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TRANSPARENCY VICTORY ENABLES RATEPAYERS TO SEE THE COST OF THE CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT ON UTILITY BILLS

Olympia, Washington — The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) has [ordered](#) Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to begin itemizing the costs of Washington’s Climate Commitment Act (CCA) directly on customer utility bills. The policy change comes after Washington Policy Center (WPC) and Citizen Action Defense Fund (CADF) sent [a formal letter](#) in November to utility commissioners to make the cost of the CCA transparent.

The decision reverses [a policy adopted in 2023](#) that barred utilities from showing CCA compliance costs as a line item, leaving ratepayers unable to see how much of their monthly bill was driven by the state’s carbon pricing program.

“This is a major win for transparency and for everyday Washingtonians who deserve to know what they’re paying for,” said Todd Myers, Vice President for Research at the Washington Policy Center (WPC). “Families and small businesses shouldn’t have to guess why their utility bills are rising. The Commission listened, and now customers will finally see the real impact of state policy on their monthly costs.”

In November, the Washington Policy Center – with the help of the Citizen Action Defense Fund – urged the Attorney General’s Office and the UTC to lift the prohibition on itemizing CCA charges on natural gas bills, arguing that hiding government-mandated costs undermined public accountability and made budgeting more difficult for households, businesses, and public institutions.

Although the Attorney General’s office initially responded that it lacked authority to amend the earlier order, it acknowledged growing public concern over utility affordability and the need for open discussion of cost drivers, including the Climate Commitment Act.

On December 24, the Utilities Commission issued a new order requiring Puget Sound Energy to:

- Explicitly list the “State Carbon Reduction Charge” as a standalone line item on customer bills by June 6, 2026, or sooner if possible; and
- Rename the existing carbon credit line to “CCA Customer Benefit” for clarity and consistency across utilities.

The change will allow consumers to better understand utility rate increases, hold policymakers accountable for energy cost decisions, and make informed choices about household budgeting and energy use.

“This is how government should work,” said Jackson Maynard, Executive Director of the Citizen Action Defense Fund (CADF). “When policies raise costs, the public has a right to see it clearly, not buried in fine print or hidden in bundled charges.”

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