



CITY LIGHT REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

In Person - SMT

---or---

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Proposed Agenda

	Item	Lead
5 min	1. Welcome	Julie Ryan, Facilitator
	2. Public Comment	
5 min	3. Standing Items:	
	a. Chair's Report	Leo Lam
	b. Review of agenda	Julie Ryan
	c. Action: Review & approval of meeting minutes of May 4, 2026	
	d. Communications to Panel	Angela Bertrand
30 min	4. General Manager Update	Rob Santoff
30 min	5. Strategic Plan: External Communications Plan	Julie Moore
30 min	6. Review Panel Workplan	Julie Ryan
	7. Adjourn	

Next meeting: July 15

Draft Agenda Items: FIFA Update, Service Connections Update, Strategic Plan retrospective



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: MAY 4, 2026 | 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Meeting held in SMT 3204 and via Microsoft Teams

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Review Panel Members:					
Bruce Flory	x	Kerry Meade	x	Oksana Savolyuk	
Cristina Sima		Leo Lam	x	Ryan Monson	x
Joel Paisner	x	Louis Ernst	x	Toyin Olowu	x
City Light:					
Rob Santoff Int. GM/CEO	x	Julie Ryan RP Facilitator	x	Leigh Barreca	x
Dennis McLerran Dep. GM	x	Carsten Croff	x	Maura Brueger	x
Angela Bertrand	x	Kirsty Grainger	x	Colm Otten	x
Bridget Molina	x	Carol Albert	x	Mujib Lodhi	x
Brendan Armstrong	x	Julie Moore	x	Brittney Garcia-Stubbs	x
Chris Ruffini	x	Tarney Sheldon	x	Joon Sohn	x
Andy Strong	x			Jeff Wolf	x
Other Attendees:					
Paul Menefee	x	Christie Parker	x	Eric McConaghy	
David (no last name provided)	x	Julie Brown (public)	x	Justina Guyott	x
				1st Lt. EWAAB	x

Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

Public Comment:

- A commenter expressed concern about the growing reliance of data centers on the city’s electrical grid. They spoke with concern about nuclear technologies that are being tested elsewhere in eastern WA. They referenced new reactor designs, sharing her opinion that these technologies appear rushed, insufficiently reviewed, and potentially reliant on high-risk fuel. The commenter urged the city to view these developments as significant red flags and highlighted ecological, environmental, financial, and political risks associated with such systems.
- A speaker identifying as “First Lieutenant from the Eastern Washington Aryan Brotherhood” made white supremacist remarks. Panel members immediately objected; the speaker was muted and effectively disconnected, and the meeting continued after a brief pause.

Standing Items:

Chair’s Report. Leo Lam welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. The chair noted that a follow-up session for review panel members will take place at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the draft letter.



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Participants were reminded to use the separate Zoom link previously distributed for that session, which is limited to review panel members only.

Review Agenda. Julie Ryan reviewed the agenda.

Approval of April 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved.

Communications to Panel. Angela Bertrand and Bridget Molina

- Only one message came through the Review Panel mailbox – a customer had a question about their bill. It's been routed internally for response.

General Manager's Update. Interim GM/CEO Rob Santoff presented.

1. 2027 – 2028 Rate Ordinance

- Last Tuesday, we met with staff from the Mayor's executive teams to discuss our upcoming rate ordinance. The ordinance will set our rates for the next two years and will incorporate the three policy changes that we have discussed with you:
 - Large Load/Data Center Policy
 - Expansion of Utility Discount eligibility
 - Rate Stabilization Account (RSA) modification
- Today you will see the materials that were presented.
- We also had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor, where we provided a high-level overview of the strategic plan focus areas and the rate ordinance details.
- Both meetings went very well with City Light getting approval for the strategic plan, rate path and rate policy changes.

2. Renewable Plus

- After six years of dedicated work, Seattle City Light officially launched its Renewable Plus program last week. This voluntary program allows our large commercial and industrial customers to directly support the development of new renewable energy projects in the Pacific Northwest.
- Climate Pledge Arena, Amazon, and the Seattle Aquarium have signed on as our first participants. Through long-term agreements, they will help accelerate the transition to a 100% green power supply. Climate Pledge Arena announced their participation on Earth Day, celebrating their role as the first venue to adopt this model to expand their clean energy supply.
- The work included developing proposals, navigating legislative changes, designing a new rate structure, and integrating a new solar resource into our operational portfolio. In April 2024, we signed long-term power purchase agreements for two solar projects in Central Oregon. The first project, a 400-acre solar farm with 40 megawatts (MW), came online this month. (For our



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Seattle Kraken fans, that's the equivalent of 1,060 NHL hockey rinks!) The second project, targeted to begin operation next year, will have 47 MW. Together, these solar projects will have 87 MW of renewable capacity, enough to power 24,000 homes each year.

