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2. A monthly newsletter from the NWGA for Pacific NW natural gas industry stakeholders and observers.



Let's Get Real on Energy: A New Conversation Starts Here

For too long, the energy conversation has been framed as a choice—gas or electricity, today's reliability or tomorrow's climate goals. It's a false choice, and it's time we said so.

Starting August 24, we're launching **"Let's Get Real on Energy,"** a year-long editorial series built around ten fundamental truths about how the Pacific Northwest actually powers itself. Drawing directly from the 2026 Pacific Northwest Gas Market Outlook, these [Ten Realities](#) cut through the noise with plain facts: nearly 10 million people across our region depend on natural gas every day. More than 350,000 businesses—from hospitals to food processors—run on it. And on the coldest days of winter, when our energy systems are truly tested, natural gas infrastructure carries the load that keeps homes warm and communities safe.

This isn't an argument against progress. It's an argument for honesty about what progress requires. As the Outlook makes clear, gas and electricity aren't competitors—they're partners in a single, interconnected system. Meeting rising demand from electrification and data centers, maintaining reliability through extreme weather, and keeping energy affordable for working families all depend on that partnership working well.

Over the next ten months, twice a month, we'll unpack each of these realities in depth: why infrastructure decisions made today determine reliability years from now, why some industries can't simply flip a switch to electric, and how the natural gas system is already decarbonizing through renewable natural gas, hydrogen blending, and methane reduction—without sacrificing the reliability people count on.

The goal isn't to pick sides. It's to ground the conversation in what's actually true, so we can build an **energy future that's reliable, affordable, and lower-carbon—together.**

Follow along on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, and catch the conversation daily on social media as we tag each post to its corresponding Reality.

Read the 2026 Pacific Northwest Gas Market Outlook by [clicking here](#).

Newsbits

Learn More About RNG in Washington

Interested in enhancing sustainable practices in Washington State? Dairy digesters play a vital role by processing manure, food waste, and other organic materials directly on farms, contributing significantly to organic matter management. Washington State University is hosting a compelling webinar series that offers valuable insights into operating successful dairy digesters, their link to the carbon market, and their essential role in our organics infrastructure. Don't miss the upcoming webinar on September 15 —discover how these systems can benefit your community and the environment. To register, [click here](#).

Powering the Northwest's Future: Draft Plan Targets Big Demand Growth With Renewables, Storage, and Efficiency

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has released a draft regional power plan forecasting electricity demand growth of 50% to 100% over the next 20 years, driven by data centers now and the electrification of transportation, buildings, and industry later. To meet that need through 2032, the plan recommends adding roughly 9,000 MW of renewables, 5,000 MW of energy storage, 2,100 MW of natural gas (mostly in Idaho and Montana), and large efficiency gains—averaging about 1,060 MW saved (with 80% of that in Oregon and Washington). Utilities across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana will use the portfolio as guidance during the 65-day public review period; [click here](#) to comment and [click here](#) to read the full article.

Oregon Cap-and-Invest Discussions

Gov. Kotek has convened a small group of stakeholders to begin discussing key principles for a possible move toward a state cap-and-invest (aka cap-and-trade) program in lieu of the existing state regulatory scheme, the Climate Protection Program (CPP). The CPP was adopted by the Department of Environmental Quality's policy-setting board and established a costly mechanism to charge certain fuels (think gasoline, natural gas, propane, etc.) for carbon emissions. The program is an outlier compared to those designed in other states and Canadian provinces. OBI has long sought a shift from the CPP to a more rational, market-based cap-and-invest program that would put Oregon on a more level playing field with states like Washington and California. Gov. Kotek's Prosperity Council included this transition in its [June report](#), and the governor [promptly agreed](#) that the transition is needed. Her stakeholder group is a step toward what ultimately must be a legislatively adopted program.

Oregon Transportation Survey

The Governor's Rebuilding Our Transportation Vision Workgroup has reached the halfway point, with all meetings available on [YouTube](#). After member feedback, a proposed public survey was revised and released on August 4. To make your voice heard, take a few minutes to fill it out here so business leaders' perspectives are heard by [clicking here](#).

PGE's Holding Company Bid Faces Sept. 25 Decision Amid Customer Protection Concerns

Portland General Electric is seeking Oregon regulators' approval to restructure as a subsidiary of a new holding company, arguing the move would lower its cost of capital and help fund the billions in grid investment needed to meet growing energy demand and clean energy targets. While PUC staff have agreed to recommend approval with customer safeguards—including a \$40 million rate credit—critics like the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board warn the structure could enable "double leverage" that benefits shareholders more than ratepayers. A final decision from the Oregon Public Utility Commission is expected by September 25. [Click here](#) to read the full story from RTO Insider.



NWGA | PO BOX 88 | Oregon City, OR 97045 US

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