



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle City Light

Jorge Carrasco, Superintendent

FACT SHEET

Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

2006

What is an Integrated Resource Plan?

An integrated resource plan or “IRP” is a long-range (typically 20-year) plan for a utility’s overall portfolio of electric resources.

An IRP produces a long-term resource strategy that identifies its preferred future mix of resources including:

1. **types** of resources to be included in the utility’s portfolio,
2. **amounts** of each type of resource, and
3. **timing** for changes to the types and amounts of resources.

In other words, an IRP provides a strategic framework and plan for future resource-decisions by the utility. Additional key characteristics of an IRP include the following:

- Consistent assumptions are used to evaluate a broad range of resource alternatives, including power supplies and improvements to the efficient consumption of electricity (i.e., conservation resources).
- High-level goals (e.g., cost minimization, risk management, environmental protection, and reliable service) are the criteria used to evaluate alternatives.
- Alternatives are evaluated in terms of net impacts on the utility’s overall resource portfolio.
- Key sources of risk and uncertainty are identified, and alternatives are tested across a range of potential future outcomes for the risk factors.
- Opportunities for public involvement are provided during development of the IRP.
- An action plan is included and defines steps the utility will take during the next several years toward implementing its long-term resource strategy.

Finally, development of an IRP is not a one-time exercise. In 2004, Seattle City Light announced it is committed to updating the IRP every two years. In 2006, the Washington State Legislature passed a law that among other things requires all large consumer-owned utilities that are not full requirements customers of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to prepare a detailed IRP and update it every two years. At the acceptance of the 2006 IRP by Seattle’s City Council, the process for the 2008 IRP will begin. An ongoing IRP process allows utilities to address new issues and incorporate updated information that becomes available between IRPs.

700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3300, PO Box 34023, Seattle, WA 98124-4023

Tel: (206) 684-3000, TDD: (206) 684-3225, FAX: (206) 684-3709; <http://seattle.gov/light>

An equal employment opportunity, affirmative action employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.

Seattle City Light is a publicly owned utility dedicated to exceeding our customers’ expectations in producing and delivering environmentally responsible, safe, low cost and reliable power.

We are committed to delivering the best customer service experience of any utility in the nation.