



Scoping Document

For Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Battery Energy Storage System Facilities in Washington State

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Olympia, Washington

September 2026, Publication 26-06-017



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Cover photo credit: Portland General Electric

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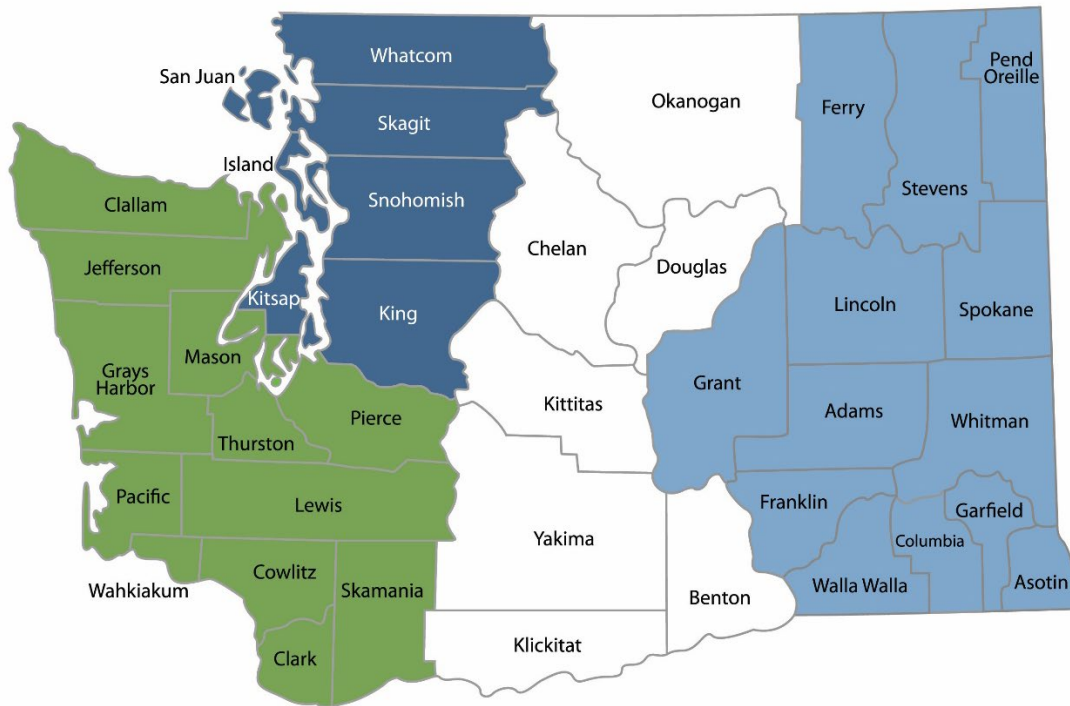
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¹ <https://climate.wa.gov/>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/contact-us>

Department of Ecology's Regional Offices

Map of Counties Served



Southwest Region
360-407-6300

Northwest Region
206-594-0000

Central Region
509-575-2490

Eastern Region
509-329-3400

Region	Counties served	Mailing Address	Phone
Southwest	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum	PO Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6300
Northwest	Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom	PO Box 330316 Shoreline, WA 98133	206-594-0000
Central	Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima	1250 W Alder St Union Gap, WA 98903	509-575-2490
Eastern	Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman	4601 N Monroe Spokane, WA 99205	509-329-3400
Headquarters	Across Washington	PO Box 46700 Olympia, WA 98504	360-407-6000

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Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, WA

September 2026



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

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Acronyms and Abbreviations List

BESS	battery energy storage systems
CCA	Climate Commitment Act
CETA	Clean Energy Transformation Act
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
IFC	International Fire Code
MW	megawatt
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
PEIS	programmatic environmental impact statement
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
UL	Underwriters Laboratories
WAC	Washington Administrative Code

Summary

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is preparing a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) for utility-scale lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) facilities in Washington.

A PEIS is a type of nonproject environmental review used for planning under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). A PEIS analyzes general types of facilities—not individual projects—to identify probable significant adverse environmental impacts and possible ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts. A PEIS:

- Provides information for project applicants, SEPA lead agencies, permitting agencies, Tribes, interested parties, and the public.
- Helps developers understand potential impacts and make siting and design choices that could avoid or minimize impacts from the start.
- Identifies how impacts could be mitigated.

