



**COWLITZ PUD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING AGENDA
July 8, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Cowlitz PUD Board Room & Microsoft Teams**

Board of Commissioners: Dave Quinn, Duane Dalglish, Bruce Pollock

The Cowlitz PUD Board of Commissioners meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Members of the public interested in participating via Microsoft Teams should contact Monica Petterson at mpetterson@cowlitzpud.org by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2025. To attend by phone, please call 1-323-484-8960 (Conference ID: 370 313 737#) at the time of the meeting. If you require a reasonable accommodation while in attendance at the Cowlitz PUD Board Meeting, please call Monica at (360) 501-9154 at least 72-hours prior to the meeting so that your needs can be addressed.

Please note that public comment is limited to three minutes per person.

1. Call to Order: 2:00 p.m.
2. Changes/Additions to Agenda
3. **Motion to Approve** Today's Board Agenda: Dave Quinn
4. **Motion to Approve** the PUD Board Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2025:
Dave Quinn
5. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Other District Business
6. **Motion to Ratify/Approve** Vouchers & Payroll: Heather Sorensen
7. New Employee Introduction
 - Mike Larsen to introduce Engineering Intern Carson Ness

8. General Manager Report: Gary Huhta
9. Action Items
 - 9.1 **Motion to Approve** Staff Recommendation No. 13/7/8 – Waiving Small Generation Interconnections Standards Policy for CAP Solar Project: Steve Taylor
 - 9.2 **Motion to Approve** Staff Recommendation No. 14/7/8 – Acceptance of Work, Cold Climate Heat Pump Program: Jen Langdon
10. Staff Reports and Presentations
 - 10.1 Customer Assistance Programs Update: Stacey Ferrell
11. Commissioner Reports & Upcoming Events
12. **Executive Session:** If needed, the Presiding Officer will follow the Executive Session Procedure included with this agenda. Following the Executive Session, the Board may take action in public related to the Executive Session.
13. **Motion to Adjourn** the Meeting

COWLITZ PUD EXECUTIVE SESSION PROCEDURE

The Board may meet in Executive Session for any reason authorized under the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.110 (1), using the following procedure:

1. Announce the Executive Session

We will now adjourn into executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1) for _____ minutes unless extended by the Presiding Officer. The purpose of the executive session is (choose one of the following):

- a. (i) To consider matters affecting national security;
(ii) To consider, if in compliance with any required data security breach disclosure under RCW [19.255.010](#) and [42.56.590](#), and with legal counsel available, information regarding the infrastructure and security of computer and telecommunications networks, security and service recovery plans, security risk assessments and security test results to the extent that they identify specific system vulnerabilities, and other information that if made public may increase the risk to the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of agency security or to information technology infrastructure or assets;
- b. To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price;
- c. To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price. However, final action selling or leasing public property shall be taken in a meeting open to the public;
- d. To review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased costs;
- f. To receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee. However, upon the request of such officer or employee, a public hearing, or a meeting open to the public shall be conducted upon such complaint or charge;
- g. To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW [42.30.140\(4\)](#), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public;
- i. To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency

2. Return to Open Public Meeting

- a. Once the session concludes, the board will return to open meeting.
- b. If any action is taken it must take place in open meeting.
- c. Action may not take place earlier than the time for which the executive session was to conclude, including any extensions announced by the Presiding Officer.

Note: The foregoing is not a complete list of allowed purposes to hold an executive session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) but represents the most likely purposes for Cowlitz PUD.

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Cowlitz PUD Board Room and Microsoft Teams

Present:**COMMISSIONERS**

Dave Quinn, President

Duane Dalglish, Vice President

Bruce Pollock, Secretary

STAFF

Alice Dietz, Communication & Public Relations Manager

Andy Davis, Senior Power Resource Engineer

Casey Kalal, Director of Operations

Chris Velat, Director of Power Management

Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

Doug Thomas, Manager of Transmission & Distribution

Gary Huhta, General Manager

Heather Sorensen, Director of Customer Service & Compliance

Lance Larwick, Director of Engineering

Marisa Heard, Manager of Employee Services

Monica Petterson, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Richard Hughes, General Counsel

Ryan Hennessey, Utility Contracts Coordinator

Tim Kalimanis, Director of Technology

Trent Martin, Director of Accounting/CFO

Tyler Modin, Electrical Engineer

PUBLICSteve Ferrell

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to published Notice, Commissioner Quinn called the Regular Board meeting of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO BOARD AGENDA

There were no changes to today's agenda

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the June 24, 2025 Board Agenda.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the June 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes as written.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS AND OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS

There was no public comment.

