Comparative Utility Study

Selecting which utilities to study:

1. Similarly sized (by # of customers and/or KWh sales) compared to Seattle City Light?
2. A relatively high proportion of hydro among their resources (20% or more?)
3. Public and private utilities in the Pacific NW + West Coast utilities like LADWP and SMUD?
4. Utilities who are innovating in rate design?

Selecting what to study:

5. Basic rate design comparisons that can be identified for residential and commercial/industrial customers:
    a) Energy and/or demand block price structures vs flat prices
    b) Size of customer/base service charge
    c) Demand/capacity charges
    d) Delivery charges
    e) Time-of-use prices
    f) Charges for community benefits/public purposes.

6. Other rate structures that might be of interest:
    a) Coincident peak pricing* (winter peaking?)
    b) Rate blocks for residential (add more) and non-residential* (Prevalence? Innovations?)
    c) Distributed energy resource (DER-i.e., solar/wind) rates*
    d) Unbundled rates (i.e., energy charge separate from delivery and other charges)?
    e) Low income programs: philosophy, subsidy level, program size and cost?
    f) Time of use rates – voluntary or mandatory? What value? Incentivize EVs?
    g) Customer choice in pricing plans: is there value in offering options?
    h) Non-residential rate classes: rate design difference for large and small customers? Commercial/industrial?
    i) Fixed charges: what costs should a fixed charge cover? (What is best practice for sizing a fixed charge?)
    j) Performance-based rates: how has this concept been applied, and what was the outcome? Does/should it apply to non-IOUs? What goal is it trying to achieve?

**referenced in Council resolution*