Scoping

Ecology is asking for feedback and input

Scoping is the first step in developing a PEIS. The purpose is to seek public comment on the environmental issues that should be studied. This scoping document includes initial information for feedback and input on:

- Types of facilities to be evaluated
- Assumptions to identify the geographic scope of study used for the PEIS analysis
- Potential impacts to environmental resources to analyze
- Potential mitigation measures to consider

Resources being considered for analysis

The PEIS will analyze potential significant adverse environmental impacts to the following resources:

- Tribal rights, interests, and resources
- Environmental justice
- Earth resources
- Air quality and greenhouse gases
- Water resources
- Biological resources (species and habitats)
- Energy and natural resources
- Environmental health and safety
- Noise and vibration
- Land use

- Aesthetics and visual quality
- Recreation
- Historic and cultural resources
- Transportation
- Public services and utilities
- Cumulative impacts

Geographic scope of study

The scoping phase looks statewide. The scope of the PEIS will be limited to the potential significant adverse environmental impacts in geographic areas that are suitable for BESS facilities.

Scoping comment period: September 1 – October 1, 2026

Scoping comments will be accepted from **noon on September 1, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. on October 1, 2026**. There are multiple ways to comment and provide feedback. All comments are valued equally. Information on how to comment and the virtual meetings is available on our [website](#).³

Online comment form: <https://ecology.commentinput.com?id=W5M3PBcHV>

Virtual meetings: information and links to register at <https://ecology.wa.gov/BESS>

September 15, 2026, starting at 9:00 a.m.

September 23, 2026, starting at 1:00 p.m.

U.S. Postal Service:

Clean Energy Coordination
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47709
Olympia, WA 98504-7709

Next steps

Ecology will consider comments received during scoping and use them to develop the Draft PEIS. There will be a public comment period for the Draft PEIS, which is planned for release in early summer 2027. After we receive public comments on the Draft PEIS, we will consider them and determine if additional work is needed. The Final PEIS is planned for release in 2028. It is important to note that future BESS facilities will need individual environmental review under SEPA using project- and site-specific information.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/clean-energy/programmatic-eis/battery-storage>

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this scoping document

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is preparing a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) for stand-alone, utility-scale, lithium-ion battery energy storage systems (BESS) facilities in Washington.

A PEIS is a type of nonproject environmental review used for planning under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). A PEIS analyzes general types of facilities—not individual projects—to identify probable significant adverse environmental impacts and possible ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those impacts.

Ecology previously evaluated BESS co-located at [utility-scale solar](#)⁴ and [utility-scale onshore wind](#)⁵ facilities in PEISs released in 2025. These studies looked at combined facilities that covered large areas and were not likely to be located in or near cities. This PEIS will focus on stand-alone BESS facilities which are not located with other types of clean energy generation. These types of facilities would be smaller in overall size and could be sited in a variety of locations. Analysis from the other PEISs will be used as applicable.

Scoping is the first step in developing a PEIS. The purpose is to seek public comment on the environmental issues that should be studied. This scoping document includes initial information for feedback and input on:

- Types of facilities to be evaluated
- Assumptions to identify the geographic scope of study used for the PEIS analysis
- Potential impacts to environmental resources to analyze
- Potential mitigation measures to consider

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September 15, 2026, starting at 9:00 a.m.

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⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506002.html>

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506003.html>

U.S. Postal Service:

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Documents and information on how to comment and virtual meetings are available on our [website](#).⁶

We will consider comments received during scoping and use them to develop the Draft PEIS. There will be a public comment period for the Draft PEIS, which is planned for release in early summer 2027. After we receive public comments on the Draft PEIS, we will consider them and determine if additional work is needed. The Final PEIS is planned for release in 2028.

It is important to note that a PEIS is not a review of a specific project. The PEIS will evaluate potential significant environmental impacts for general types of lithium-ion BESS facilities. It provides information for project applicants, SEPA lead agencies, permitting agencies, Tribes, interested parties, and the public. A PEIS helps developers understand potential impacts and make siting and design choices that could avoid or minimize impacts from the start. It also identifies how impacts could be mitigated. Proposed BESS facilities will need individual environmental review under SEPA using project- and site-specific information.

The PEIS development process will include early and meaningful Tribal engagement and consultation on Tribal rights, interests, and resources. The PEIS will consider impacts to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations and provide opportunities for local communities to voice concerns early in the process so they can be considered in the impact analysis.