- While Renewable Plus participants aren't physically connected to the solar project, we track the renewable energy it generates and retire Renewable Energy Credits on participants' behalf, based on their annual electricity use. This provides verifiable proof that their energy use supports new clean power. These long-term agreements enable us to invest in new solar resources, adding renewable electricity to the regional power grid.

RP Member Comment:

A review panel member expressed strong support for the Renewable Plus Program.

3. Thanks to the Review Panel

- Today you will see the final, designed 2027 – 2032 Strategic Plan. A great deal of work went into developing this new plan and developing the rate path that is needed to support the work.

The Review Panel was thanked for its continued commitment to working with City Light staff. The questions raised and the critical insights shared helped ensure that City Light's strategic plan stays grounded in what customers and stakeholders value.

Strategic Plan: Final Draft Reveal. Manager of Strategic Planning and Organizational Performance, Angela Bertrand, presented. Final draft is in the packet.

Comment: Are these the new values City Light developed within the last 12 months.

A: Yes. There was a presentation to the Review Panel in September briefing them on the new values.

RP Member Comment:

A review panel member noted that the updated version of the strategic plan appears much improved and provides a clear, high-level summary.

Q: Do the additional two files sent earlier today to the Review Panel fit into this discussion of the strategic plan or do they fit into the upcoming presentation.

A: The financial forecast will be included as an appendix to the strategic plan document, consistent with prior years. Staff also noted that the second file with the proposed 2027–2028 rates provides the review panel visibility into the rates that will advance in the ordinance.

Retail Rates: Chief Financial Officer, Kirsty Grainger, presented. Materials are in the packet.



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Q: When was the most recent RSA surcharge ended? Or is still being applied and collected in customer bills.

A: The 4% RSA surcharge ended on March 31, resulting in a rate decrease at the end of that month. The new 9.5% increase can be viewed as effectively replacing that surcharge, though the net impact is somewhat lower because the 4 % is no longer being applied.

Q: Are there specific targets for the Utility Discount Program or is the goal to increase participation without specific numerical targets.

A: It was noted that the program does have enrollment targets. Staff shared that continued annual growth of roughly ten percent in enrollment may be the target, based upon the Mayor's accountability agreement regarding the expanded Utility Discount Program. The following highlights are from an internal City Light report regarding the UDP program expansion and enrollment were shared at the meeting:

In 2025, City Light expanded the UDP program participation rate from 32% to 37%; beginning in January with 34,173 customers enrolled in UDP and ending in December 2025 with 39,107. We use American Community Survey ACS data for ~107,000 customers in our service area at or below 70% SMI to calculate program participate rates.

City Light has expanded relationships with Affordable Housing Partners, executing over 25 data sharing agreements leveraging already income verified residents utilizing streamlined applications. This can enroll an additional 1200 or more customers annually. City Light also increased the bulk enrollment process with three of the larger Affordable Housing partners, Seattle Housing Authority, King County Housing Authority, and Bellwether Housing to quarterly uploads, which auto enrolls already income verified residents between 800-1000 customers at a time. City Light has updated its policy so if a customer is participating in SNAP, no other income documentation is required.

City Light expanded its partnership with Public Health Seattle King County's (PHSKC) Outreach and Engagement Team so customers enrolling in King County Energize Program, Apple Health, and Orca Lift can easily enroll in UDP at the same time. And City Light partners with Puget Sound Energy on outreach events making it more convenient for customers to enroll at community-based organization trusted partners hosting events across our service area. And City Light is exploring cross enrollment with city and county programs and longer-term data sharing opportunities with Washington State benefit programs.

In 2025 City Light completed over 60 outreach events pivoting from only program awareness to enrolling customers into assistance programs onsite at in person events. For



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

2026, City Light has a goal to increase UDP enrollment by 10% from approximately 39,000 customers to 43,000. As of March 2026, we are at 40,034 customers participating in UDP.

Q: Do the estimated 30,000 additional individuals represent new participants in the Utility Discount Program, or is that the total number of people who could become eligible?

