



Parks Maintenance Tree Care
Source: City of Monroe

9 UTILITIES

Introduction

This element provides an overview of the planning and management of utility service providers within the City of Monroe. In Monroe, these are provided mainly by Snohomish County Public Utility District (SCPUD), Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Republic Services, and telecommunications providers for internet and cable. Information for all city-owned utilities is included in Chapter 8 and Appendices 8-A and 8-B, which are hereby incorporated by reference.



Catchment Basin Inspection
Source: City of Monroe

Relationship to Other Plans

The Utilities Element guides the management and coordination of various utility services within the Monroe City Limits and the UGA and has been developed in accordance with Section 36.70A.070 (4) of Washington State’s Growth Management Act (GMA). This element includes information regarding non-City owned utilities and services including electricity, telecommunications, natural gas systems, and solid waste management. Potable water, sanitary sewer, and storm water utilities are included in the Capital Facilities chapter because they are owned and operated by the City of Monroe. This element provides information about the location and capacity of existing and proposed utilities; fosters consistency among the many plans for utility systems; and establishes policy direction related to other chapters of the comprehensive plan (e.g., Land Use and Capital Facilities).

One of the primary intentions of the Utility Element is to assure proper coordination of land use planning and infrastructure planning by providers. This element aligns with the Snohomish County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) and the Puget Sound Regional Council’s VISION 2050.



Existing Conditions

Monroe has a full range of non-City owned and operated urban utilities and services.

Table 9.1 provides a summary of the utilities and **Figure 9.1** shows their locations.

Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD)

Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1 (PUD) provides electrical service to Monroe. The PUD serves all of Snohomish County and Camano Island. It is the largest public utility district in Washington and is the 13th largest in the nation in terms of customers served.

The PUD relies on a diversified power portfolio consisting of a long-term power supply contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), a broad range of energy-efficiency and load management programs, five PUD-owned hydroelectric projects, some customer-owned generation, and several long-term power supply contracts.

The PUD purchases over 80% of its power supply from BPA, with the remainder coming from PUD-owned hydroelectric operations, PUD-contracted wind operations, and wholesale market purchases. The PUD makes short-term purchases and sales in the wholesale power market to balance daily and seasonal fluctuations in its load and resources. The utility maintains over 6,500 miles of distribution and transmission lines to serve its more than 360,000 electric customers. The PUD also serves over 22,000 water customers in the cities of Lake Stevens and Granite Falls, and east Snohomish County areas.

The PUD, through its planning process, works to meet the future electrical load within Snohomish County in a sustainable manner, including the inclusion of energy efficiency in both the existing and future building and housing stock. Additional energy and capacity needs are met through sustainable, renewable resources.



*Snohomish County Public Utility District Building
Source: Snohomish County PUD*



Table 9.1 - UTILITY PROVIDERS AND SERVICES

Utility	Provider	Description
Natural Gas	Puget Sound Energy (PSE)	Provides natural gas to the City of Monroe.
Electricity	Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD)	Provides all electricity to the City of Monroe and greater Snohomish County.
Franchise Utilities	Provider	Description
Internet Service	Xfinity/Comcast, AT&T, Astound Broadband, Zply Fiber, Hughesnet, ViaSat, T-Mobile, and Startouch	Internet service coverage in the City of Monroe is provided by various private companies.
Wireless Phone Service	Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, and other providers	Various private companies provide wireless phone service providers.
Cable TV	Xfinity, Zply Fiber, Dish TV, and DirectTV	Cable television services are provided to individual properties by private companies on a property-by-property basis.
Solid Waste and Recycling	Republic Services, Inc. and Waste Management Inc.	Provides solid waste, yard waste, and recycling services within the City of Monroe. Waste Management, Inc. provides services to the newly annexed area of Monroe Woodlands.

Future PUD Projects & Programs

To meet consumer demand, PUD has identified two main capital projects to be completed; Sky Valley Substation and the Feeder tie between Woods Creek and Lake Chaplain.