1.2 SEPA process

[SEPA](#)⁷ is intended to provide information to state and local agencies, project applicants, and the public to encourage the development of proposals that avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts. The SEPA environmental review process provides a way to identify and assess alternatives, probable environmental impacts, and mitigation and to provide information to the public, Tribes, and agencies. The process helps decision makers and the public understand how a proposed action would affect the natural and built environments. This environmental information, along with other documents, is used by decision makers to decide whether to approve a proposal, approve the proposal with conditions, or deny the proposal.

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/clean-energy/programmatic-eis/battery-storage>

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review>

Ecology is the lead agency for this PEIS process. Ecology will prepare a PEIS under SEPA requirements described in [Chapter 43.21C](#)⁸ Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and [Chapter 197-11 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#).⁹

1.3 PEIS process

The PEIS will consider potential significant impacts from general types of utility-scale lithium-ion BESS facilities; it is not site-specific or for a specific project. It will evaluate environmental impacts over a broad geographic and time horizon, and the depth and detail of the impact analysis will be fairly general, focusing on major impacts in a qualitative manner. Mitigation will also be identified at a high level.

The PEIS will not assess site-specific issues associated with any individual BESS facility development project. Location-specific factors (e.g., soil type, groundwater availability and presence of jurisdictional waters, habitat, vegetation, the presence of threatened and endangered species, and the presence of cultural resources) vary considerably from site to site. The effects of location- and project-specific factors cannot be fully anticipated or addressed in a programmatic analysis; such effects must be evaluated at the project level.

SEPA analyses for proposed BESS projects would tier to the PEIS. “Tiering” means when a broad nonproject evaluation is later used for a project. Tiering can result in a more effective environmental analysis process for projects.

A PEIS does not approve or deny a proposed project. State and local agencies will use the information in this PEIS, along with other publicly available information and site-specific details, to inform project-level environmental reviews and permitting.

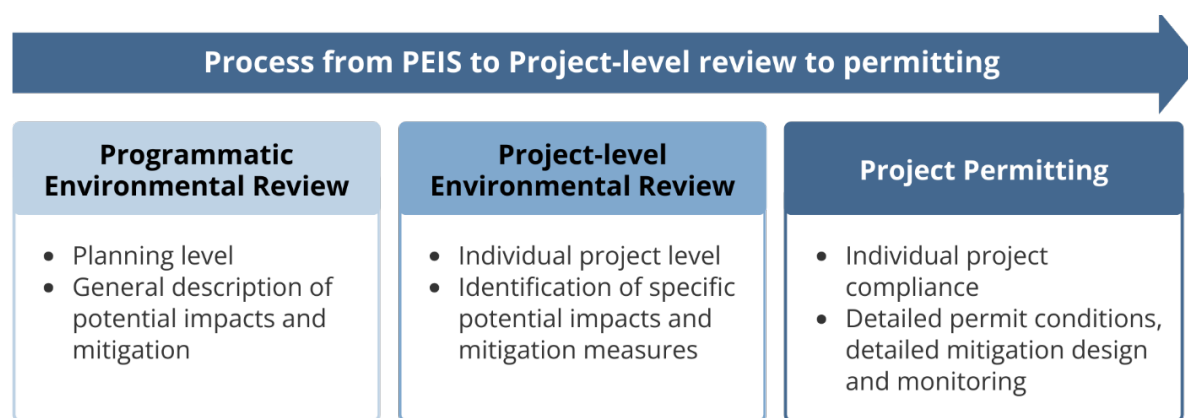


Figure 1. Process from PEIS to project-level review to permitting

⁸ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.21c>

⁹ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=197-11>

1.4 How PEISs are used

A PEIS:

- Provides information for project applicants, SEPA lead agencies, permitting agencies, Tribes, interested parties, and the public.
- Helps developers understand potential impacts and make siting and design choices that could avoid or minimize impacts from the start.
- Identifies how impacts could be mitigated.

Local, state, and federal agencies may use PEISs that have previously been prepared in order to help evaluate proposed actions, alternatives, environmental impacts, or mitigation for a proposed project. Each agency will ensure that the PEIS analysis is valid when applied to the project proposal. If it is not valid, the analysis must be re-evaluated in the project-level environmental review or permit.

