#### UTILITY PLANNING ISSUES

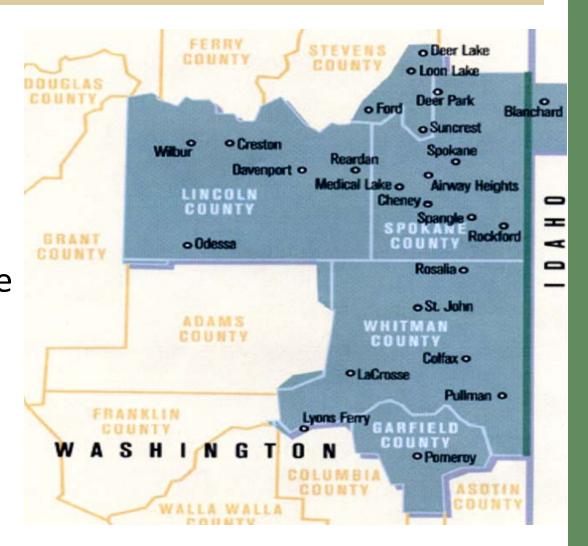
**Northwest Power and Conservation Council** 

August 9, 2011



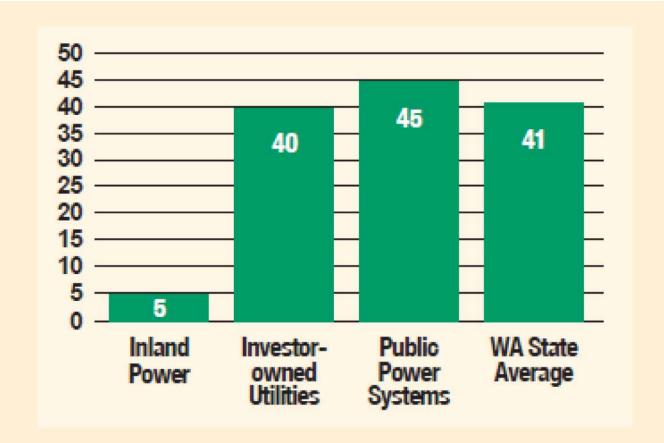
#### **Inland Overview**

Largest co-op in
Washington
39,000 meters
13 counties
7500 miles of line





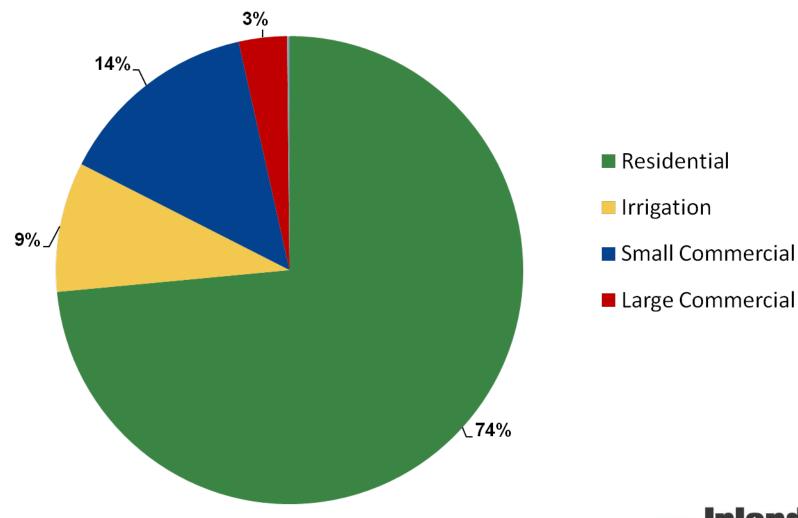
#### **Customers Per Mile of Line**



Customers per mile of distribution line in Washington state

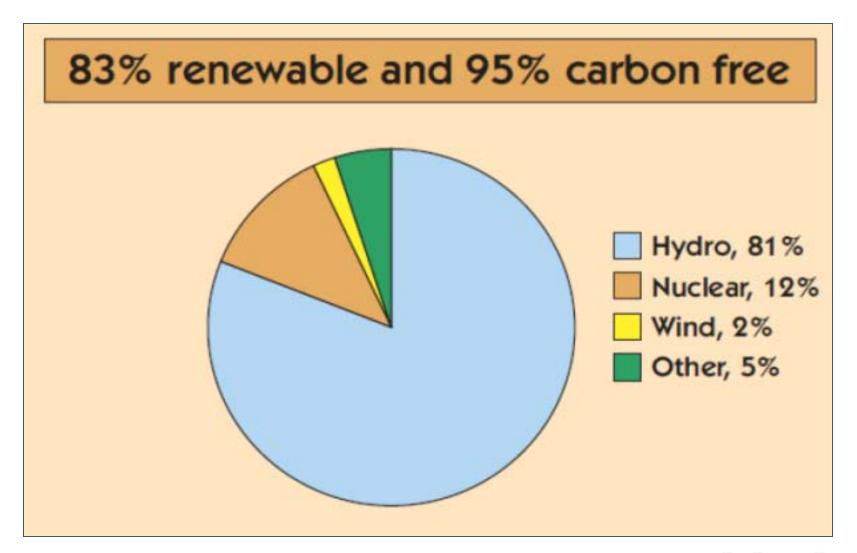


## Sales by Type



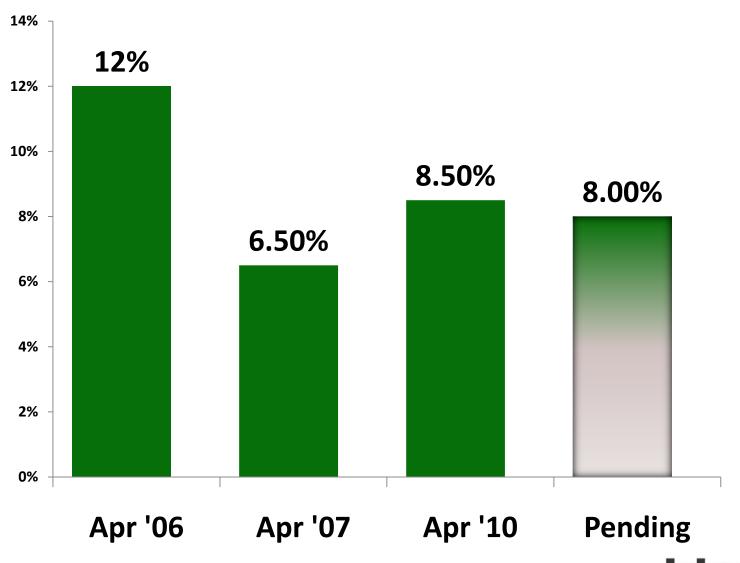


#### Resources





#### **Rate History**



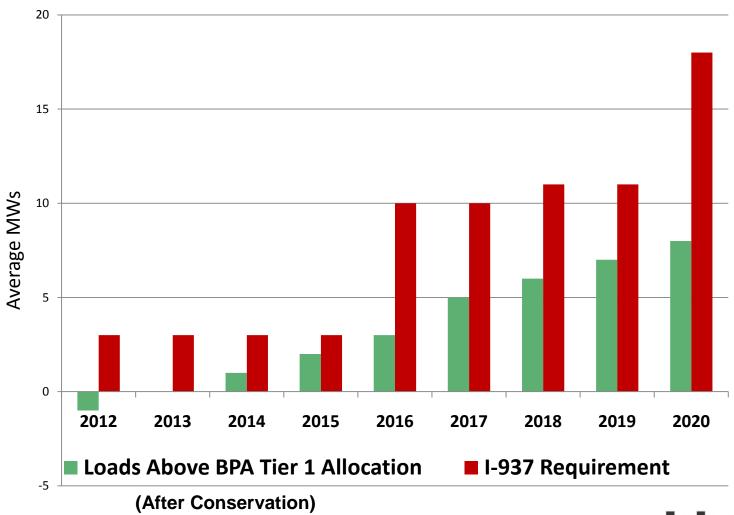


# 2012 Loads Compared to BPA Contract High Water Mark





# Inland Above HWM Needs Compared to I-937 Requirement





#### **Planning Issues - Power**

- Don't need a lot of additional power 3 MW by 2016; 8 by 2020
