructure and ensure outreach is provided to all neighborhoods compliant with COBI equity guidelines.

Policy U 15.4

Encourage the conservation of electrical energy, especially during periods of peak usage. Increase public awareness of existing conservation programs including energy audits, discounts, tax credits, etc. offered by the energy provider or government agencies.

Policy U 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 15.6

Encourage undergrounding new and existing electric distribution power lines. Encourage the electric energy provider to develop a long-term strategy for future undergrounding, including maximizing opportunities with new construction.

August 15, 2025

Policy U 15.7

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

Policy U 15.8

New construction or significant remodels of taxpayer-funded buildings should incorporate energy conservation measures to the maximum extent practical within site specific and existing technology limitations.

Policy U 15.9

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

Policy U 15.10

Work with electricity provider to ensure climate resiliency is being address for electrical equipment and infrastructure on the Island

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

Currently, Bainbridge Disposal, Inc., a private corporation based on the Island, is the exclusive provider of solid waste 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-16

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

Policy U 16.1

Seek a method to provide on-island collection site for moderate risk waste or common household hazardous waste and a means for transferring these substances in a timely manner to the Kitsap County site.

Policy U 16.2

Encourage solid waste collection policies and practices that require recycling and yard waste/composting options for all multi-family residential properties.

Policy U 16.3

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

August 15, 2025

Policy U 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 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 16.6

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.

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 broadband services to a growing service area on Bainbridge Island.

GOAL U-17

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

Policy U 17.1

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

Policy U 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.

August 15, 2025

Policy 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 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 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 17.6

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

Policy U 17.7

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

Policy U 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 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.

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 plans and budgets. Listed following each action are the comprehensive plan policies that support that action – some actions are identified as “high” priorities.

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GOAL U-1

August 15, 2025

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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-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 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 organizations the responsibility for advising the City Council on matters regarding all utility services on Bainbridge Island.

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August 15, 2025

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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.

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