# 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