6. MOTION TO RATIFY/APPROVE VOUCHERS/PAYROLL

Approval of Vouchers in the amount of \$19,363,036.85. The Board reviewed expenditures of the District as required by RCW 42.24.180 for which payments were issued between June 10, 2025 and June 18, 2025, under the provisions of Resolution No. 2762.

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the ratification of the vouchers/payroll.

Heather Sorensen, in her role as Auditor for the District, reported the majority of expenses were for power supply and other customary items, as well as a large property purchase payment and conservation incentives.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

7. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS

Doug Thomas introduced Utility Contracts Coordinator Ryan Hennessey.

Lance Larwick introduced Electrical Engineer Tyler Modin.

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

BPA Update: General Manager Gary Huhta reported the parties involved in the Public Rate Design Methodology (PRDM) came together and were able to resolve their differences and address concerns previously brought forth by PNGC.

FWEE STEM Event: The Foundation for Water & Energy Education (FWEE) will host a hydropower academy tomorrow at Lewis County PUD for thirty high school aged students. We will send a crew there to conduct a safety trailer demonstration, and our GIS personnel for a drone demonstration. Students will be able to get hands on experience and explore different careers. This is one example of the outreach we do to promote hydropower.

Meeker Substation: The Meeker substation is currently under construction, and we will keep the Board updated on the progress.

PUD Family BBQ: We will hold a BBQ at the PUD main office tomorrow, and one on Thursday at our Operations Center to celebrate National Safety Month. Families of PUD employees are encouraged to attend.

Community Events: The Concerts at the Lake series begins July 10th and will be held every Thursday for six weeks. The District will have a booth set up at three of the six concerts.

Weekend for Warm Neighbor – Last year we paired the Eat for Heat event with the first inaugural PUD Golf Tournament. Due to its success, both events will be paired again this year. The tournament is already at full capacity, and our data vendor, 1898 & Company, has signed up to be the title sponsor for the second year in a row. We have secured numerous other sponsorships as well.

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1. Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2827 – BPA Provider of Choice Product Selection

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Resolution No. 2827.

Director of Power Resources Chris Velat explained that the District has participated in the Provider of Choice process with BPA over the last several years and reviewed various contract offerings, focusing attention and evaluation on both the Load Following and Slice/Block options. District staff determined the Slice/Block contract to be the better option as it has inherent flexibility that provides for integration of District resources. Staff have held discussions with the District’s largest industrial customers, as well as with the Board to arrive at this recommendation. Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution No. 2827 authorizing the General Manager to complete all necessary steps with BPA to prepare a “signature-ready” Slice/Block Power Sales Agreement. Staff will bring the Agreement to the Board prior to the December 5, 2025 contract signing deadline for the Board’s final approval.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

10. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

10.1. District staff provided highlights and answered Commissioner questions regarding the May 2025 Operational Reports which were included in the Board meeting materials.

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Commissioner Dalglish will attend the PUD Family BBQ tomorrow and will judge the Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Sacajawea next week.

Commissioner Pollock visited other PUD’s last week in his role as Secretary for WPUA. This week he will attend Energy Northwest meetings, a Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments meeting on Thursday, and the PUD Family BBQ tomorrow.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 3:18 p.m.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

Attest:

President

Secretary

Vice President

Prepared by Monica Petterson
Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Staff Recommendation No. 13/7/8

Date: 7/8/2025

To: Board of Commissioners
Gary Huhta, General Manager

From: Steve Taylor, Dir. Reg. Affairs; Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Reg. Affairs Coordinator

Subject: Recommendation to Waive Engineering Policy 6. Small Generation Interconnections Standards Policy (100kW or less)

The Board has been briefed previously regarding the District's efforts to facilitate the installation of a rooftop solar PV system at Lower Columbia CAP's four-building low-income apartment complex on 33rd Avenue in Longview. The installation will be considered a community solar project under the state's WSU Low-income Community Solar Funding program with the project benefits going to the low-income tenants residing in the complex. The capital costs will be covered through a Public Utility Tax (PUT) credit that flows through the District to eligible programs, with the District deducting the amount of any disbursements from its PUT remittances to the Department of Revenue.