To read more about the future facility needs of the utility district, see **Appendix 9-A.**

Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is a private utility provider for natural gas service to homes and businesses in Puget Sound, including Monroe. PSE provides services to more than 900,000 natural gas customers in its 6,000-square-mile

service territory that encompasses 10 counties and over 4 million people.

PSE builds, operates, and maintains an extensive gas system in Snohomish County, which consists of transmission and distribution mains for natural gas, odorizing stations, pressure regulation stations, heaters, corrosion protection systems, above ground appurtenances, and metering systems.

PSE acquires natural gas through contracts with various producers and suppliers in the western U.S. and Canada. PSE operates and maintains 75 miles of high pressure main, 78 District Regulators, nearly 2,175 miles of intermediate main, and serves 152,000



meters, including commercial, industrial, and residential customers in Monroe. The gas PSE acquires is transported into the PSE service area through large interstate pipelines owned and operated by another company.

When PSE takes possession of the gas, it is distributed to customers through underground gas mains and service lines in streets, public, and private properties. After wellhead pumps bring natural gas to the earth's surface, the gas is processed and purified, and then travels along interstate pipelines to compressor stations. Compressor stations maintain gas pressure and are located every 50 to 60 miles along the interstate pipelines.

Natural gas is often stored in large underground reservoirs to meet spikes in demand. When natural gas reaches a City gate station, it is metered and delivered to customers through the local gas mains, small-diameter service lines, and customer meters. The natural gas infrastructure closest to Monroe is an east-west transmission line that borders the north edge of the City.

Future PSE Projects & Programs

To meet regional natural gas demand, PSE's delivery system is modified every year to address customer growth, load changes that require system reinforcement, Rights-Of-Way improvements, and pipeline integrity issues. PSE must maintain large-diameter transmission pipelines, system components and infrastructure, city gate stations, and smaller utility-owned gas mains. PSE's 2023 Gas Utility Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) near-term goals also include expanding natural gas capacity rights, continuing



*Puget Sound Energy to Cut Carbon Footprint
Source: Issaquah Reporter*

engagement and development of equity considerations, acquiring cost-effective conservation, participating in green hydrogen development, and reducing its emissions profile by exploring renewable natural gas.

Medium-term priorities (2030 to 2050) include exploring clean technology and fuel and reducing transport pipeline capacity contracts when loads allow. PSE chose a preferred zero-growth portfolio for the 2023 IRP, which will result in a slight decrease in forecasted greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The IRP reported that between 2023 and 2050, forecasting models expect demand for natural gas to decline after the impact of cost-effective conservation. The purpose of the IRP is to ensure that PSE's natural gas supply and infrastructure are adequate to deliver clean, safe, and reliable energy to its customers; the IRP looks ahead 20 years at energy resource needs through a planning process that evaluates a range of potential future outcomes. PSE expects to file the final 2025 Gas IRP in March 2025.



Fall Leaves Changing Color
Source: Utility Billing, Monroe website

Franchise Utilities

Franchise utilities consist of services provided by private entities, including wireless phone service, cable television, and internet. Private companies respond to market-driven demand by constructing and improving infrastructure to continue providing efficient data and communications services and extend capacity to provide for area residents and businesses.

Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile are among the main wireless phone service providers, though there are others across the city. Cable services are provided to individual properties by private companies on a property-by-property basis by Xfinity, Dish TV, and DirectTV. Internet service coverage in the City of Monroe is also provided by various private companies, including Xfinity/Comcast, AT&T, Astound Broadband, Ziplly Fiber, Hughesnet, Viasat, T-Mobile, and Startouch.

Solid Waste and Recycling

Solid waste and recycling services are coordinated across facilities and the county. The Republic Services, Inc. and Waste Management, Inc. utilize transfer and recycling facilities that are located in Everett, Arlington, and Mountlake Terrace, as well as a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility in Everett. The facilities in Everett are amongst the closest to Monroe, at only four miles northwest of the City. From the transfer stations, the waste is collected and taken to the county facility at Riverside Business Park in Everett, and then to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Klickitat County.

