



Skagit County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting

Project Introduction

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Project Website: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/CESP>

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Skagit County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting project is to adopt clean energy regulations in unincorporated Skagit County by May 2027.

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Background

- Unprecedented growth in energy demand within Skagit County and across Washington State.
- New state mandates requiring that future energy projects be clean-energy based.
- Skagit County is receiving a rising number of inquiries and applications for new energy developments.

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Puget Sound Energy Hosting Capacity Map

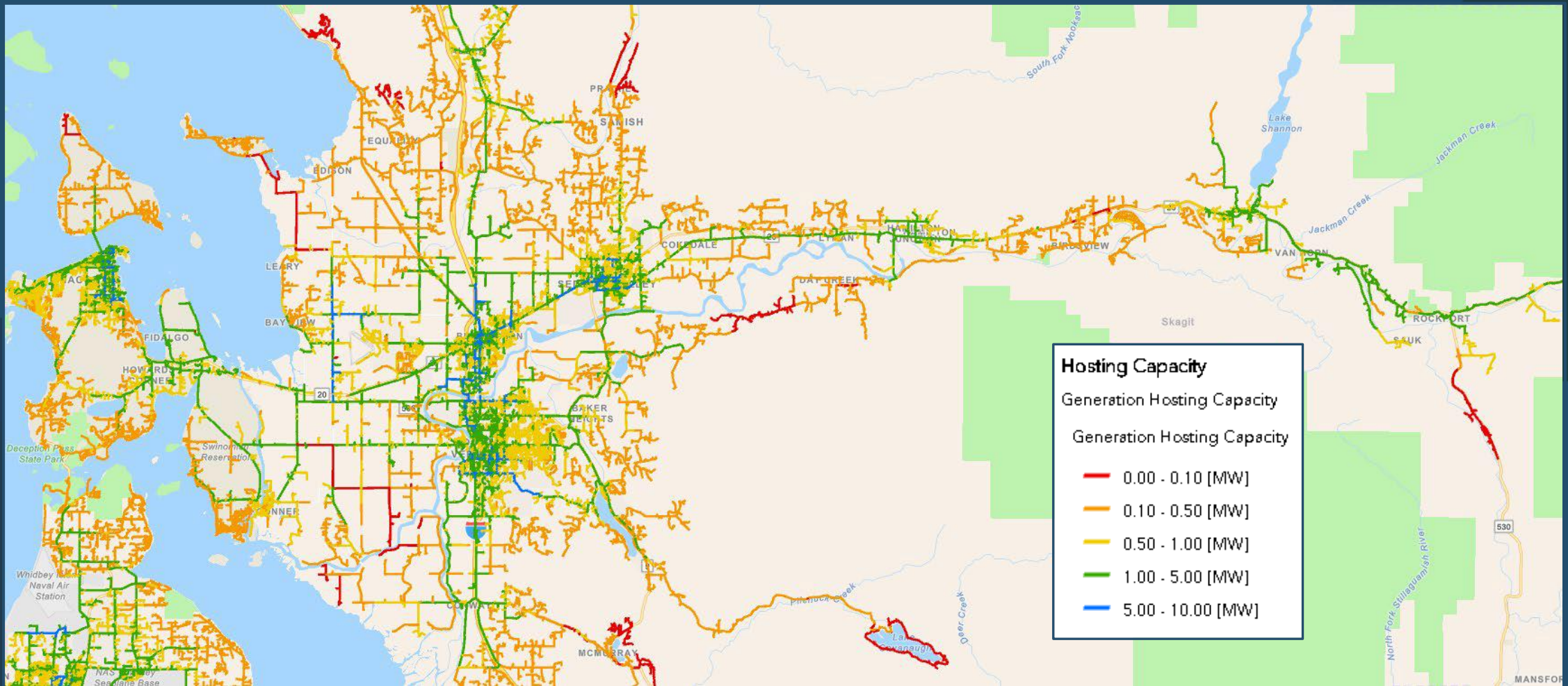


Image Credit: Puget Sound Energy

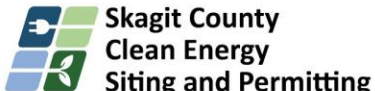
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Project Priorities

- Retain local control over clean energy permitting where possible;
- Establish clear and consistent standards for project proponents and the public, and;
- Ensure that future clean energy development considers community values, environmental impacts, and mitigation strategies informed by public and Tribal input.

Clean Energy Types



Which Clean Energy Types will be Evaluated?