The District's current Engineering Policy No. 6 prescribes the interconnection, metering, and crediting procedures related to customer solar photovoltaic systems. In its current iteration, the policy is fairly restrictive and will not accommodate the customer bill crediting arrangement contemplated for the community solar project. The existing policy is under review and is anticipated to be updated later this year. Lower Columbia CAP's project has received funding authorization from the state and is ready to proceed, but in order to allow the low-income residents to receive the value of the solar energy produced as credits on their individual accounts, an adjustment to the District's interconnection requirements is necessary, along with a variation to our standard metering and payment policy. Staff proposes requesting a one-time waiver to the policy to allow the continued progression of the project while changes to broader policy are developed and considered. The District would then prepare a separate agreement with Lower Columbia CAP to ensure its general interconnection standards are met and the bill crediting elements are adequately established.

Staff recommendation:

Recommend the Board grant an exception to *Engineering Policy 6. Small Generation Interconnections Standards Policy (100kW or less)* and authorize the General Manager to enter into an interconnection agreement with Lower Columbia CAP for the purpose of facilitating the installation of a low-income community solar project at the agency's 33rd Avenue Apartments in Longview, WA.

Engineering Policies

6. Small Generation Interconnections Standards Policy (100kW or less)

Applicable excerpts:

6. Small Generation Interconnections Standards Policy (100kW or less)

6.1 Conditions of Interconnection

6.1.1 This policy applies to all electrical Generating Facilities with a maximum electrical generating capacity of 100 kW or less. To be eligible to interconnect and operate in parallel with the District's electric system, the conditions in this policy must be met. The requirements of this policy shall apply irrespective of whether the Customer intends to generate energy to serve all or a part of the Customer's load.

6.1.2 To ensure system safety and reliability of interconnected operations, all interconnected Generating Facilities shall be constructed and operated by generator in accordance with this policy and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

6.5.2 The process for payment for net energy shall be as follows:

6.5.2.1 The District shall measure the net electricity produced and/or consumed by the Customer during each billing period, in accordance with normal metering practices.

6.5.2.2 If the electricity supplied by the District exceeds the electricity generated by the Customer, then the Customer shall be billed for the net electricity supplied by the District together with the appropriate Customer charge paid by other Customers of the District in the same rate schedule.



PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington

Staff Recommendation No. 14/7/8

To: Cowlitz County PUD Board of Commissioners
CC: Chris Velat
From: Jen Langdon
Date: 7/2/2025
Re: Recommendation to Accept Work as Complete
Cold Climate Heat Pump Program (Contract UC1811)

On October 22, 2024, Cowlitz PUD solicited bids through the advertised bid process for the installation of cold climate heat pumps for Cowlitz County residents with the qualifying household incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. After evaluation, staff recommended the award to three contractors: Alltek Services, NW Solutions Heating and Air LLC, and Denali Heating and Air Conditioning LLC. On November 6, 2024, the Board authorized the award of a contract to each of the three contractors.

As you may recall, funding for this program was provided through the Washington State Department of Commerce HEAR grant and funds were required to be spent by June 1, 2025. Work is now complete and below is a summary of each of the three contracts:

Contractor	Contract #	# of Projects	Contract Work	Change Orders	Contract Total
Alltek Services	UC1811-A	36	\$ 210,200.00	\$ 25,863.82	\$ 236,063.82
Denali	UC1811-B	72	\$ 578,504.00	\$ 136,046.50	\$ 714,550.50
NW Solutions	UC1811-C	26	\$ 148,443.28	\$ 58,274.84	\$ 206,718.12
Total		134	\$ 937,147.28	\$ 215,593.84	\$ 1,152,741.12