The area in the Monroe UGA accounts for approximately five percent of the overall service area population in Snohomish County. These facilities, and the coordination of waste collection and disposal within Snohomish County, are managed by the Snohomish County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Division.



Fleet of Republic Services Vehicles
Source: Garbage and Recycling, Monroe website



The Washington Solid Waste Recycling and Recovery Act (RCW (70.95) requires each county within the state, in association with the cities and towns located within it, to prepare a 20-year comprehensive solid waste management plan (CSWMP) and to update the plan at least every 5 years. Snohomish County is the solid waste management planning authority for all jurisdictions within the County as of the most recent Interlocal Agreement.

The County Solid Waste Management Plan (CSWMP) was adopted by participating jurisdictions, including the City of Monroe, and the County Council in February 1990. The most recent version of the CSWMP was updated in July 2021 and supported by the Monroe City Council through Resolution 2022-009 which acknowledged and reaffirmed the City of Monroe's support and approval of the plan. The Solid Waste Handling Interlocal Agreements with Snohomish County are current and up to date with the most recent update completed in 2023 and set to expire in December 2038. The City of Monroe has a contract with Republic Services to collect residential and commercial garbage within the city's corporate limits. Once the garbage is collected it is taken to one of Snohomish County's four transfer stations, compacted and reloaded onto trucks that take the materials to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Klickitat County.

Republic Services has offices in Lynnwood, Washington. The city is currently in a rolling three-year contract for services with Republic Services to provide solid waste collection,

recycling, yard waste services. The City of Monroe has a contract with Republic Services to collect recycling materials and yard waste. Materials that can be recycled include, but are not limited to, tin cans, glass, paper, cardboard, newspapers, magazines, and plastics. The city requires all residential uses, including multi-family complexes, to pay for recycling services. Recycling services are not required for commercial uses; however, if a business owner is interested in a recycling program, they may use any vendor providing recycling services within the city.

In 2022 Washington Organics Management Law was implemented requiring diversion of organic materials away from landfill disposal and towards food rescue programs and organic management facilities. Monroe will be required to provide separated organic material collection services within their jurisdiction and implement an organics management element as a part of their larger solid waste collections program in 2024. The implementation of this new program will be completed in partnership with Republic Services



Goals, Policies, and Action Items

Utilities goals, policies, and actions are important to achieving Imagine Monroe and for the implementation of the Monroe 2044 Comprehensive Plan. Adequate utilities are essential for achieving the community's goals, while also supporting the expected future growth of Monroe. The following policies and actions reflect how utility services are provided to maintain level of service standards.



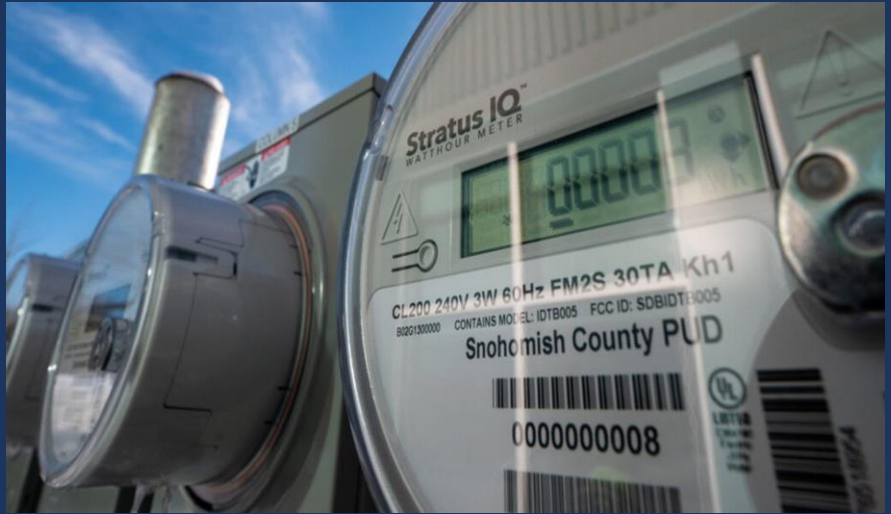
*Aerial view of North Kelsey, looking southeast
Source: City of Monroe*



