

Budget and Rates Community Outreach
Public Utility Board
July 27, 2022

Jim Sant, Deputy Director for Administration Dr. John Gaines, Community Relations Manager



Today's Overview

- TPU Coordination on Budget and Rates Outreach and Strategic Directive 4 (Stakeholder Engagement)
- Current Outreach Environment
- Upcoming Budget and Rates Engagement
- Communications and Engagement Tools



Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Directive

Strategic Directive 4: Stakeholder Engagement

 "TPU is committed to proactive engagement and open dialogue with customers and other stakeholders to understand their needs and improve service that informs decision-making while enhancing community understanding of TPU's operations, programs, and services"

Reporting: Stakeholder Engagement

 On an as-needed basis, not less than biannually to the Executive Leadership Team and to the Public Utility Board



Stakeholder Engagement

TPU Public Affairs & Communications (PAC) Dept:

- The department provides customer communications and community engagement, employee communications, key account engagement, market research and analysis, government relations, policy advocacy, stakeholder relations, economic development coordination, and strategic issues management for our communities
- PAC functions collectively as customer and stakeholder advocates across its service territory to ensure input is included in decision-making & policy across the utilities



Current Outreach Environment

Virtual and Hybrid Engagement Due To COVID – 19:

- Technology Barriers
- Community Priorities
- Hybrid Style Meetings
- Virtual Attendance



Upcoming Rates Engagement

Planned Virtual, Hybrid & In-Person Engagement Plan:

- September: Neighborhood Councils & Block Groups
 - Outreach coordinated with Environmental Services
- Partnering with existing events of organizations
- Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Organizations/local trade orgs
- Franchise Cities/Local Government Partners
- Key Accounts including JBLM
- Business Districts

Completed Community Engagements:

May 26 Hybrid Listening Session



Communications & Engagement Tools

Self-Serve Information:

- Post online all meetings, presentations, links to recordings and related help (MyTPU.org/Rates)
- Post meeting dates on social media
- Provide online customer feedback form



Communications & Engagement Tools

Keep Customers Informed:

- Bill inserts, bill messages
- Lobby screens
- Monthly email newsletter updates
- Quarterly print newsletter updates
- Homepage/portal messages
- Language access
- Fact sheets rate projections, drivers & customer assistance resources





Thank you

What feedback or questions do you have?



Contacts

Dr. John Gaines

Community Relations Manager

Jgaines1@cityoftacoma.org

W: 253.260.0065

Jim Sant

Deputy Director for Administration

Jsant@cityoftacoma.org

W: 253.381.0232

