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



WEBINAR: NWGA Outlook Study

July 30, 2026 | 12 - 1 p.m.

Kelly Fukai will present the key highlights of the 2026 Gas Outlook, which will cover the fundamentals of the market, the sources of our natural gas, the sufficiency of pipeline capacity, the causes of short-duration price volatility, how we use natural gas and the demand forecast, the availability of capacity margin for unexpected outages, and the industry's investments in decarbonization.

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Pacific Northwest Gas Market Outlook

Natural Gas Supply, Prices, Demand and Infrastructure Projections through October 2033

This report, compiled by the Northwest Gas Association (NWGA), provides a consensus industry perspective on the current and projected natural gas supply, prices, demand and delivery capabilities in the Pacific Northwest through the 2034/35 heating year (Nov-Oct). It includes a synopsis of the ongoing regional Gas-Electric Coordination Initiative facilitated by NWGA in partnership with Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC) and a summary of the themes from the Initiative's October 2025 Regional Energy Symposium. For purposes of this report, the Pacific Northwest includes British Columbia (BC), Idaho, Oregon and Washington.



NWGA Welcomes Jason Verduzco



On June 1, Jason Verduzco joined the NWGA as our Director of Advocacy and Outreach. In this leadership role, Jason will help advance NWGA's advocacy strategy across the Pacific Northwest, working with policymakers, regulators, member utilities, industry partners, and community stakeholders to support policies that promote energy reliability, affordability, innovation, and the continued evolution of the region's energy system.

Jason most recently served as Government Affairs Senior Manager at Verizon, where he led multi-state advocacy and government affairs efforts supporting the deployment of next-generation telecommunications infrastructure across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Hawaii, Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania. In that role, he helped advance major broadband and wireless infrastructure initiatives, managed legislative and regulatory engagement, developed executive policy strategy, and represented the company before policymakers, regulators, and public forums.

His background also includes public affairs and government relations leadership roles with ExteNet Systems and Boldyn Networks, where he worked extensively on infrastructure permitting, stakeholder outreach, and regulatory modernization.

Earlier in his career, Jason served with the Bonneville Power Administration, helping to facilitate the development of critical high-voltage transmission infrastructure across the Pacific Northwest, providing firsthand experience with the region's energy systems, regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure development challenges. Please join us in welcoming Jason!

Annual Energy Conference Highlights

The 2026 NW Gas Association Annual Energy Conference, held June 2–4 in Sunriver, Oregon, delivered a clear message: the Pacific Northwest has entered a new energy era defined by rapid load growth and tightening reliability margins.

The overriding message was that the Pacific Northwest's energy future requires flexibility and a balanced, diversified approach that includes natural gas infrastructure alongside clean energy resources. The challenge is no longer viewed as just a "gas issue" or an "electric issue," but as a shared energy-system problem that demands coordinated planning across sectors.

Key themes from the conference included significant projected resource adequacy shortfalls, the critical role of gas-electric interdependence during extreme weather events, and the value of practical solutions such as dual-fuel heating systems and renewable natural gas. To read the full after-action report, [click here](#).

2026 Energy Champion Award

NWGA is proud to recognize Mary Weinke with this year's Energy Champion Award for her exceptional leadership in heightening the awareness of the resource adequacy challenge in the Pacific Northwest. Mary has been a tireless advocate for grounding the region's energy adequacy conversation in data and rigorous analysis. She has consistently elevated the quality and credibility of a discussion that is too often driven by assumptions rather than evidence.



Through her work in organizing a regional cross-organizational series of studies produced by E3, Mary has helped make a compelling case for the importance of a diversified energy fleet, including the continued role of dispatchable natural gas resources, as the Pacific Northwest navigates the energy transition. Her collaborative approach, analytical rigor, and principled persistence have set a high bar for industry leadership.

We are grateful for Mary's contributions to a reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy future. We are honored to call her an Energy Champion.



2026 Hall of Honor Award

For 13 years, Grant Forsyth has been a fixture at the NWGA Annual Energy Conference. As Avista's go-to voice on the economic forecast, Grant has turned one of the most technically demanding segments of the program into one of the most anticipated. NWGA is proud to recognize him with this year's Honor Roll Award.

What sets Grant apart isn't just the depth of his analysis; it's how he delivers it. Armed with serious data and a well-timed sense of humor, he has a rare gift for making complex economic forces feel accessible, relevant, and even entertaining. In a room full of energy professionals watching GDP trends, employment counts, and interest rate projections scroll by, Grant has consistently been the person who makes you lean in rather than tune out.

Over more than a decade, his forecasts have helped conference attendees understand the economic headwinds and tailwinds shaping the energy sector. That kind of contribution is hard to measure, and harder to replace. Thank you for 13 years of keeping us informed, grounded, and entertained.

AEC Conference Prize Winners

Golf Contest Winners

Longest Drive

Men: Michael Brutocao.

Women: Eran Klein

Longest Putt

Jason Hewitt

Closest to the Pin

Mae Maciuleski

Trivia

Buddy Stanavich, City of Ellensburg

Icebreakers

Fred Weisberg, Weisburg Law

Justin Anderson, CMS Energy Advisors

Laura Green, Energy Trust of Oregon

Leaderboard

Joey Bissinnar, Radiate Energy

Brad Archuleta, UA 290

Clarissa Garcia, DRW

Newsbits

Northwest Power Plan to Embrace More Natural Gas

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council is set to recommend adding at least 2,000 megawatts of reliable natural gas power by 2032, recognizing it as an essential tool for keeping electricity rates affordable and the grid stable across the four-state region. Power planners confirm that natural gas remains the most cost-effective and dependable option for meeting the growing electricity demands of vehicles, buildings, and data centers. Industry experts are calling for a serious reassessment of restrictive clean energy legislation, acknowledging that natural gas is critical to maintaining grid reliability, particularly for communities in colder climates east of the Cascades, where dependable power is a matter of public safety. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Data Centers Aren't Washington's Biggest Electrical Grid Problem; It's Winter

Washington's electric and gas utilities are sounding the alarm that winter heating demand — not AI or data centers — is the region's most urgent grid reliability threat, warning that the Pacific Northwest will already face a 9-gigawatt power shortfall by 2030. The January 2024 cold snap, which nearly caused rolling blackouts, demonstrated that natural gas and electric systems are deeply interdependent, with direct gas use supplying over 70% of the region's energy needs on the coldest day. The two associations urge Washington State to embrace energy diversity — permitting new natural gas peaking capacity and aligning electrification mandates with grid buildout timelines — as the surest path to a reliable and affordable clean energy transition. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Constellation to Invest in Pine Creek RNG

Pine Creek RNG LLC has entered into a strategic partnership with Constellation Energy Corp, securing a minority investment in its five renewable natural gas facilities, which currently produce approximately 1.5 trillion Btu of biomethane annually. The agreement creates a framework to develop an additional 3.0 million MMBtus of RNG production per year, significantly expanding Pine Creek's portfolio and market reach. Backed by Constellation's marketing power and a rapidly growing U.S. biogas industry, Pine Creek is well-positioned to scale its operations and deliver greater value to customers seeking gas decarbonization solutions. [Click here](#) to read the full article.



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