Photo Source: Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD)

Goal 9.1

Support private utilities in providing quality, safe, and modern energy services equitably to households, residents, and businesses within Monroe.



Policy	Action Item	
9.1.1		Coordinate with utility service providers to maintain existing systems, reduce disruption, and expand to areas without current services within the City Limits.
	9.1.1.1	<i>Meet periodically with utility providers to coordinate plans and projects.</i>
	9.1.1.2	<i>Identify areas of Monroe that are underserved or not currently served by basic utility services. Prioritize improvements in these locations to promote equitable access to services.</i>
	9.1.1.3	<i>Coordinate construction of new utility lines and public infrastructure, such as with road construction, to minimize disruption and reduce the cost of services.</i>
	9.1.1.4	<i>Encourage providers to periodically develop education materials for customers that describes projects and cost of providing services to enhance transparency.</i>



	9.1.1.5	<i>Partner with PUD to promote and support programs designed to decrease load on the grid during times of peak use.</i>
	9.1.1.6	<i>Prioritize maintenance over development of new services/infrastructure, when possible.</i>
9.1.2		Promote installation of high-speed telecommunication lines and fiber optics, providing state-of-the-art services to Monroe.
9.1.3		Promote energy grid modernization.
	9.1.3.1	<i>Expedite the local permitting and approval process for grid modernization to maintain grid capacity and reliability.</i>
	9.1.3.2	<i>Coordinate with the PUD to identify ways to achieve a Clean Energy Transition, such as by adopting codes that support siting existing and new technologies.</i>



Photo Source: The City of Monroe

Goal 9.2

Advance Monroes' solid waste and recycling management strategies to reduce solid waste and promote sustainable end-of-life practices, minimize environmental impact, encourage environmental justice practices, and promote safety and cost-effectiveness.



Policy	Action Item	
9.2.1		Reduce solid waste produced in Monroe.
	9.2.1.1	<i>Identify and reduce harmful packaging and products that contribute to solid waste that cannot be recycled.</i>
	9.2.1.2	<i>Promote alternative end-of-life management for non-recyclable items.</i>
	9.2.1.3	<i>Encourage reuse, repair, recycle, and donation as alternatives to disposal.</i>
	9.2.1.4	<i>Increase culturally responsive, school-based, and community education programs that expand knowledge of waste prevention techniques and increase recycling.</i>



9.2.2		Promote environmental justice by reducing disproportionate impacts experienced by vulnerable populations.
	9.2.2.1	<i>Include communities and youth in engagement and decision-making processes for distribution of and access to services.</i>
	9.2.2.2	<i>Invest in communities that have had a disproportionate exposure to or that have experienced negative impacts due to the solid waste system or programs.</i>
	9.2.2.3	<i>Create a waste advisory committee with diverse community representation to increase participation and decision-making.</i>
9.2.3		Create more living wage jobs through the solid waste and recycling service systems.
	9.2.3.1	<i>Promote living-wage opportunities and benefits at the lowest-paying positions.</i>
	9.2.3.2	<i>Conduct monitoring and evaluation of workers' perception of wages and benefits to inform adjustments made to provisions.</i>
	9.2.3.3	<i>Encourage training, workforce development, and career pathway advancement for waste industry positions.</i>



Photo Source: The City of Monroe

Goal 9.3

Minimize the environmental and social impacts of utilities in Monroe.



