

## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
City Light	Cierra Holland	Christie Parker

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** A RESOLUTION relating to the City Light Department; approving the City Light Department’s 2026-2029 Clean Energy Implementation Plan as required by Washington State’s Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), chapter 19.405 RCW.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** The Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), enacted by the Washington State Legislature in 2019, requires electric utilities in Washington to transition to carbon-neutral electricity by 2030 and to serve customers with 100% non-emitting or renewable resources by 2045. To support these goals, CETA requires utilities to develop and submit Clean Energy Implementation Plans (CEIPs) every four years. Each CEIP must be approved by the utility’s governing body before submission to the Washington State Department of Commerce.

This resolution seeks City Council approval of Seattle City Light’s 2026–2029 Clean Energy Implementation Plan, the utility’s second CEIP under CETA. The Plan fulfills three core statutory requirements:

- **Progress Toward Clean Energy Targets:** It outlines the specific actions City Light will take between 2026 and 2029 to advance the transition to 100% renewable and non-emitting electricity.
- **Equity and Energy Justice:** It establishes metrics for identifying and measuring the equitable distribution of clean energy benefits, particularly for Highly Impacted Communities and Vulnerable Populations.
- **Public Engagement:** It reflects customer and community input collected through an inclusive engagement process, ensuring the voices of customer-owners shaped the Plan’s development.

Approval of this resolution affirms City Council’s adoption of the CEIP in accordance with RCW 19.405.060 and WAC 194-40-200 and authorizes City Light to submit the plan to the Washington State Department of Commerce by the statutory deadline of January 1, 2026.

For additional background and information, see Attachment 1 to the proposed resolution (Clean Energy Implementation Plan Report).

## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

## 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? ☒ Yes ☐ No

### 3.d. Other Impacts

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.**

While this legislation has no direct fiscal impacts to the existing budget (i.e., no changes to 2025 appropriations or revenues), there are long-term indirect cost impacts that relate to City Light's continued commitment to provide customers with carbon-neutral and non-emitting power resources. As the most recent Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) has indicated, the City will have future supply resource needs. To maximize efficiencies and be consistent with the City's values and commitments in meeting emissions targets, future resource acquisitions will be procured based on need as well as based on CETA's compliance value. With that, there will most likely be a long-term financial impact to City Light customers due to future resource acquisitions that meet power needs and CETA compliance requirements.

**If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.**

The legislation does not have direct costs.

**Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.**

There are financial consequences based on state statute (RCW 19.405.090) for not complying with CETA. The law requires us to gain governing board approval for the utility's Clean Energy Implementation Plan (RCW 19.405.060(2)(b)).

## 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

**a. Please describe how this legislation may affect any departments besides the originating department.**

Not applicable.

**b. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.**

No.

**c. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**

**i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

This legislation, approval of Seattle City Light's Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) for 2026–2029, advances the utility's commitment to equitable outcomes in the clean energy transition. As required by the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), the CEIP includes specific actions that prioritize benefits to Highly Impacted Communities (HICs) and Vulnerable Populations (VPs), as defined through a public process.

City Light partnered with the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON) to design and carry out a public participation process that emphasized equity. This outreach prioritized community groups and geographies that have been historically underserved or face disproportionate energy burdens. Engagement efforts included:

- A thorough review of recent public input collected through other strategic planning efforts, including the Transportation Electrification Strategic Investment Plan (TESIP 2.0).
- Collaboration with a DON Equity and Engagement Advisor who supported strategic coordination of various City Light plans and leveraging existing community opportunities so as to lessen the burden on communities to be able to engage and provide meaningful feedback.
- Seven virtual and in-person events and community conversations across the service area intentionally targeting these priority populations.

Recurring themes across all engagement included concerns about affordability, reliability, access to programs, and the need to involve youth and workforce development in clean energy planning. These themes directly informed the selection of equity indicators and specific actions in the CEIP.

Within City government, this work also reinforces existing RSJI commitments by embedding equity early in policy development and aligning program design with community-identified needs.

**ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

A formal Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) was not completed for this CEIP update. However, the CEIP development process incorporated RET-aligned principles in its engagement and decision-making framework:

- Outreach was co-designed and implemented between City Light’s Environmental Equity Advisor and Outreach & Engagement Advisor and DON’s Equity and Engagement Advisor, who brought experience and trusted relationships with HICs and VPs.
- Community feedback directly shaped the equity indicators and corresponding actions included in the plan.
- Actions were evaluated not only for technical feasibility but also for equity impact, with emphasis on reducing barriers and improving access for vulnerable communities.

As we finalize the CEIP, the plan includes going back to the communities we heard from and informing them of the final outcomes. The goal is to continue building on these relationships and continue engagement as community chooses to engage.

**iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**

To support access and inclusion, Seattle City Light (SCL) developed communications materials using plain language standards to ensure they were clear, concise, and well organized. This also included being more approachable in how SCL engaged with communities. For the planning efforts, SCL also worked with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) to develop in-language content and partnered with DON to engage communities in their preferred language.

Future communications, particularly those related to CEIP implementation, will align with the City’s Language Access policies, including provision of translated materials and interpretation services where appropriate.

**d. Climate Change Implications**

- i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.** This legislation documents the required Clean Energy Implementation plan for meeting Clean Energy Transformation Act compliance requirements. Included in the plan are steps for continuing City Light’s and the City’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions. This legislation itself does not direct the increase or decrease in carbon emissions; however, City Light’s CEIP will help illustrate carbon emissions reduction compliance targets over time.

- ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle’s resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.** This legislation will not increase or decrease Seattle’s resiliency to climate change itself. City Light is committed to continuing our commitment to be a greenhouse gas neutral utility while also taking affirmative steps to address climate change. The CETA CEIP will act as a compliance plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- e. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program’s desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**  
This legislation does not approve a new initiative or major programmatic expansion. This legislation approves City Light’s second CEIP as required by CETA.

## 5. CHECKLIST

- ☒ **Is a public hearing required?**
- ☐ **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required?**
- ☐ **If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?**
- ☐ **Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

## 6. ATTACHMENTS

**Summary Attachments:** None.