

# THE WIRE

Energizing Life in Our Communities

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Employees celebrate the solar tree completion.

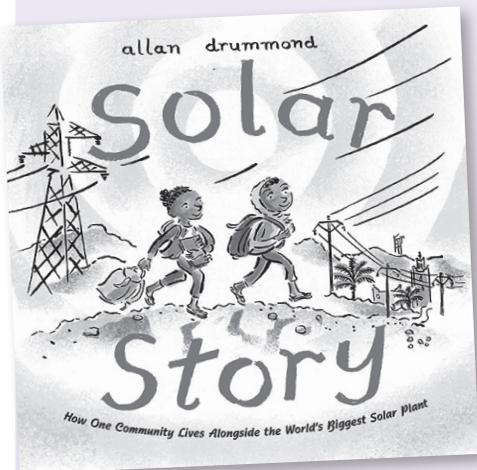
## Unveiling Our Solar Tree at Arlington Microgrid

**W**e recently energized a new solar tree at our Arlington Microgrid and Clean Energy Center. Part art installation and part renewable energy project, the solar tree is designed to demonstrate the benefits of solar power and battery storage on a small scale.

The solar tree is a structure in the shape of a small tree that generates solar power using multiple small solar panels and then stores it using an inverter and batteries. The tree's "leaves" absorb the sunlight, convert it into electricity, and then send it through the trunk-like pillar of the structure to internal batteries. Like the microgrid, the solar tree can be tied to the grid or islanded.

Our employees designed and built the custom-fabricated steel structure that makes up the solar tree and wired up the power conversion system and small battery storage system provided by Outback Power. We also installed colorful graphics and posters to help explain to future visitors how the solar tree functions and clean energy's many benefits to the environment.

## Check Out *Solar Story* to Learn All About Solar



Looking for an exciting and informative book for your young readers? Our *Reading Between the Lines* program has provided Everett Public Libraries and Sno-Isle Libraries with copies of *Solar Story*.

According to **Melody Leung, Youth Services Librarian at Everett Public Library**: "*Solar Story* not only introduces the inner workings of the largest concentrated solar plant in the world but also introduces the impact it has on a small village next to the plant in Morocco. This nonfiction picture book is told through the perspective of a child from the village. The student goes to school with a teacher who asks big picture questions, including questions about solar energy and sustainability. The text is accessible to the youngest of readers with the addition of back matter and side-panel information for those looking to dig deeper. Recommended for reading out loud to an audience as young as pre-K and independent reading for up to fifth grade."

Check out *Solar Story* at a branch of the Everett Public Library or Sno-Isle Libraries near you.

## Commission Meetings Return to In-Person

Our Board of Commissioners returns to in-person attendance during our regular commission meetings as of Tuesday, June 7. The public is welcome to attend commission meetings either in-person or virtual via Zoom.



Customer Service: 425-783-1000  
Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
1-877-783-1000 outside Everett and in Western WA

Pay Your Bill: 1-888-909-4628  
Online: [MY.SNOPUD.COM](http://MY.SNOPUD.COM)

## Our Innovative Thinking Helps Overcome Supply Chain Challenges

In addition to our recent challenges obtaining envelopes, we are currently facing supply chain challenges for essential products such as transformers, wire, cable, and other required materials.

The causes for these supply chain challenges are multiple and varied – ranging from pandemic-related labor and material shortages to supplies being diverted for national emergencies to direct competition for raw materials and parts with sectors that are experiencing booming growth.

Though these shortages are largely out of our control, we have developed a number of mitigation strategies:

- ▶ Emphasizing maintenance and reusing/recycling equipment
- ▶ Working with peer utilities to exchange surplus materials
- ▶ Establishing relationships with parallel vendors
- ▶ Developing new forecasting tools
- ▶ Rethinking stocking strategies to ensure continued access to materials
- ▶ Holding on to extra cash reserves to prepare for cost impact

We are confident that we will be well-equipped for the fall and winter storm season. We will continue to keep you updated on the situation and appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these unprecedented challenges. For more information, visit [snopud.com/supplychain](http://snopud.com/supplychain).



*Before I joined the PUD's FlexEnergy pilot, I'd never really thought about peak energy demand. The pilot helped me better understand why it matters that we consume less energy during peak times. To shift my usage away from peak periods, instead of starting my dishwasher after dinner, I delay it until later at night. I also do my laundry on the weekends, charge my electric vehicle overnight, and am more aware of what lights are on during those peak periods. As a high school environmental science teacher, I've engaged my students about how they heat their home and use energy in their lives.*

— Jenny L., Bothell

Enrollment for FlexEnergy is now closed. Interested in future programs like FlexEnergy? Visit [www.cvent.com/d/m7qgmf/3B](http://www.cvent.com/d/m7qgmf/3B).

## Stay Cool with July Power Talks



As the mercury rises this summer, customers who don't have air conditioning will inevitably wonder why they didn't install it in their homes over the winter. Our July Power Talks presentation will feature information on the best type of air conditioning system for your home, how to find a good contractor and more. Head to [snopud.com/power talks](http://snopud.com/power talks) to register for our July Power Talks.

## Remember last summer?



**Did you know heat pumps provide efficient cooling AND heating?**

We offer instant rebates **up to \$2,500** for installing a qualified heat pump in an electrically heated home.

*Equipment is in high demand – Get started now!*

**Connect to \$AVE!**  Some restrictions apply. Details at [snopud.com/cooling](http://snopud.com/cooling)