A: The change in eligibility thresholds would create approximately 30,000 additional qualified participants. This reflects individuals who would become newly eligible, not necessarily new enrollees; these are people who could sign up under the revised limits.

It was also noted that, for 2026, the Utility Discount Program aims to increase enrollment by 10%, rising from approximately 39,000 to 43,000 participating customers.

Q: The earlier figures seem to imply there are roughly 100,000 eligible households.

A: There are approximately 107,000 customers in the service territory who are at or below 70% of the state median income.

Q: With the new threshold adding another 31,000 eligible households bringing the total to about 137,000, would it be reasonable to expect more participation among households that are already close to the existing threshold? In other words, do you anticipate higher enrollment among lower income groups, rather than a large increase from those who are newly eligible but closer to the upper end of the threshold? Do you think raising the threshold will increase participation in the lower income quintiles?

A: It is not yet known. Participation patterns are difficult to predict, and it is often unclear why eligible customers choose not to enroll. Ongoing efforts include outreach, human centered design, and community engagement to better understand barriers. It is possible that more customers at lower income levels may enroll, or that those closer to the upper threshold may participate because they have more capacity to engage with program materials. At this point, it is hard to determine how enrollment will shift.

Q: Residential customers may wonder why the high demand customer group is receiving a smaller rate increase than residential customers. Could you explain why the increase for high demand customers is lower than the system average of 9.5%? And can you elaborate on what is meant by their "usage profile"?

A: The smaller increase for high demand customers is primarily driven by changes in their consumption patterns, which slightly reduce their relative cost of energy. Their usage profile affects how energy costs are allocated, such as the balance between peak and off-peak consumption and their seasonal usage (such as how much they use during higher cost winter months versus lower cost shoulder seasons). Small shifts in these patterns can result in a rate



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

increase that is slightly lower than the system average.

Q: This is the first time I've noticed that the base service charge is essentially doubling over two years, which feels like a radical change to the rate structure. Was there a reason to move so quickly? Would a slower transition have produced a more balanced impact across different customer types?

A: While the change may look dramatic, the actual dollar impact to customers is relatively small—roughly the difference between about one dollar and fifty cents per month. This shift will cover City Light's fixed customer costs. Moving in this direction is important because customer behavior is shifting: more customers are generating their own electricity, and electricity usage patterns are becoming more diverse. Achieving full distribution fixed cost recovery in the future will become increasingly critical in this context.

Q: How do other utilities with higher levels of rooftop solar penetration handle rate design, and does Seattle need to move just as quickly?

A: Seattle's relatively low rooftop solar penetration means it does not need to adopt rapid changes like those seen in high solar regions such as Arizona. However, adjustments to rate design may become necessary over time as local conditions evolve.

May 20th Agenda. Strategic Plan and Rate Path Updates

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Next meeting: May 20, 2026, 9:00am-11:00am

Strategic Plan and Rate Increase

Customer Communications and Outreach & Engagement

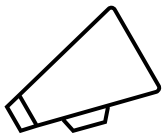
Overview

- General communications approach
 - The content
 - Channels / tactics
- The storytelling roadmap:
 - Before
 - Now
 - Next
- Deeper dive into community outreach and engagement

Communications Approach



- Powerlines blog
 - Space for a deeper dive into topics that directly or indirectly support the narrative
 - Allows for cross-connecting topics
 - Media often links here or adopts our language