- Formed group of 20 smaller utilities to jointly purchase NEMS John Saven
- No one else needs much power either Only 1 other I-937 utility in group
- Little scale to develop or own resources

  Market prices are low
- Small resource development is difficult

  Developers lack experience/relative high risk to small utilities
- Transmission has been problematic Looks to be getting better

#### Planning Issues – I-937 – More RECs than Power

Harder to come by than you might think Digesting/composting project

In service area

About 2 MW



#### **Wood Waste Cogeneration on West Side**

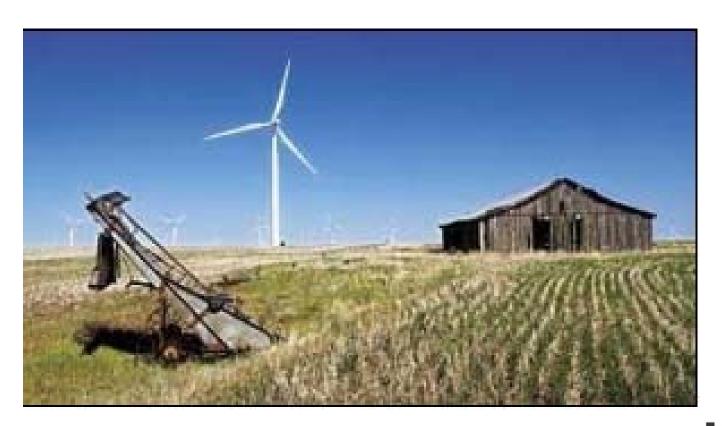
# Green E certification only Insufficient for WA RPS





