

In 2004 the Samish Indian Nation with a grant from Department of Energy, Ridolfi Inc. and Shuksan Energy developed a comprehensive Strategic Energy plan to set policy for future development on tribal land that will consist of a long-term, integrated, systems approach to providing a framework under which the Samish Community can use resources efficiently, create energy-efficient infrastructures, and protect and enhance quality of life. Development of the Strategic Energy plan will help the Samish Nation create a healthy community that will sustain current and future generations by addressing economic, environmental, and social issues while respecting the Samish Indian Nation culture and traditions.

As an initial step on its path to realizing this Tribal energy vision, the Samish Nation became the first Native American Tribe to join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Green Power Partnership in October 2004.

In support of its commitment, the Tribe has made the following statement: Recognizing both the economic and environmental risks of dependence on fossil fuels and other conventional energy sources, the Tribe is implementing a long-term sustainable energy strategy starting with a commitment to obtain at least 10% of their electricity from new renewable energy sources within the next year. This commitment has been made with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) not only for the past year but is committing to monthly payments to the Green Power Program on a monthly basis.

The Tribe has also completed several programs with PSE including the lighting rebate program which allowed the Tribe to change out old fluorescent lights and ballasts at the Tribal Long house which houses the Samish Daycare, preschool program and lunch room and the Administration building. The elders who use the Long house for many functions commented on the new lighting saying, "now we can finally see when we do our beadwork." The newly remodeled Conference Center that the Tribe owns at Fidalgo Bay RV Park used green lighting for all of its interior lighting systems and upgraded their new HVAC systems so that all of the units were of a higher energy efficiency rating than what was originally proposed.

For the future, the Samish Indian Nation foresees expanding on the commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency with upgrading lighting at the Fidalgo Bay RV Park store and laundry facility, development of a feasibility study to determine effective use of solar power at the current RV Park to reduce high electric usage and an in depth research towards the use of renewable energy at the Tribes Homeland property at Campbell Lake prior to home development.