

# Building & Operating a Carbon Free Energy System NWESS 2022



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**Speakers:** Debra Smith – Seattle City Light

**Abstract:** Seattle City Light, created by the residents of Seattle in 1902, provides affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible electric power to the city of Seattle and neighboring suburbs of Shoreline, Burien, Lake Forest Park and portions of Normandy Park, Tukwila, Renton, SeaTac, and unincorporated King County. Owned by the community it serves and funded by customer rates, not taxes, City Light is a nationally recognized leader in energy efficiency, renewable resource development, and environmental stewardship. City Light's power generation system consists of seven hydroelectric plants on the Pend Oreille, Skagit, Cedar, and Tolt rivers with a combined capacity of more than 2,000 megawatts.

**Bios:** Debra Smith is the General Manager and CEO of Seattle City Light, one of the nation's largest community-owned electric utilities. Debra believes strongly in the value of teamwork, partnerships, and collaboration. As a long-term public employee, she prioritizes customer needs while acknowledging that great customer service starts with engaged and committed employees. Under her leadership, City Light is focused on electrification, equity and creating customer value. Previously, Debra served as Central Lincoln PUD's General Manager from July 2013 to October 2018. She brought 17 years of experience to that role from the Eugene Water and Electric Board, where she held a variety of positions, including Assistant General Manager. She served as the first Chairwoman of the Public Power Council and is currently the Vice Chair of Long-Range Planning. Debra also currently serves on the board of the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee, the American Public Power's Association's Climate Change Task Force, the Large Public Power Council's Steering Committee, Puget Sound Energy's Beyond Net Zero Advisory Committee, and the Columbia Basin Collaborative. Debra earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Arizona State University and is a Senior Fellow with the American Leadership Forum of Oregon. Debra will speak about challenges and the future of Seattle City Light.