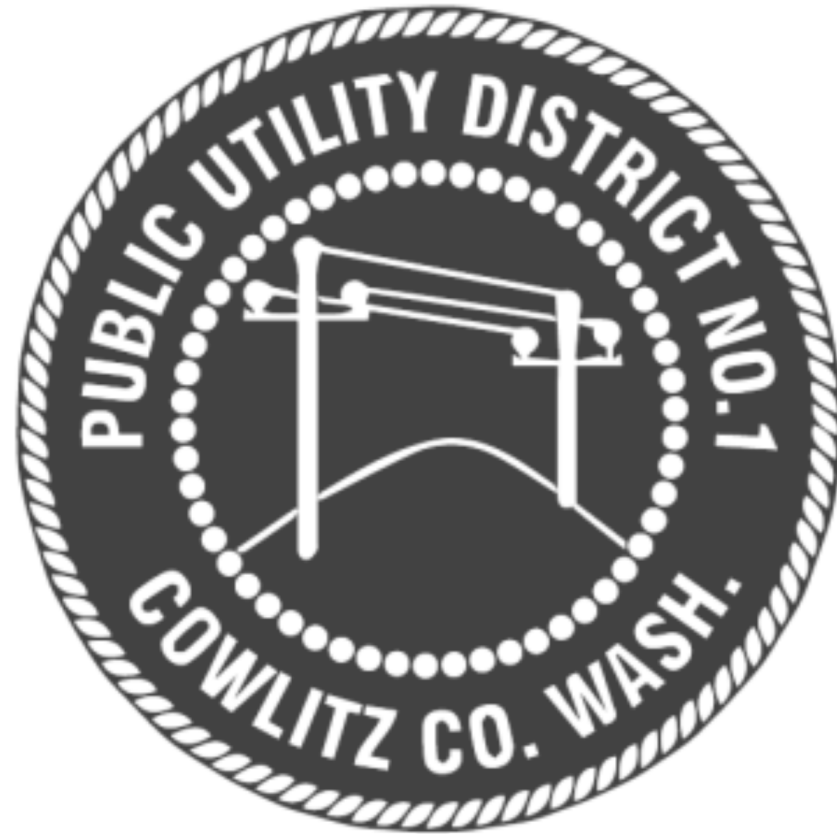
The installation of 134 cold climate heat pumps (120 ductless and 14 ducted) were entirely covered by grant funding. All three contractors completed the work in an acceptable manner. Therefore, I recommend the Board accept this work as complete and authorize staff to move forward with the contract closeout process for the eventual release of retention.

Customer Service

Customer Assistance Programs

July 8, 2025

*Stacey Ferrell
Customer Programs Coordinator*



WARM NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

Background

- Established by the District in 2001 to provide short term assistance to low-income customer in emergency situations
- In 2024, low-income requirements were updated to comply with CETA requirements.

Program Dates and Funding

- Funded 100% by customer donations and proceeds from PUD events
- Runs year round as funds are available

Qualifications and Requirements

- Low Income – may not exceed the higher of 80% of Area Median Household Income (AMI) or 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), adjusted for household size
- Must be listed on the PUD account and reside at service address
- Must have received Notice of Pending Disconnect or currently disconnected
- Must have active service for a minimum of 2 months

