Clean Technology
Promoting a Healthy and Dynamic Waterfront Economy

Clean technology is rapidly developing into a vital part of the national economy with over 2.7 million workers in the United States. Bellingham’s central waterfront has a wide range of unique clean energy resources which could be beneficial to clean technology industries and support jobs related to manufacturing, research and education. Innovation and advanced technologies are generating high-wage jobs in diverse sectors including solar power, wind power, biofuels, green buildings, water technologies, energy storage and alternative fuel vehicles.

WWU INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES

WWU is developing new undergraduate and graduate degrees and programs that combine the science, policy and technology of energy. WWU is ideally situated to provide exceptional education in the area of clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY ENCOGEN GENERATING STATION

Electricity produced at this station results in significant waste heat released as steam. This steam was once used to help run the former Georgia Pacific pulp mill and could be used to provide heat to new buildings or manufacturing facilities on the waterfront.

HYDROPOWER

There is a 48-inch pipeline running from Lake Whatcom to the central waterfront which could be used to generate hydropower, a renewable energy resource. This pipeline once provided over 50 million gallons of process water per day to the former Georgia Pacific facility.

DISTRICT UTILITIES

The City has completed a feasibility evaluation of district utility systems which would provide more sustainable approaches to energy and water use, power generation and stormwater management. There is a tremendous opportunity to develop unique and financially viable utility systems in the Waterfront District which would provide more efficient energy service with less GHG emissions and reduced water use.

SOLAR POWER

Bellingham based itek Energy, the largest solar manufacturer in Washington, has leased property in the Waterfront District to install a large solar panel system which, in addition to generating power, will be used for research and development on how to improve solar panel performance, durability and efficiency.

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Waterfront District has been designated an Innovation Partnership Zone by the State of Washington which includes the 10,000 square foot Technology Development Center, a research laboratory and workforce training center focused on clean energy technologies and advanced materials applications. The TDC is leased by WWU and Bellingham Technical College and offers laboratory space and research capabilities for private companies interested in lab-to-market project development. Itek Energy donated solar manufacturing equipment in support of BTC’s advanced manufacturing program.