Skagit County will be evaluating the following:

- Solar Energy
- Battery Energy Storage
- Small Modular Reactors
- Renewable Fuel

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Solar Energy Overview

- Can be larger utility scale projects or smaller community or microgrid projects.
- Limited land availability for utility scale solar projects.
 - Conversion of Agricultural Natural Resource Lands prohibited.
- Distributed Energy Resources (DER)
 - Rooftop solar panels, and batteries.
 - Offers opportunities for utilities and energy users to work together and innovate to meet rising demand.



Image Credit: Solar Landscape

Battery Energy Storage Overview

- Stores excess energy from renewable sources or the grid and discharges during high demand.
- Improves grid reliability and stabilizes renewable energy outputs.



Image Credit: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

Small Modular Reactors Overview

- Smaller than conventional nuclear power facilities.
- SMRs are modular, meaning they can be factory assembled and transported for installation.
- State regulations only allow local jurisdictions to permit fusion based SMRs.

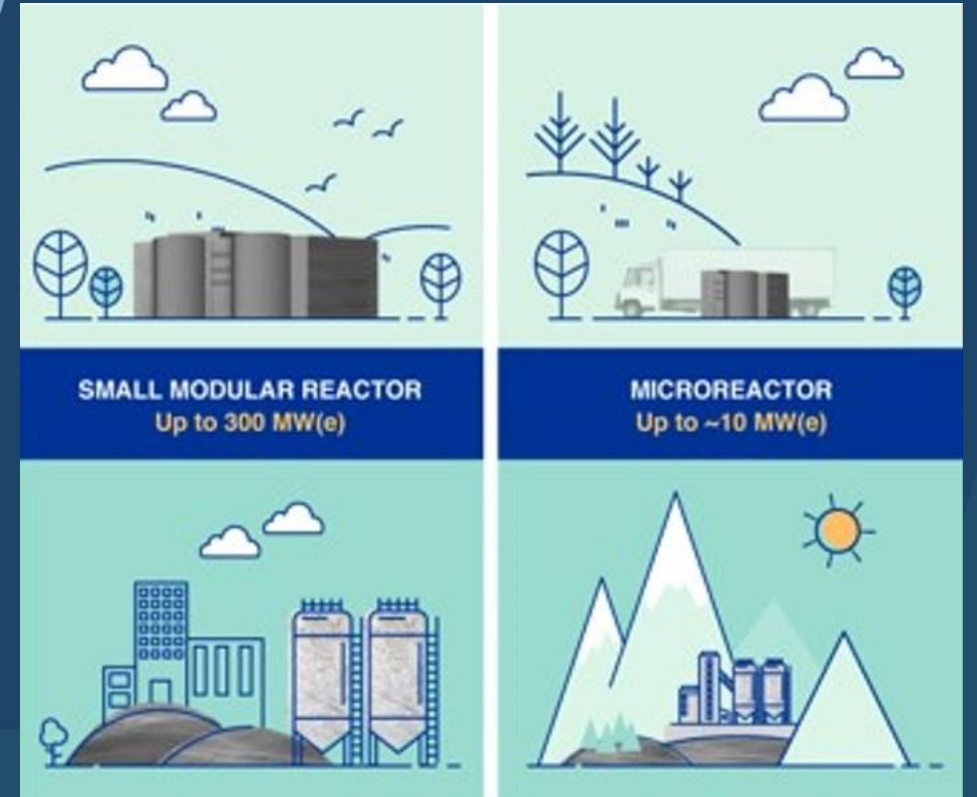


Image Credit: International Atomic Energy Agency

Small Modular Reactors Overview

Small Modular Reactors are not traditional large conventional reactors that include cooling towers.