Restrictions

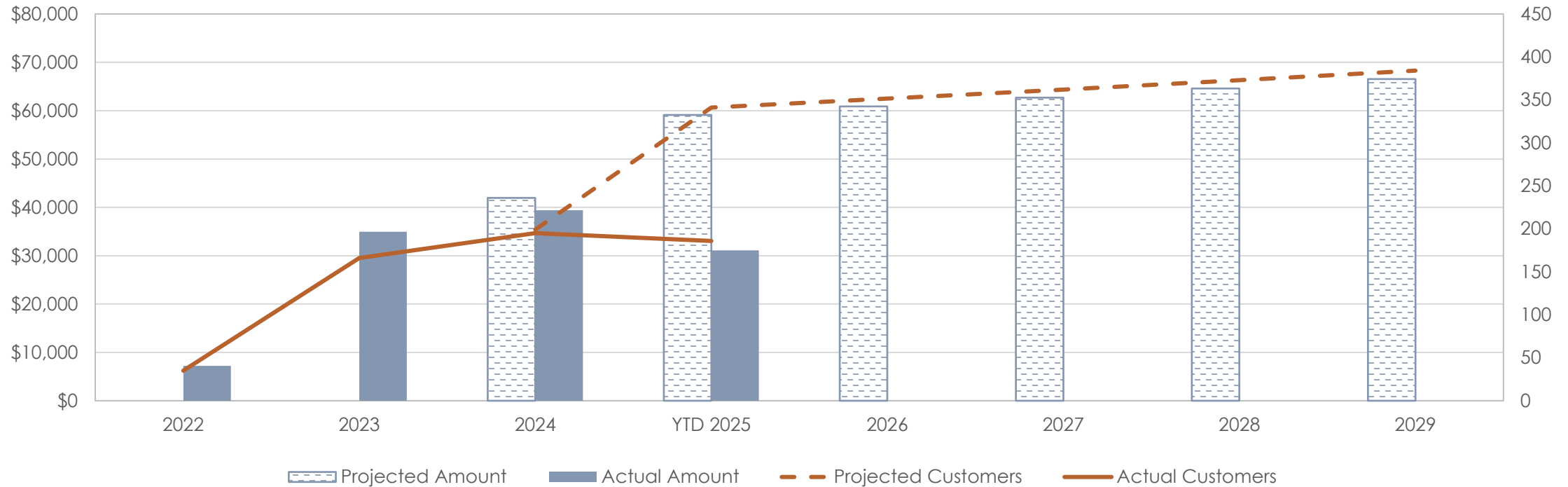
- Does not cover deposits or collection balances
- Does not cover fees
- No previous fraudulent or tamper events
- No moratorium payment plan

Program Assistance

- One application per household once every 12-month period
- Amount determined based off account type and balance
- Maximum of \$300



WARM NEIGHBOR PROGRAM



- Last year the Warm Neighbor program thresholds were increased to comply with CETA requirements, which significantly expanded the program eligible customers. To support assistance projections, program guidelines were tightened up to preserve funding.
- Even with tightening the guidelines, WN assistance YTD is tracking to far exceed last year.



DISCOUNTED RATE PROGRAM

Background

- Established by the District in 2004 to provide ongoing assistance to low-income senior, disabled customers and veterans and active military customers.

Program Dates and Funding

- Program is available year round
- Program funding is provided through the rate process
- Annual program discounts are a qualifying credit against the public utility tax

Qualifications and Requirements

- Low income – up to 200% of Federal Poverty or 80% AMI
- Age 62+, or permanent disability, or active military, or veteran
- Qualifying person must be 18 years of age or older

Restrictions

- Not available for businesses, rentals, or other secondary residences
- No previous fraudulent or tamper events