1.4.1 PEIS informs project-level SEPA reviews

When an applicant submits a project proposal, a project-level SEPA environmental review is done by the appropriate lead agency as required by the SEPA Rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC). Lead agencies conducting environmental review of BESS facilities may consider the PEIS in order to identify and mitigate project-level probable significant environmental impacts. A project-level review must address any probable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposal that were not analyzed in the PEIS. The review must identify any mitigation measures specific to the project for probable significant adverse environmental impacts.

1.4.2 PEIS informs permitting decisions

No final permit decisions can be made until a project-level SEPA environmental review is finished. The PEIS, project-level environmental review, and other documents and studies are used by decision makers to decide whether to approve a proposal, approve the proposal with conditions, or deny the proposal.

Permits ensure that projects comply with all applicable state environmental standards to protect land, air, water, wildlife, and people. The required permits for a project depend on its location and the construction and operations involved. A project may need local, state, and federal permits, and each permit has its own regulatory authority and regulatory agency. Information about specific permits can be found in the Washington State [Regulatory Handbook](https://www.oria.wa.gov/site/alias___oria/403/regulatory-handbook.aspx).¹⁰

¹⁰ https://www.oria.wa.gov/site/alias___oria/403/regulatory-handbook.aspx

2 Washington State Clean Energy Overview

Washington state is committed to fighting climate change and achieving the state's greenhouse gas emission limits. Clean energy projects help do this and also improve air quality, support energy resiliency, and grow family-wage clean energy jobs. Innovative clean energy businesses provide economic benefits across the state and ensure secure domestic sources of energy products needed to transition off fossil fuels.

The state has set clear requirements of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and utilities must have 100% renewable or zero-carbon electricity by 2045. The [Energy Independence Act](#),¹¹ [Clean Energy Transformation Act](#)¹² (CETA), and the [Climate Commitment Act](#)¹³ (CCA) are among the key laws that signal clean energy development in the state. These goals can be met using a variety of clean energy resources.

2.1 Energy landscape in Washington

Hydroelectric power accounts for almost half of Washington electricity production. Most of this is generated from dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Figure 2 shows the [energy sources for utilities in 2024](#).¹⁴ It is important to note that coal was phased out as an energy source in 2025. Natural gas, wind, nuclear, and solar contribute to the energy mix, as well as biomass, which primarily consists of wood and wood waste.

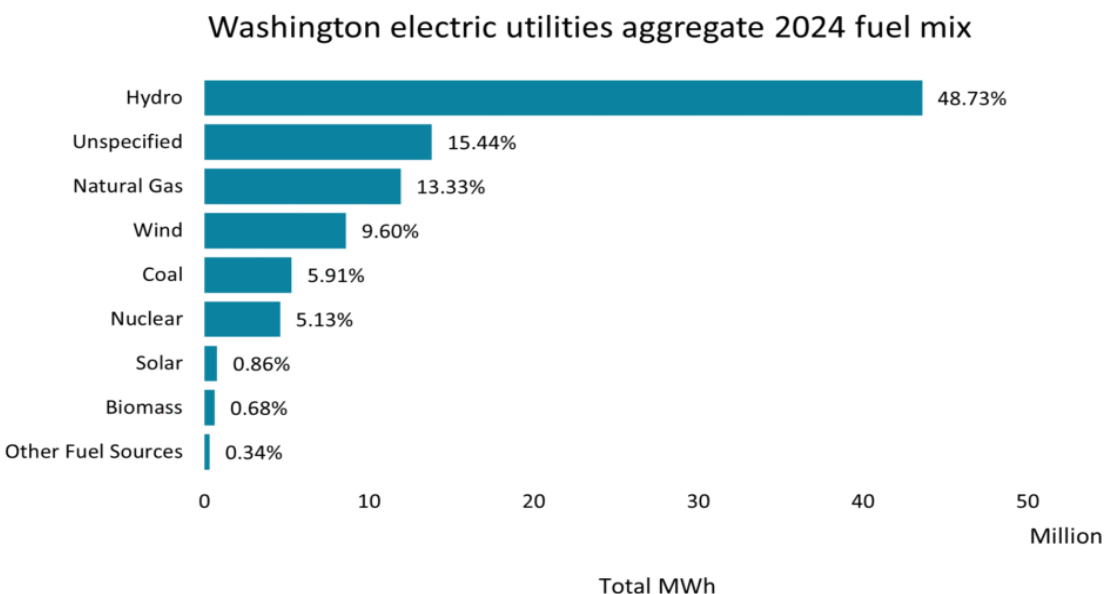


Figure 2. Washington electric utilities aggregate 2024 fuel mix

¹¹ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=19.285>

¹² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=19.405>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/air-climate/climate-commitment-act>