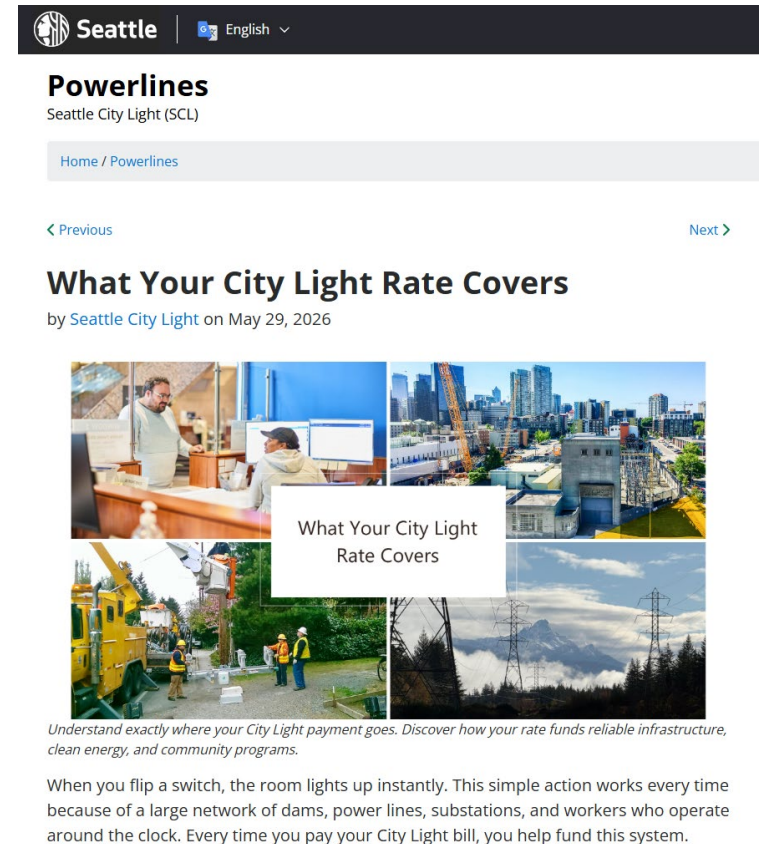
- Social media, customer newsletters, targeted emails (key accounts), earned media
 - Amplify messages through other channels and link back to Powerlines or web pages
 - Easy to share – Mayor's Office, City Council, departments

Communications Approach

- Public-facing storytelling that captures:
 - Basic education (e.g., what your rate covers)
 - Needs and cost pressures
 - Stewardship of ratepayer dollars
 - How customers benefit from our investments
 - **How we can help** – bill assistance, managing energy use

Before

- [Introducing our New Time of Use Rate](#)
- [Mayor Wilson Signs Landmark Settlement on Dam Operations](#)
- [What Your City Light Rate Covers](#)
- [Securing a Reliable Power Grid](#)



The screenshot shows the Seattle City Light website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Seattle logo and a language dropdown set to English. Below this is the 'Powerlines' section header, followed by 'Seattle City Light (SCL)'. A breadcrumb trail shows 'Home / Powerlines'. Navigation links for '< Previous' and 'Next >' are visible. The main article title is 'What Your City Light Rate Covers' by Seattle City Light on May 29, 2026. The article features a collage of images: a customer service interaction, a city skyline, a power substation, and utility workers. A text box over the collage reads 'What Your City Light Rate Covers'. Below the images is a paragraph: 'Understand exactly where your City Light payment goes. Discover how your rate funds reliable infrastructure, clean energy, and community programs.' At the bottom, another paragraph explains: 'When you flip a switch, the room lights up instantly. This simple action works every time because of a large network of dams, power lines, substations, and workers who operate around the clock. Every time you pay your City Light bill, you help fund this system.'

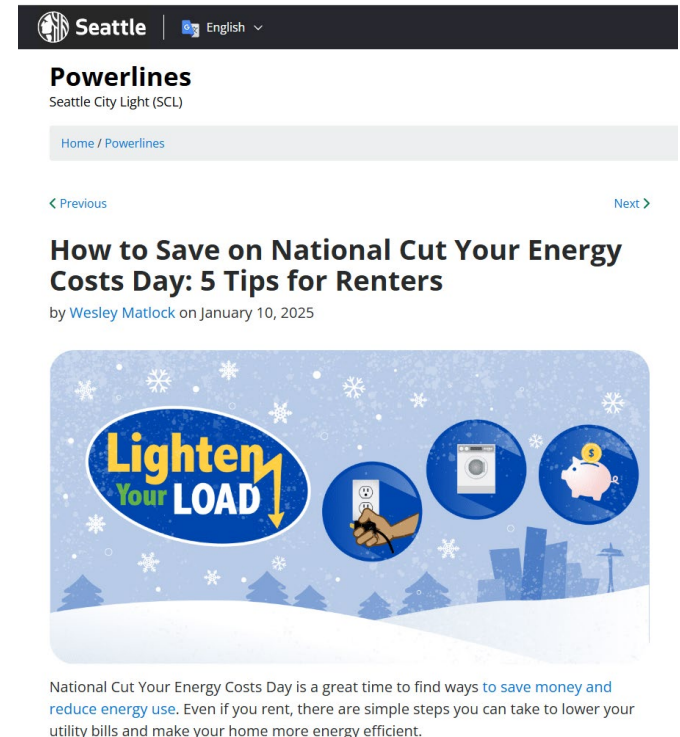
Now

- Proposed New Large Data Center Load Policy
- Utility Assistance summary (joint post with SPU)
- Preview with the Seattle Times – 6/16
- Introducing the Strategic Plan/proposed rate increase – 6/17