Program Assistance

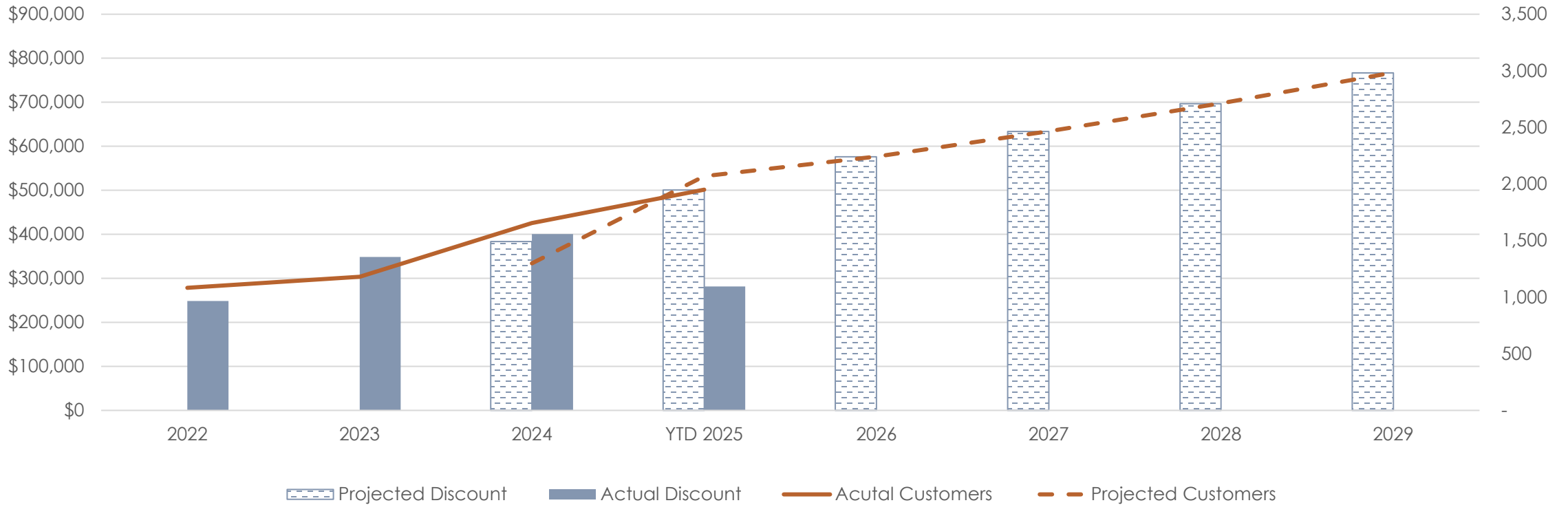
- 20% discount – up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or 80% AMI
- 30% discount – up to 150% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Renewal Process

- Monthly discount will remain on the customers' account for two years
- Customer renewals require self attestation of income and household size



DISCOUNTED RATE PROGRAM



- Currently over 1,950 customers are enrolled in the Discount Rate program, an increase of 300 in 6 months.
- Increasing the income limits and auto enrolling LIHEAP income qualified applicants has helped to increase participation, and expect 2025 total savings to surpass last year's.



EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

LIHEAP

- Provides low-income customers up to \$1,250 based on energy consumption (Traditional LIHEAP)
- Supplemental - \$500 was received in addition to the traditional LIHEAP amount
- Arrearage Funding – A customer could receive up to \$2,500 in arrearage funding. (Must have a balance owing at the time of appointment)
- Ends 2024-2025 LIHEAP program Season (August)

HEAP

- Funded by Climate Commitment ACT (CCA)
- This helped customers that were above the 150% FPL but under the 80% AMI
- Provided up to \$1,000

FISH

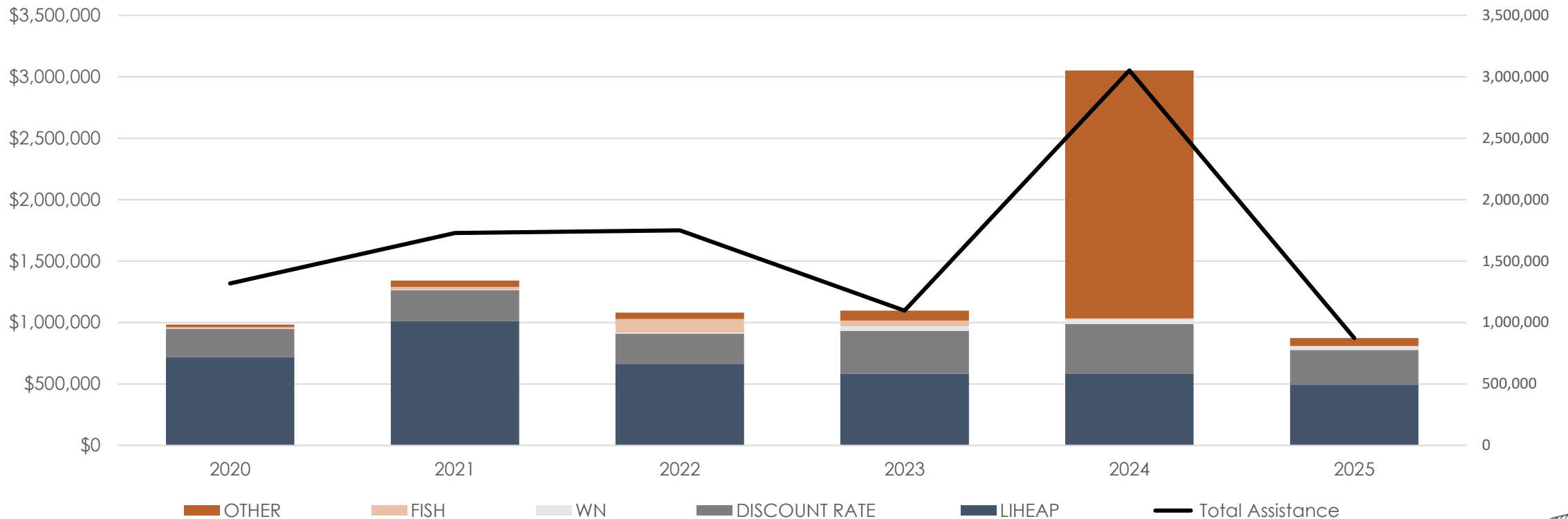
- Customers eligible once annually up to \$100 per household
- August through October while the LIHEAP program is not running