¹⁴ <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/energy-policy/electricity-policy/fuel-mix-disclosure/>

Washington's growing economy and population, as well as its energy and climate policies, require significant additional investments in clean energy resources, including utility-scale, or large, electricity generation, storage, and transmission assets. Additionally, increased variability in weather conditions due to climate change leads to greater risk of power outages during extreme hot or cold events and can affect grid resiliency. Clean energy can improve the affordability and resiliency of our electrical grid because it is not affected by changing fossil fuel prices or international trade, can be sited locally, and does not rely on one type of energy. Microgrids using clean energy can provide backup power in emergencies.

Transmission capacity is a key constraint for energy growth because utility-scale clean energy sources are not necessarily located near cities or large electricity users. This means electricity must often be moved over large distances. There has not been significant investment in the state or regional electrical grid for many years, so getting additional electricity from its generating sources to users will require significant increases in both in-state and interstate electrical transmission capacity.

The building of our electrical infrastructure would be needed with or without clean energy growth and Washington's energy picture is made more complex by the projected rapid growth of large electricity users, such as data processing and artificial intelligence computing. Washington's [Comprehensive Climate Action Plan](#)¹⁵ shows electricity energy demand will more than double by 2050.

3 Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)

3.1 BESS overview

3.1.1 What is a BESS?

BESS store energy during periods of power surplus and release it during peak demand. This supports efforts to improve the electrical grid to address increasing demand, ensure reliability, increase resiliency, and integrate clean energy. They help stabilize the electrical grid and improve how intermittent clean energy sources, like solar and wind, can be used effectively by storing surplus power generation and releasing it later when it is needed most. BESS can also be used as emergency back-up power and in microgrids to provide power to remote or underserved areas.

BESS stand-alone facilities charge their batteries directly off the grid and provide power back when needed by utilities. A BESS can also be co-located, or paired, with clean energy generation facilities to make solar and wind facilities more effective in providing energy.

There are multiple types of battery technologies; however, most BESS proposed for development in the United States, including Washington, use lithium-ion batteries. These

¹⁵ <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/bo1ly7ol0lfq4kof220y9exp7886view>

batteries are stored in a series of self-contained enclosures located outside or within a warehouse-type enclosure (DOE 2024).

A BESS includes the following:

- Battery storage modules on racks or in containers with inverters, isolation transformers, and switchboards
- Converters that convert AC power to DC power for storage
- High-voltage, medium-voltage, and low-voltage electrical systems
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units
- Building auxiliary electrical systems
- Fire suppression and prevention systems
- Control system, usually including data acquisition system

BESS are typically installed in a fenced area cleared of vegetation and surfaced with gravel (Figure 3). A BESS installation may feature multiple containers or enclosures. Battery containers are typically 40 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 8.5 feet tall, installed on concrete foundations, and designed to contain spills. A warehouse-type enclosure of a similar scale and size may also be used. Any buildings at a BESS installation must be constructed in compliance with state structural and electrical codes.



Figure 3. Example of utility-scale BESS facility (photo from Portland General Electric)

3.1.2 Types of BESS

Generally, BESS can be categorized based on power capacity, which is the amount of instantaneous electrical power that can be dispatched (EIA 2023):

- **Residential/commercial** (less than 1 MW): mainly used for residential or commercial purposes for power generated from rooftop solar systems.
- **Utility-scale** (1 MW or more): mainly owned and operated by electric utilities to provide grid support services or as microgrids.

This PEIS will focus on the larger utility-scale BESS. After considering scoping input, Ecology will determine the specific type of facility to be evaluated.

3.1.2.1 Lithium-ion batteries

Utility-scale BESS typically use lithium-ion batteries. They are a type of solid-state rechargeable battery in which lithium ions, suspended in an electrolyte, move from negative to positive electrodes and back when charging and recharging. Lithium-ion batteries have a typical lifespan of 10 to 25 years and would experience a gradual performance degradation over time.

