

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at www.tctv.net.

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs) at the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org. Simply click the TV programs link to reach www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

MAY 2012

"A Publicly Owned Electric Utility for Thurston County?"

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

Puget Sound Energy, the capitalist-owned electric and gas utility that serves Thurston County and other parts of Western Washington, was based in Bellevue, Washington until a few years ago when it was sold to a different group of capitalists based in Australia – on the opposite side of the world.

Now the Thurston County Public Utility District – which is owned by the general public of our own local community – is exploring the feasibility of buying out Puget Sound Energy's business in Thurston County and operating it with local ownership, local management, and local employees. Instead of sending profits to Australia, it would support our local economy.

Talk about a "buy local" program!

The Thurston Public Power Initiative is conducting a petition drive to let Thurston County's voters decide whether to proceed to change our local electric utility. Organizers need to gather more than 12,000 signatures in Thurston County by July 6.

Public power is common throughout Washington (including cities such as Seattle and Tacoma, and counties such as Mason, Grays Harbor, Cowlitz, Clark, Snohomish and Jefferson). Public power is uniformly cheaper than Puget Sound Energy.

Organizers cite many reasons for changing to public power, including lower costs, keeping revenue in our own community, better maintenance of lines, better recovery from storm damage, and local control and accountability. A great many volunteers are needed for this petition drive.

For information contact the Thurston Public Power Initiative at (360) 259-0551, info@ThurstonPublicPower.org and www.ThurstonPublicPower.org