Policy	Action Item	
9.3.1		Encourage conservation of resources and use of renewable resources to delay the need for additional energy, water and other facilities.
9.3.2		Require developers to mitigate service and utility impacts and that costs are borne by new development rather than present residents and ratepayers, and that level of service standards are not degraded.
9.3.3		Promote design and utility construction standards that enhance and complement the natural character of the site and promote sustainability.
	9.3.3.1	<i>Require new utility lines be laid underground if possible. Seek to improve the appearance of utility corridors through design and maintenance.</i>
	9.3.3.2	<i>Improve the appearance of existing and planned utility corridors through design and maintenance.</i>
	9.3.3.3	<i>Encourage utility providers to limit disturbance to land and vegetation within transmission corridors to measures necessary for facility safety and maintenance.</i>
	9.3.3.4	<i>Support renewable energy, EV charging infrastructure, alternative energy, and water reclamation that supports the decarbonization of utilities.</i>



Photo Source: Andy Bronson – The Herald

Goal 9.4

Prepare the city’s utility providers and services to be resilient and quickly recover in response to natural hazards or disasters.



Policy	Action Item	
9.4.1		Collaborate with PSE to create emergency management plans to minimize risk exposure to communities.
9.4.2		Encourage proactive practices and procedures to reduce electricity-related disasters.
	9.4.2.1	<i>Support PUD’s wildfire mitigation efforts, including electric system upgrades, year-round vegetation management, and fire weather operational procedures.</i>
9.4.3		Promote inclement weather notifications for service disruption and emergency communications in multiple languages during a disaster.
9.4.4		Create an emergency response and disaster management plan with solid waste and recycling services for debris removal.
	9.4.4.1	<i>Create a recovery framework that prioritizes response to remote or highly vulnerable communities during a disaster.</i>
	9.4.4.2	<i>Coordinate messaging and communication to vulnerable communities using multiple languages and modes of communication.</i>
	9.4.4.3	<i>Regularly assess and develop systems to reduce gaps in solid waste and recycling services and facilities from disasters.</i>



Photo Source: Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD)

Goal 9.5

Identify financing opportunities to promote the advancement of more sustainable utilities service.



Policy	Action Item	
9.5.1		Pursue public-private partnerships as funding sources to accelerate clean energy projects.
	9.5.1.1	<i>Partner with PUD to promote energy efficiency programs and incentives to expedite energy efficiency upgrades.</i>
	9.5.1.2	<i>Partner with PUD to promote local investments and customer enrollment in clean energy projects and programs to achieve clean energy goals.</i>
	9.5.1.3	<i>Invest in community partnerships and organizations that improve access to clean energy for vulnerable communities in the provision of utilities and services.</i>
9.5.2		Promote financial assistance and discounted billing programs for income-qualified residents to reduce disproportionate impacts to vulnerable communities by the State's clean energy transition.

Environmental Justice **Efforts Across the Puget Sound Region**

Environmental justice works to identify and mitigate adverse, and disproportionate, impacts from environmental effects on low-income, minority, and other vulnerable populations, in accordance with the Executive Order 12898 (1994) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.¹ Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) has been working to identify ways in which to extrapolate data and patterns in the region to inform regional, state, and citywide actions to protect the health and livability of these areas.

¹ *Puget Sound Regional Council, Central Puget Sound Demographic Profile, 2021*

Clean and Renewable Energy **How the Washington Clean Energy Act is Working to Address Disparities**

The Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) (SB 5116) signed into law in 2019 has committed the state to transitioning to a 100% renewable and non-emitting electric grid by the year 2045.² This bill not only provides incentives and assistance for those looking to transiting to zero-emissions energy sources, but also focuses on the costs and benefits to vulnerable populations and communities. The adopted State Energy Strategy created in response to CETA provides a roadmap to achieving equitable and inclusive access for these communities, and beyond.

² *Washington State Department of Commerce, Washington State Energy Strategy, 2021*