

Energy Strong II FAQs

Below is important information from Public Service Electric & Gas to our customers. To continue to provide you with safe, reliable service, we are upgrading the electric infrastructure at 29 electric stations throughout the state as part of the second phase of our Energy Strong program.

What is the second phase of the Energy Strong program? Phase II of the PSE&G Energy Strong program is a \$842 million, four-year infrastructure investment, approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Sept. 11, 2019, designed to proactively protect and strengthen the utility's electric and gas systems against severe weather conditions. The program will make our electric and gas systems more resilient, better protect New Jersey against future Sandy-like storms, and continue to provide safe, reliable service to our customers and businesses throughout the state.

What are the main components of this phase Energy Strong? As part of the second phase, PSE&G will raise or harden 16 substations, and replace up to 4 stations that are nearing end-of-life. We're installing stronger poles and wires to reduce wind and tree damage; deploying advanced technology to reduce outages and quicken restoration; and, creating a new communications network. We're also modernizing six natural gas metering stations and replacing assets nearing end-of-life

What work is being done to improve my electric service as part of Energy Strong? Flood mitigation involves raising or rebuilding the critical equipment at an elevation of at least one foot above the highest design elevation as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and other observed elevations. A major component of the Energy Strong flood mitigation project is referred to as "substation hardening" which means "hardening the station" by increasing resiliency and strengthening the station to withstand severe weather conditions. This will enhance customer electric service by reducing the likelihood of outages during future severe weather. We're also adding advanced equipment to utility poles and wires, to prevent outages and allow for faster restoration.

What is the benefit of this electric infrastructure work? This project will enhance and protect the reliability of the electric service provided to customers statewide. Additionally, Energy Strong supports the region's economic growth. The work puts an estimated 1,368 people to work annually for the next four years and generates municipal revenue through required permits at the local and state level.

What other benefits does this program provide? This project includes the development and implementation of a state of the art advanced distribution management system and a fiber and cellular-based communication system. These two systems will provide the foundation of PSE&G's ability to support the New Jersey Energy Master Plan that calls for increased renewable integration, batteries and electric vehicles. These technologies will enable PSE&G to integrate these new technologies into the electric system at lower costs, while maintaining reliable service. The program provides the tools for PSE&G to develop the utility of the future.

Where and when is this project taking place? Energy Strong II work is underway and is expected through 2023. The Energy Strong program calls for upgrades statewide, with

significant work on electric and gas facilities in Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hudson and Middlesex counties.

Will my electric service be interrupted during this work? The vast majority of customers will not experience any power outages during this work. In the event that an outage is necessary to complete a system upgrade, customers will be notified in advance and the outage will be as brief as possible to complete the necessary work and minimize service interruption.

Will there be any road closures as a result of this work? Minor road closures and/or detours are anticipated in some locations to safely transport equipment. Affected communities and residents receive advance notice of any closures/ detours necessary to complete the Energy Strong work. PSE&G and its qualified contractors follow all New Jersey Department of Transportation regulations and federal traffic codes during construction activity. PSE&G also partners with respective local police departments to direct all vehicle and pedestrian traffic in impacted areas.

What hours will crews be performing the work? Most work takes place Monday through Saturday between the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., weather conditions permitting. Any work hours needed outside of these will be coordinated through the local municipality.

Are there any dangers associated with this project? Safety is PSE&G's top priority. PSE&G, along with the contractors working on this project, take every measure possible to ensure public safety while we complete work. Crews use work area protection including traffic cones, utility work signs, and barriers to allow the job to be done safely.

Is PSE&G taking additional safety precautions due to the pandemic? In light of the pandemic, and in the interest of maintaining the safety of our customers, our employees, and their families, PSE&G workers and PSE&G contractors follow safety guidelines put into place by the CDC and NJ State Department of Health, as well as all directives from the Governor's Office and county/municipal governments. This includes that our workers practice physical distancing and we ask that you also maintain a safe distance from our crews. For more information, visit the [PSEG COVID-19 website](#).

What permits are you seeking? PSE&G secures all necessary permits and approvals from local governing authorities wherever construction takes place, as well as the NJDEP and other applicable state agencies.

Is PSE&G performing this project or subcontracting the work? PSE&G, along with qualified contractors, perform this work.

What was accomplished under the first phase of Energy Strong? PSE&G raised, relocated or protected 26 switching and substations that were damaged by water in recent storms, including Sandy, benefiting 490,000 customers. For more details, see the [Energy Strong II Fact Sheet](#).