Other

- Churches, Tribes, Health and Social Services – amounts vary



CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW



- Internal and external programs have provided 10,473 customer a total of \$873,565 year to date.
- The “Other” assistance, in orange, from 2024 was from the Clean Energy Grant that gave \$200 per household. Levels are back down too normal for 2025.



CUSTOMER OUTREACH

To reach energy burdened households, multiple approaches are utilized to target the District's low-income and vulnerable populations.

Planning

- Annual coordination with the Energy Efficiency Manager and the Communications and Public Relations Manager

Partnerships

- Long standing partnerships with local agencies that have resulted in the creation of new outreach events
 - Lower Columbia CAP
 - Ethnic Support
 - Cowlitz County Tribe
 - Churches
 - Community Mediation Center
 - Agency on Aging and Disabilities
 - FISH



CUSTOMER OUTREACH

Outreach Efforts

- Resource Fair
- CAP Commodities Day
- Connected Newsletter
- Radio Show
- Translation Services
- Lunch and Learns
- Customer Appreciation BBQ
- Community Centers
- CEIP Workshops
- Ryderwood Community
- Ethnic Support – Back to School Fair

Targeted Outreach

- Non-English Speaking Community Visits
- Senior Centers

WN Funding Efforts

- Eat 4 Heat
- Lights in the Park
- ILWU Golf Tournament
- PUD Golf Tournament
- Employee Events
- Quarterly Customer WN Round Up
- Woodland Chamber Golf



CETA COMPLIANCE

Background

- The Washington State legislature passed the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) in 2019 and in doing so, requires electric utilities to transition to a carbon-neutral supply of electricity by 2030 and source 100% of their electricity from renewable or non-carbon-emitting sources by 2045.
- Specifically, Section 120 of the Clean Energy Transformation Act, requires Washington electric utilities to provide programs to reduce energy burden low-income customers and conduct outreach to encourage participation, while ensuring adequate funding levels to meet CETA energy reduction targets.

CETA Plan

- The District's Warm Neighbor and Discount Rate assistance programs provide customers short-term and long-term assistance with their monthly electric bills, while sustained energy reduction programs are achieved through the Energy Efficiency Department
- To reach energy-burdened household, multiple approaches are utilities to target low-income and vulnerable populations.
- Funding mechanisms and programs are evaluated annually to ensure CETA energy reduction targets are achieved.
- Next reporting for CETA is 2026

	Funding Levels	Energy Assistance Need	2030 Target 60% Cumulative EAN	2050 Target 90% Cumulative EAN
2024 Reporting year (2022-2023 data)	\$1,731,490	\$3,610,000	71%	47%



SUMMARY

Program Changes

- No recommended changes to programs currently
- The District has already achieved the 2030 CETA targets

Future Considerations

- Continue to explore ways to grow Warm Neighbor
- Further expansion of programs to meet future CETA targets
- Monitoring of State assistance program
- Continue to increase our outreach efforts

Reporting

- CETA biennial assessment will be due in 2026
- Contracted with Empower Data Works again to assist with reporting



QUESTIONS?

