



Conservation News

March/April 2019

SEATTLE CITY LIGHT FUNDS GLACIER RECESSION RESEARCH

Seattle City Light recently funded a study which researched and forecasted the recession patterns of glaciers in our region. The research article, titled “Glacier Recession and the Response of Summer Streamflow in the Pacific Northwest United States, 1960–2099,” explores the recent recession patterns of these glaciers whose melt and water flow will impact hydroelectric power generation, agricultural water supply and the ecological health of the watersheds downstream. Along with funding a portion of the research, City Light advised on the scope of the project to provide insight into when stream flows were most important for power generation, recreation and fish protection.

Through hydrological modeling, the study found that primarily temperature-induced shrinking of glaciers will increase throughout this century. The model showed that the glaciers in the North Cascades could nearly disappear by the year 2100 if greenhouse gas emissions are not curbed.

For Ronda Strauch, City Light’s climate change adaptation researcher and advisor, this research is vital to not only the health of the glaciers but shapes how utilities that generate power with hydroelectricity like City Light will continue their operations in the future.

“We look to research like this for future predictions of inflows into the reservoirs and how much hydroelectric power our utility will be able to produce,” Ronda explains. “We wanted to make sure that glacier activity was added to this hydrologic model used in this research to get a better picture of stream flow into our reservoirs. This will help us decipher the long-term consequences of these melting glaciers.”

To read the rest of this story, search the phrase “glacier research” on our Powerlines blog at powerlines.seattle.gov.

FRIDGE EFFICIENCY

RENTER'S CORNER

Still trying to find ways to conserve energy? Look to your refrigerator! Here are a few tips from the Department of Energy* to make your fridge more energy efficient:

- Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold.
- Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight.
- Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.

For more money and energy-saving tips, visit seattle.gov/light/renterscorner.

*Source: energy.gov/energysaver/appliances-and-electronics/kitchen-appliances



Diablo Lake



Seattle City Light

seattle.gov/light



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2018 PERFORMANCE: OUR REPORT CARD

Seattle City Light's performance benchmarks show how we did reaching our goals for 2018. We pledge continued improvement in 2019 and beyond.

2018 GOAL	BENCHMARK	PERFORMANCE
Percent of calls answered within 60 seconds (Call Center managed by Seattle Public Utilities)	80%	65%
Frequency of unplanned outages (trees in lines, equipment failure, etc.) in minutes, per year, per customer	0.45	0.50
Length of unplanned outages in minutes per customer, per year	62.5	58.3
Number of inquiries per 1,000 customers	4	12.85
Number of days it takes to perform standard residential/small commercial electrical connections that require field service	40	39
Streetlight repair, response within 10 working days	90%	89%
Customer conservation savings for all customer groups (average megawatts)	12.25	14.41
Reduce/offset green-house gas emissions	100%	100%
Tree trimming near power lines to improve reliability (in miles)	420	373



AT WORK
in your neighborhood

Seattle City Light crews are in these neighborhoods, working to provide reliable service:

- Arroyo/South Arbor Heights: installing underground conduits, vaults and streetlights to replace aging infrastructure;
- Judkins Park: installing new and replacement poles, new wire, and equipment to improve reliability;
- Pioneer Square: increasing electrical reliability and supporting alley restoration by replacing old, damaged underground conduits;
- Snohomish County: installing new transmission line wire and equipment between substations to improve regional reliability;
- South Lake Union: installing vaults and conduits to connect customers with Denny Substation underground infrastructure.

This is a partial list. For details go to seattle.gov/light/atwork to access our map and learn about individual projects.



SAFETY TIP

"With 'Snowmageddon' in our rearview mirror, now is an excellent time to review your personal and family preparedness plans. The City of Seattle offers several resources to help you get started at seattle.gov/emergency."

Bryan Hovde
Emergency Management Strategic Advisor



SKAGIT TOURS RESERVATIONS OPENING SOON!

Explore the beauty and adventure that the Skagit River has to offer! Reservations for this summer's Skagit Tours open in April, so get your tickets early. For more information visit SkagitTours.com.

UPDATES COMING TO YOUR EBILLING!

We are improving the way you pay your City Light and SPU bills online, including enhanced ADA accommodations and the option to receive text alerts. Be sure to follow City Light on social media for updates!





Join the Seattle City Light Customer Forum

Have you ever wanted to share your views about the environment, the future of energy, your bill, or other Seattle City Light services?

We've created the Customer Forum to make it easier for your voice to be heard.

If you are interested in becoming part of our Customer Forum, go to CityLightCustomerForum.com to learn more and become a member.



Seattle City Light

IT ALL

ADD \$ UP

Are you in charge of your energy usage?

How does your energy use affect your bill? Well, it's like grocery shopping. You decide what's in your cart. Each item may be just a few dollars, but put them all in your cart and IT ALL ADDS UP!



Seattle City Light