The screenshot shows the Seattle Utility Assistance website. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the Seattle logo, a language dropdown set to 'English', and 'Login' and 'Help' buttons. The main content area features a dark grey banner with the headline 'One Application. Multiple Utility Assistance Programs.' and the sub-headline 'Save money on electric and water bills'. Below this, there is a paragraph of text: 'Apply here for Utility Discount Program, Bill Assistance from Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light, and City Light's Project Share.' and a blue 'Apply Now' button. A small link below the button says 'Or, Download a Paper Application'. To the right of the text is a photograph of a man and a woman looking at a laptop. Below the banner is a light blue section titled 'See if you might qualify based on your household size and income'. It contains two input fields: 'Household Size' (with a dropdown menu showing '1 person') and 'Household Income' (with a text input field showing '\$0'). There are radio buttons for 'Monthly' (selected) and 'Yearly'. A blue 'Check for Programs' button is positioned to the right of the income field.

Next

- Upcoming & ongoing campaigns
 - Utility Assistance – paid social media, outreach & engagement
 - Lighten Your Load – energy efficiency tips, promoting programs
 - Time of Use – targeted marketing for likely enrollees (e.g., EV owners)
- Additional Powerlines posts
 - Integrated Resource Plan
 - Infrastructure project updates
 - Other 101 ideas?



Next

- Q4 26 – Reminder of rate increase effective Jan. 1, 2027
 - Blog post
 - Community Connections (email)
 - Light Reading (bill)
 - Resource handout
- Q1 27 – Continued support
 - Utility Assistance
 - Lighten Your Load

**Seattle City Light
Rate Increase Information**

On Jan. 1, 2024, Seattle City Light will implement new rates adopted by the Seattle City Council in 2022. In addition to a 4.5% base rate increase, City Light is applying two automatic surcharges: a 1% increase for projected higher costs from the Bonneville Power Administration in 2024 and a temporary 4% Rate Stabilization Account surcharge due to high power market prices in 2023.

Combined, City Light expects an overall increase of approximately 10% for most customers. Please visit our Powerlines blog for more information.

Are you struggling to pay your electricity bill?
City Light offers flexible payment plans for all customers. For income-eligible residential customers, City Light has bill assistance programs available. Visit seattle.gov/UtilityBillHelp or call (206) 684-3000 Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m. to discuss your options.

Want to increase energy efficiency and lower your bills?
Contact an Energy Advisor today. Email SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov or call (206) 684-3800 Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Are you a small or medium business owner?
Call (206) 256-5200 Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. to discuss customized support for your business.

seattle.gov/city-light

Seattle City Light

seattle.gov/city-light

Instagram Facebook LinkedIn X

seattle.gov/city-light Instagram Facebook LinkedIn X

Outreach & Engagement

Promoting Utility Assistance



Outreach & Engagement Framework

- Communications leading, partnering with divisions across utility
- Meeting people where they are
- Reducing barriers
- Partnering with trusted community organizations
- Working with Department of Neighborhoods Community Liaisons
- Co-designing new engagement resources



Promoting Utility Assistance in Community

- **City Light Communications:** Powerlines post, customer newsletters, and social media campaign (paid)
- **Community Resource Fairs:** We participate in resource fairs hosted by community service providers
- **City Light Community Engagement:**
We are sharing info about utility assistance whenever City Light is tabling at community events and when presenting at community meetings

By the numbers: In-person UDP engagement

- **215%** increase from 2024 to 2025
- **60** events in 2025
- **60+** events in 2026 (so far)

In-Person Enrollment Support

- **Human Services Department Community Connectors:**
Partnership with 10+ area food banks
- **Partnering with Affordable Housing Providers and Public Health – Seattle & King County:** Using a streamlined process to enroll qualified customers
- **Enrollment Support at Community Hubs:** Libraries, Senior Centers, and service providers
- **Joint Sign-Up Events with Puget Sound Energy:** Working with PSE to provide opportunities for customers to access affordability resources in one place

Sampling of Upcoming Events

- Byrd Barr Place Block Party
- Community Roots Housing 50th Picnic
- Seattle Senior Resource Fair

THANK YOU



Seattle City Light



Seattle City Light

seattle.gov/city-light



Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Seattle City Light provides our customers with affordable, reliable, safe, and environmentally responsible energy services.

