

2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
27	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: SPU Rate Growth Strategic Plan

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Conlin; Godden

Staff Analyst: Meg Moorehead

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The Council requests that Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) develop a strategic plan covering all of its lines of business as a basis for a rate growth policy. The plan would:

- Conduct an activity-by-activity evaluation of SPU spending to identify reasonable future growth in costs and rates that incorporates Council feedback on the assumptions used in the evaluation.
- Address not just growth in the individual rates (drainage, solid waste, water and wastewater) from a perspective of covering SPU costs but also the growth in combined SPU bills paid by customers from the perspective of a customer’s ability to pay.
- Use consultant input regarding potential efficiencies based on industry best practice.
- Consider options to moderate bill increases for ratepayers (such as large residential drainage ratepayers) who have experienced especially large bill increases.
- Be submitted to Council prior to submittal of the next SPU rate proposal.

SPU should periodically provide the Council with progress updates throughout 2013, including an interim progress report in June 2013.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Libraries, Utilities, and Center

Date Due to Council: December 31, 2013