Utility-scale BESS must comply with multiple state codes and standards. The PEIS will identify which codes are applicable. As an example, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) creates safety codes and standards to prevent electrical and fire hazards. NFPA 855 describes requirements for separation distance between battery modules, fire suppression, and controlling fires, among other requirements intended to reduce risk. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) developed safety standards for the construction, manufacturing, and performance testing of BESS in UL 9540 and 9540A. They help evaluate the system as a whole under normal and stress conditions.

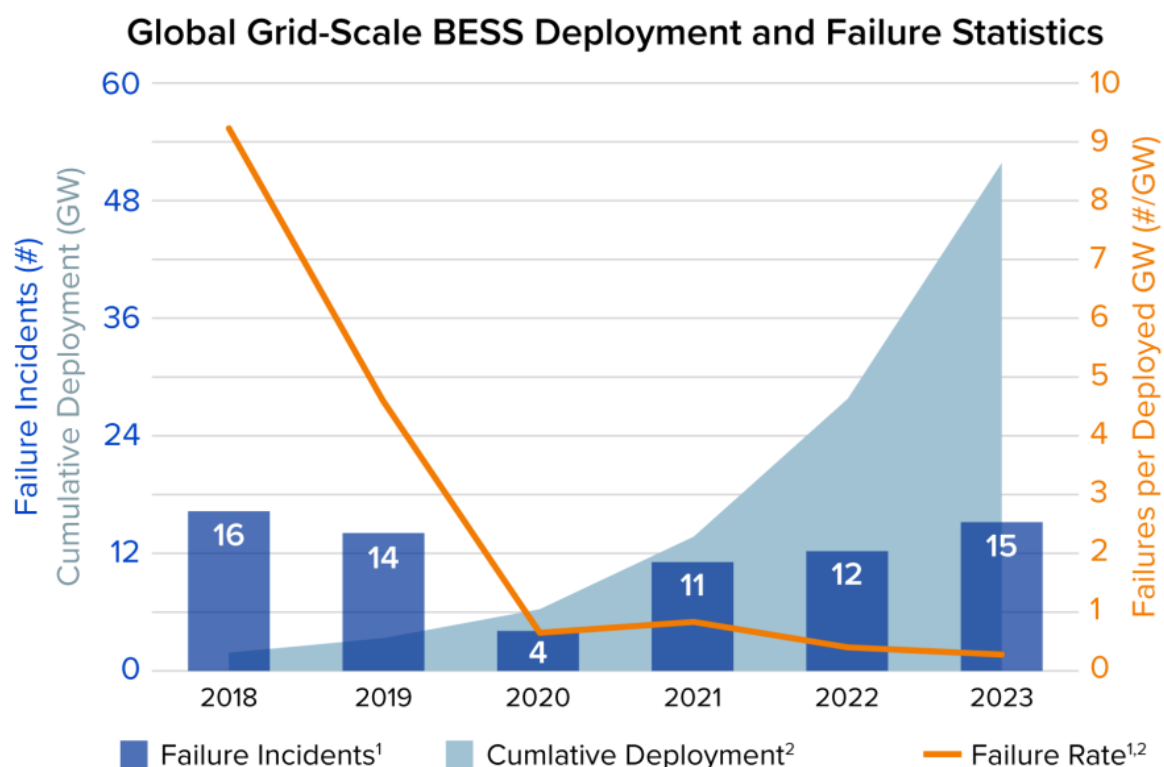
While the Washington state code has adopted earlier versions of the International Fire Code (IFC) and NFPA 855, including portions of the 2021 and 2024 IFC and 2023 NFPA 855 standards, the most recent version of NFPA 855 (2026) has not been adopted into state code as of August 2026. Similarly, while the current edition of UL 9540 is #3 (2023) and UL 9540A is #6 (2026), the state code references earlier versions. Local governments may choose to adopt a standard into local code if the state has not adopted it. The PEIS will provide information on the status of applicable state codes related to utility-scale BESS.