#### **Smaller Utility Wind Project**

Better offer at 11<sup>th</sup> hour for bundled power & RECs





#### Plan D

Term sheet with Idaho wind project that is underdevelopment

Not yet built but looks good

As is the case with all but the first project, we are working with a REC broker

7% commission, 3.5% from each side

2013-2016 REC purchase \$100K in total

Market not transparent or liquid

I-937 restrictions have made it very difficult to buy anything other than wind



#### PLANNING ISSUES CONSERVATION



# The Benefit of Incremental Sales Old Paradigm

| Revenue                     | 6 cents   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Power Costs                 | (3 cents) |
| Margin to Cover Other Costs | 3 cents   |

- Utilities have lots of fixed costs
- Each new kWh sold helped pay for fixed costs
- Rates lower for everyone

# The Benefit of Incremental Sales

### **New Paradigm**

| 6 cents          |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <u>(7 cents)</u> |  |  |
| (1 cents)        |  |  |
|                  |  |  |

## Planning Issues - Conservation

| Resource Type           | CCCT         | Coal  | IGCC                             | Wind         | Market        | Energy<br>Efficiency/<br>DSM |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Fuel Price Risk         | High         | Medium  | Medium                           | Low          | Medium        | Net<br>Reduction             |
| Development<br>Risk     | Low          | High -<br>Siting/<br>Regulatory<br>Challenges | High -<br>Immature<br>Technology | Low          | NA            | Flexible/<br>Divisible       |
| Environmental<br>Impact | Medium       | High  | Medium                           | Low          | Medium<br>Low | Low or Net<br>Positive       |
| Operations              | Dispatchable | Baseload                                      | Baseload                         | Intermittent | Baseload      | Depends on<br>Measure        |



#### **2010 Conservation Potential Assessment**

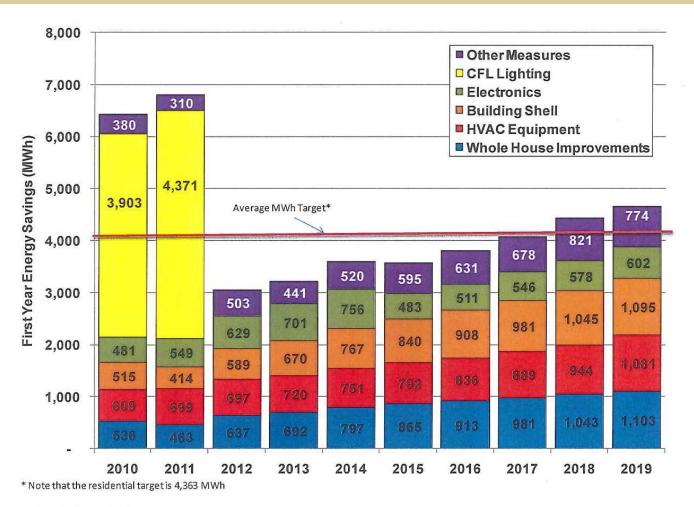
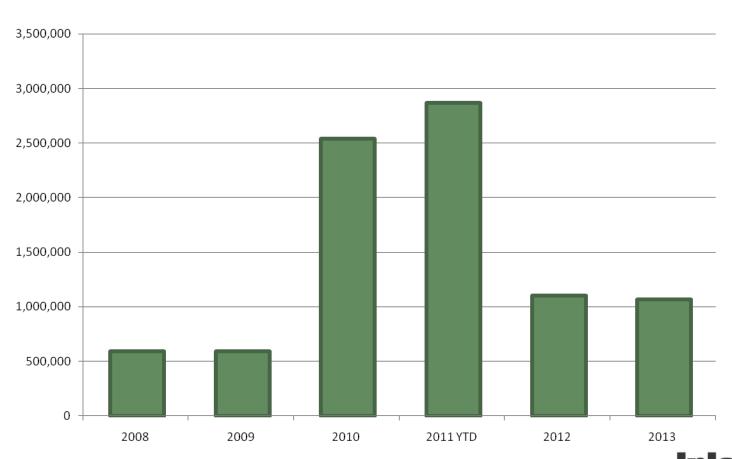


Figure ES-5
Achievable Conservation Potential for the Residential Sector by Measure Type



#### **BPA Funding**

## Change in funding model





#### **Conservation Issues Going Forward**

Tension between I-937 renewable requirements and conservation acquisitions

Changes needed – conservation first

Funding pressures

Measures will be more expensive

Lighting gone

Rural service area challenges

Measurement and verification

Rates will continue to outpace inflation



## Looming Prospect of Customer Problems

(Just over the horizon or, in some cases, already here)

- Rate increases will continue to outstrip inflation
  - Aging infrastructure, new resources, regulation
- Customers will blame utility
  - Difficulty looking past utility to underlying causes
- Increased credit and collection problems
- No silver bullet, but helping consumers use less energy is the best option for managing an increasingly challenging business case.
- So, in addition to all the important environmental reasons to use electricity more efficiently, delivering energy efficiency will be essential to utilities' future success