

Greetings! I wanted to reach out because I noticed your upcoming event has Puget Sound Energy listed proudly as a sponsor.

My concern is that when people see an event focused on environmental or social justice, and see the list of event sponsors, it can give a false impression that the sponsor aligns with the values of the event.

Puget Sound Energy is actively holding back the transition to renewable energy. PSE spends massive amounts of money on [campaign contributions](#) and [lobbying](#) to influence state and local politics. With so much of its business interests tied to the “natural” gas industry, there’s no surprise that PSE uses this influence to [slow or stop laws and policies](#) intended to transition away from fossil fuels.

Puget Sound Energy funds [pro-gas propaganda](#), including [targeting children](#). Despite evidence that “natural” gas, aka methane, is an extremely potent greenhouse gas, PSE funds [PR campaigns](#) framing gas as a necessary transition fuel. [The propaganda also paints gas as the best way to cook food](#), even though studies show it can cause serious negative health impacts. [Children that live in homes with gas stoves are 42% more likely to develop asthma](#), than children in homes using electric stoves.

PSE’s LNG fracked gas refinery in Tacoma [violated Indigenous sovereignty](#), and puts the [health and safety](#) of local residents at risk. PSE began construction on this [controversial facility](#) two years before obtaining proper permits, used outdated and [fictional scenarios in the permit application](#), drew the attention of the [Tacoma Human Rights Commission](#), and charged residential customers [almost half the construction costs](#) of the facility despite only around 2% of the facility being for residential use.

Puget Sound Energy blocks local attempts to create publicly-owned utilities. Examples include attempts by Skagit and Island county residents via ballot initiative. The measures were defeated after Puget Sound Energy [dumped unprecedented funds into opposition campaigns](#).

Puget Sound Energy’s frequent rate-hikes & for-profit ownership overburden customers. Puget Sound Energy is one of the most expensive energy utilities in WA state, making it [hard for low income customers to afford](#) heat and electricity. As a for-profit corporation, millions of dollars are spent every year on [shareholder dividends](#) and [executive salaries](#). PSE is frequently requesting [rate hikes](#) to both gas and electric services. The state guarantees [shareholders a return on investments when infrastructure is built](#)—even when the [public won’t really benefit from the project](#) or when [communities want different kinds of projects](#) that would be better long term investments.

Please reconsider accepting donations or event sponsorships from Puget Sound Energy in the future. You can join the growing list of non-profit organizations, community groups and faith groups who have pledged to [Reject PSE’s Dirty Money](#) by [filling out this form](#).

Thank you for your time,