4 Related BESS Impact Analysis

This section summarizes impacts identified in previous Ecology PEISs for co-located BESS and recent studies. An overview of the onshore wind and solar PEIS findings is described later in this section for awareness. During the process of preparing those PEISs, Ecology heard concerns raised by communities and emergency responders about the potential impacts from lithium-ion battery fires. Specifically, we heard concerns about adequate training and equipment for local responders, the difficulty of extinguishing fires, risks of hazardous air emissions, impacts to

water and fish, and cleanup. This PEIS will evaluate potential risks and environmental health impacts for stand-alone BESS. The siting of BESS facilities has also been raised as a concern. This PEIS will provide siting and design considerations for developers to help avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Studies found exposure to toxic gases leaking from damaged batteries could cause irritation to the skin and lungs for fire responders (ACP 2023). Battery failures that could produce these health and safety impacts are rare but could occur during operation due to the increased potential for batteries to leak or ignite in thermal runaway events. According to data published by the Electric Power Research Institute, the BESS Failure Incident Database recorded approximately 85 BESS failure events worldwide from 2018 to 2023. These range from minor to major, with an average of ten failure events occurring annually. Figure 4 shows that while battery deployment has greatly increased in the past few years, the number of failure incidents per gigawatt hour deployed has decreased (EPRI 2024).



Sources: (1) EPRI Failure Incident Database, (2) Wood Mackenzie. Data as of 12/31/23.

Figure 3. Global grid-scale storage deployment and failure statistics (Source: EPRI 2024)

A more recent 2025 incident often referenced by people when discussing concerns about BESS is the Moss Landing fire in California. This incident resulted in a 24-hour evacuation of about 1,200 residents. Air quality monitoring and sampling occurred during and after the fire and agencies found no risks to public health (EPA 2025). Development of this facility began in 2018, before the NFPA 855 requirements were released. Newer codes and standards, including the IFC, NFPA 855, and UL 9540A, require large-scale fire testing on a representative BESS, in

addition to other changes that reduce the risk of a similar incident. The current state requirements and codes will be evaluated for the PEIS impact analysis.

In 2025, Ecology released analysis of the potential significant adverse impacts of BESS co-located with [utility-scale solar](#)¹⁶ and [utility-scale onshore wind](#)¹⁷ facilities in their respective PEISs. Table 1 provides excerpts of potential significant impacts for these types of facilities and this PEIS will conduct additional analysis of impacts specific to stand-alone lithium-ion BESS facilities.

¹⁶ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506002.html>

¹⁷ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506003.html>

Table 1. Excerpts from summaries of potential significant impacts for co-located BESS with utility-scale solar and onshore wind facilities

Section	Topic	Description of potential significant impact from facility types	Can it be mitigated below significance?
Tribal rights, interests, and resources and Historic and cultural resources	Tribal rights, interests, and resources and historic and cultural resources	Constructing, operating, and decommissioning facilities could impact Tribal rights, interests, and resources and historic and cultural resources. The significance of these impacts would be determined through consultation with potentially affected Tribes and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.	Impacts and mitigation would be determined in consultation with Tribes. Determining if mitigation options would reduce or eliminate impacts below significance would be dependent on the specific project and site.
Environmental justice	Disproportionate impacts	On historic and cultural resources, Tribes and Tribal communities, biological resources, public services and utilities, environmental health and safety, noise, air quality.	Impacts and mitigation would be determined in consultation with Tribes. Determining if mitigation options would reduce or eliminate impacts below significance would be dependent on the specific project and site.
Environmental health and safety	Battery overheating	Potential hazardous air emissions from damage or failure of battery management system that present health and safety risks to fire responders.	Yes
	Wildfire risk	New ignition sources in remote locations with limited response capabilities.	Determining if mitigation options would reduce or eliminate impacts below significance would be dependent on the specific project and site.
Biological resources	Terrestrial habitat and species	Permanent degradation, loss, or conversion of suitable habitat that is critical to species viability. Impacts affecting species viability, the mortality of any individual species, or disturbance that disrupts successful breeding and rearing behaviors.	Determining if mitigation options would reduce or eliminate impacts below significance would be dependent on the specific project and site. Mitigation to reduce impacts below significance for special-status habitats or species may not be feasible.
Noise and vibration	Noise	Constructing, operating, or decommissioning within 1,000 feet of people in quiet rural areas may affect nearby residents.	Yes
Public services and utilities	Fire response	If activities required a large fire response in remote locations with limited response capabilities or if there are other unique aspects of a facility site or operations that affect fire response.	Determining if mitigation options would reduce or eliminate impacts below significance would be dependent on the specific project and site.