Vision

Create a shared energy future by partnering with our customers to meet their energy needs in whatever way they choose.

Values

- Dream big. Be brave. Improve. Never stop learning.
- Collaborate intentionally, listen deeply, achieve more together.
- We serve with care.
- My voice matters: I can make a difference.
- Safety and integrity—no exceptions.
- Accountability in every action, pride in our craft.
- Protect the people, preserve the planet, power the future.
- Grace guides us, empathy connects us, respect unites us.

DRAFT 5-29-26

June 2026 – May 2028 Review Panel Workplan

The schedule objectives include:

- Quarterly reports of Executive Dashboard/Strategic Plan, Workforce, and Financial Updates (incl. debt strategy & RSA)
- Twice annual updates on load forecast, service connections progress, and outages
- Annual updates on net wholesale revenue, electrification progress, and debt strategy metrics
- Other topics as available

Quarter	Month	Rotating Standing Topic	Topics	Other Topics As Available
Q2 2026	June 17		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Status report on new 2027-2032 Strategic Plan ○ Status of Large Load Policy ○ 2026 Goals • Review Panel Workplan • Comms Plan for 2027 Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skagit re-licensing updates • Demand Response/ Demand Side Programs • Grid Transformation Updates • Tech Roadmap update • DERMS • Asset Management • Direct Buried Cable • Distribution System Projects • Outages deep dive • Markets Decision <p>To be added: Strategic Plan (timeline TBD.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strat Plan Kick-Off (Q2 2027) • Set/Decide Priorities • SWOT • Outreach Overview • Context Workshop • Priorities & Outcomes • 2027 Plan: Accomplishments and Gaps • Suggestions for Plan
Q3 2026	July 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Light Financials Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ + RSA, Bond Updates, Cost of Service RFP • Workforce Update (vacancies, culture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Connections Update • FIFA Wrap-up • Strategic Plan Retrospective 	
	<i>August</i>		<i>No meeting</i>	
	September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Light Metrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update from on new GM recruiting • Utility Assistance Programs: Overview • Time of Use • Demand Response Strategy & Roadmap 	
Q4 2026	October 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Light Financials Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • + RSA, NWR, Debt Metrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Forecast Planning Initiatives • TESIP/EV Charging • Strategic Planning Process Overview 	
	November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Update (vacancies, culture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Supply Readiness Report • Strategic Planning Process Overview • Distributed Energy Resources Strategy & Roadmap 	
	<i>December 16</i>		<i>Tentative: Proposed no meeting?</i>	
Q1 2027	January (date TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Priorities 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility Assistance Update Cost of Service + Rate Design Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Content Review RP Questions on Draft Strat Plan RP Questions on Draft Rate Path Letter
	February (date TBD)	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Solar Demand Side Management Potential Assessment 	
	March (date TBD)	• City Light Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Connections Update Energy Resources & Long Term Contracts 	
Q2 2027	April (date TBD)	• City Light Financials Update + RSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm Review Panel officers – Chair and Co-Chair Customer Survey Results Outages Update 	
	May (date TBD)	• Workforce Update (vacancies, culture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Update System Load Forecast + Resource Adequacy 	
	June (date TBD)	• City Light Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Resource Plan Summer Supply Readiness Report Clean Energy Implementation Plan Update 	
Q3 2027	July (date TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Light Financials Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + RSA, Bond Update, Debt Metrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology update Strategic Plan update outreach 	
	<i>August</i>		<i>No meeting</i>	
	September (date TBD)	• City Light Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility Assistance Update Service Connection Update 	
Q4 2027	October (date TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Light Financials Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSA, NWR, Debt Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TESIP/EV Charging 	
	November (date TBD)	• Workforce Update (vacancies, culture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Supply Readiness Report Demand Side Management Potential Assessment 	
	<i>December</i>	•	<i>Tentative: Proposed no meeting?</i>	
Q1 2028	January (date TBD)	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Priorities 	
	February (date TBD)	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility Assistance Update 	
	March (date TBD)	• City Light Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Connection Update Customer Survey Results 	
Q2 2028	April (date TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Light Financials Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSA, NWR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outages Update 	
	May (date TBD)	• Workforce Update (vacancies, culture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Update System Load Forecast 	

	June (date TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City Light Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Supply Readiness Report	
--	-----------------	--	--	--