# DRAFT 2023 Biennial Energy Assistance Report Outline

## Executive summary

* Overview of the issue and statute
* A synopsis of energy assistance programs, energy burden, and energy assistance need statewide
* Identify current expenditures on low-income energy assistance
* Summarize findings from the evaluation of additional mechanisms for assistance and ways to prioritize assistance towards low-income households with higher energy burden

## Introduction

* The “who, what, where, when, and why” of energy assistance
* The intent and requirements of RCW 19.405.120
  + Definitions of “low-income” and “energy assistance need” (WAC 194-40-030)
* Data collection, analysis, and summary process
  + 2020 reporting period
    - Energy Assistance Data Advisory Group
      * Sec. 120(3)(b) survey for 2019
      * Commerce collected and aggregated (3)(a) data
  + 2022 reporting period
    - Utilities report Sec. 120(3)(b) and (4) for 2019 and 2020
    - Commerce collected and aggregated (3)(a) data
    - Energy Assistance Technical Advisory Team
      * Reviews and assists in summarizing the data
      * Assists in evaluation of additional measures and mechanisms to prioritize low-income households with high energy burden.
      * Reviews draft reports
    - Public workshops

## Findings from energy burden and assistance need data

* Past and present of utility data collection efforts
* Low-income Energy Affordability data (LEAD) tool findings
  + LEAD tool methodology and assumptions
    - Strengths and weaknesses of its methodology and assumptions
      * Illustrative examples of these strengths and weaknesses
  + Other ways of estimating energy burden
    - Empower Dataworks dashboards
    - Avista’s data tools
    - Puget Sound Energy’s dashboards
    - Tacoma’s equity index
* Energy efficiency potential
  + Commerce assessment of energy efficiency potential
  + Preliminary findings from energy efficiency needs assessment

## Assessments of utility programs

* Summary of the programs and mechanisms used by utilities to reduce energy burden and the effectiveness of those programs and mechanisms in both short-term and sustained energy burden reductions
* Summary of the outreach strategies used to encourage participation of eligible households, including consultation with community-based organizations and Indian tribes as appropriate, and comprehensive enrollment campaigns that are linguistically and culturally appropriate to the customers they serve in vulnerable populations
* Summary of previous funding levels for energy assistance of each utility compared to the funding levels needed to meet:
  + (A) Sixty percent of the current energy assistance need, or increasing energy assistance by fifteen percent over the amount provided in 2018, whichever is greater, by 2030; and
  + (B) ninety percent of the current energy assistance need by 2050.
* Summary of the plans to improve the effectiveness of the assessed mechanisms and strategies toward meeting the energy assistance need.

## Evaluation of additional mechanisms for assistance

* Customer rates
  + Definition(s)
  + Strengths
  + Drawbacks
  + Outstanding questions
* A low-income specific discount
  + Definition(s)
  + Strengths
  + Drawbacks
  + Outstanding questions
* System benefits charges
  + Definition(s)
  + Strengths
  + Drawbacks
  + Outstanding questions
* Public and private funds
  + Definition(s)
  + Strengths
  + Drawbacks
  + Outstanding questions
* Other mechanisms
  + Definition(s)
  + Strengths
  + Drawbacks
  + Outstanding question

## Mechanisms to prioritize assistance to low-income households with high energy burdens

* Distributed energy resources, i.e., community solar
* Utility discount for participation in demand response programs
* Improved data collection

## Appendix A – Compilation of Individual Utility Reports