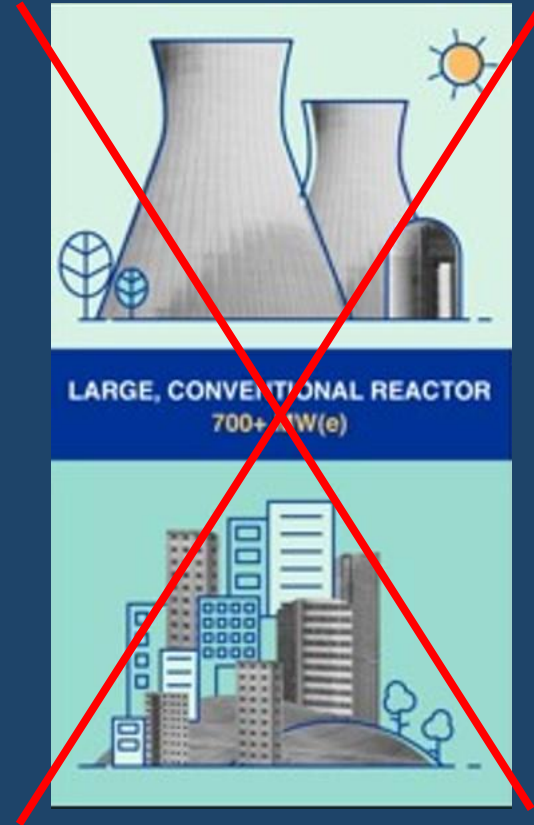


Image Credit: International Atomic Energy Agency

Renewable Fuel Overview

Bioenergy

- Generate energy by converting organic materials.
- Include a range of conversion technologies, such as combustion, gasification, or biological processes, to produce energy.

Renewable hydrogen

- Uses non GHG emitting energy like wind, solar and hydropower to create hydrogen that can be used for power generation.



Janicki Bioenergy Omni Processor

Image Credit: Skagit Valley Herald

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



EIS and Project Scoping

- EIS is a technical document that will evaluate the potential significant environmental impacts of the energy uses being considered by Skagit County.
- Scoping narrows focus of the EIS to significant environmental issues, to eliminate insignificant impacts from detailed study, and to identify alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS.
- EIS includes “**No Action**” and “**Action**” Alternatives.

Request for Comments on Scope of EIS

- The 30-day comment period is from **May 14, 2026 to June 16, 2026.**
 - Written comments on the EIS can be submitted anytime prior to 4:30pm on June 16th, 2026.
- Comments may be submitted by the following means:
 - **Emailed comments** may be submitted to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us with the subject line: “Energy Siting and Permitting EIS Scoping Comment”.
 - **Written Comments** may be submitted via mail to 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

EIS Scoping Open Houses

Open House Location	Date and Time
Depot Arts and Community Center 611 R Avenue Anacortes, WA 98221	June 9 th at 1:00-3:00 PM
Skagit County Administration Building 1800 Continental Place Mount Vernon, WA 98273	June 9 th at 5:30-7:30 PM
Concrete Community Center 45821 Railroad Ave Concrete, WA 98237	June 10 th at 5:30-7:30 PM

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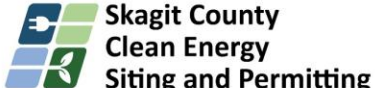
Draft and Final EIS Documents

- Draft EIS scheduled to be issued in November.
 - Draft EIS will include a 30-day comment period.
 - 3 open houses will be held for Draft EIS
- Final EIS is scheduled to be issued in May.

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Community Engagement



Clean Energy Advisory Group

- Purpose of this advisory group is to provide a recommendation on clean energy code concepts.
- Eight meetings which will be held every three weeks from June through November 2026.
- Clean Energy Advisory Group is an ad hoc advisory group which will be disbanded once the group has provided a recommendation.

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Clean Energy Advisory Group

Will consist of twelve members and will include the following representation:

- Three seats are open to any Skagit County resident.
- Three seats are open for three different non-profit groups representing the following interests: environment, vulnerable communities, and land use.
- Climate Impact Advisory Committee, Agricultural Advisory Board, and Forest Advisory Board.

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Clean Energy Advisory Group

- 1 seat will be reserved for representative from Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County.
- One seat will be reserved for a representative from Puget Sound Energy.
- One seat will be reserved for a representative from the Port of Skagit.

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Additional Community Engagement

- EIS Open Houses
- EIS Comment Periods
- Small Group Interviews
- Planning Commission Public Comment Period and Public Hearing
- Board of County Commissioners Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

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Tribal Engagement



Tribal Engagement

Skagit County will be reaching out to Federally recognized Tribal Governments to request government-to-government dialog and assistance in identifying where clean energy projects should be located and how they should be regulated.

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Project Schedule



PROJECT STEPS



EIS & CODE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



Issue Scoping Notice

Open Houses

Issue Draft EIS

Issue Final EIS

30-45 Day Comment Periods

Select a Preferred Alternative

Code Development & Adoption

Last Updated April 23, 2026

Questions?



Comment Period and Open House Information

- Comment period is open **until June 16, 2026**.
- Comments may be submitted by:
 - **Emailed comments** may be submitted to pdscomments@co.skagit.wa.us with the subject line: “Energy Siting and Permitting EIS Scoping Comment”.
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