5 Scoping the BESS PEIS

5.1 Purpose and objectives

The PEIS will evaluate potential impacts and measures to avoid, reduce, and mitigate impacts for stand-alone, utility-scale, lithium-ion BESS facilities in Washington state. The PEIS could be used by the public, project applicants, Tribes, landowners and managers, and decision-makers as a source of information, along with other studies such as comprehensive plans, cost-benefit analyses, and health impact assessments. A PEIS does not approve or deny projects or evaluate specific sites.

The intent of the PEIS is to:

- Support the state’s clean energy transition while protecting the environment, Tribal rights, interests, and resources, and local communities.
- Identify potential significant adverse environmental impacts at a broad level.
- Identify general potential mitigation measures for impacts.
- Provide information for BESS facility applicants to propose projects that avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- Provide information for lead agencies to consider when conducting environmental reviews for BESS facilities.

5.2 What will be studied

The PEIS will focus on stand-alone, utility-scale, lithium-ion BESS, the most likely to be proposed as projects over the next several years. This PEIS will build on existing analysis in Ecology’s existing PEISs for [utility-scale solar](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506002.html)¹⁸ and [utility-scale onshore wind](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506003.html)¹⁹ facilities, which feature information on BESS co-located at those facilities.

As required by SEPA, the PEIS will include a No Action Alternative. The PEIS is a planning document, so under the No Action Alternative, city, county, and state agencies would continue to conduct environmental review and permitting for BESS facilities under existing state and local laws on a project-by-project basis without the use of a PEIS.

5.3 Geographic scope of study

The scoping phase looks statewide. The scope of the PEIS will be limited to the potential significant adverse environmental impacts in geographic areas that are suitable for utility-scale lithium-ion BESS. We may consider factors for likely development and proximity to existing infrastructure.

¹⁸ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506002.html>

¹⁹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506003.html>

We are seeking input on assumptions to identify the geographic scope of study used for the PEIS analysis. After considering scoping input, Ecology will determine the geographic area of study and use it for the analysis in the Draft PEIS.

The PEIS will not approve, authorize, limit, or exclude projects on a site-specific basis. BESS projects could potentially occur on private, city, county, state, federal, or Tribal lands. In all cases, project developers would need to work directly with the landowner, land manager, or Tribes for individual projects.

Ecology will coordinate with state land managers to determine the state lands that could be included in the geographic scope. State parks will be excluded from the geographic scope. Federal lands determined to be suitable for BESS facilities will be included in the geographic scope of study.

For projects on Tribal reservation lands, each federally recognized Tribe would determine use of their lands. Ecology will not include Tribal reservation lands in the geographic scope of study unless requested to do so by a Tribe.

5.4 Evaluating impacts and mitigation in the PEIS

The PEIS will analyze potential significant adverse environmental impacts to the following resources:

- Tribal rights, interests, and resources
- Environmental justice
- Earth resources
- Air quality and greenhouse gases
- Water resources
- Biological resources (species and habitats)
- Energy and natural resources
- Environmental health and safety
- Noise and vibration
- Land use
- Aesthetics and visual quality
- Recreation
- Historic and cultural resources
- Transportation
- Public services and utilities
- Cumulative impacts

We are seeking input on potential impacts to environmental resources to analyze. “Impacts” are the effects or consequences of actions. The following three types of impacts will be evaluated in the PEIS:

- Direct effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

- Indirect effects, which are caused by the action and occur later in time or are farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems including ecosystems.
- Cumulative effects, which are impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

We are also seeking input on potential measures to avoid, reduce, and mitigate impacts to consider. The PEIS will describe the analysis and methods used for evaluating impacts to each resource, impact findings, whether adverse environmental impacts would be expected to be significant or not, and mitigation measures. If an impact is not expected to be mitigable below a level of significance, it will be identified in the PEIS as a likely unavoidable significant adverse environmental impact.

Ecology will offer early and meaningful consultation with any affected federally recognized Tribes with lands and territories in Washington state on the PEIS for the purpose of understanding potential impacts to Tribal rights and resources, including Tribal cultural resources, archaeological sites, sacred sites, fisheries, or other rights and interests in Tribal lands and lands within which a Tribe or Tribes possess rights reserved or protected by federal treaty, statute, or executive order. Certain information obtained by Ecology under this section is exempt from disclosure, consistent with Chapter 42.56.300 RCW. Through formal consultation and informal engagement with Tribes, the PEIS will seek to reflect and incorporate the Tribes' perspectives of, values about, and relationships with aspects of the environment potentially impacted by BESS facilities.

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