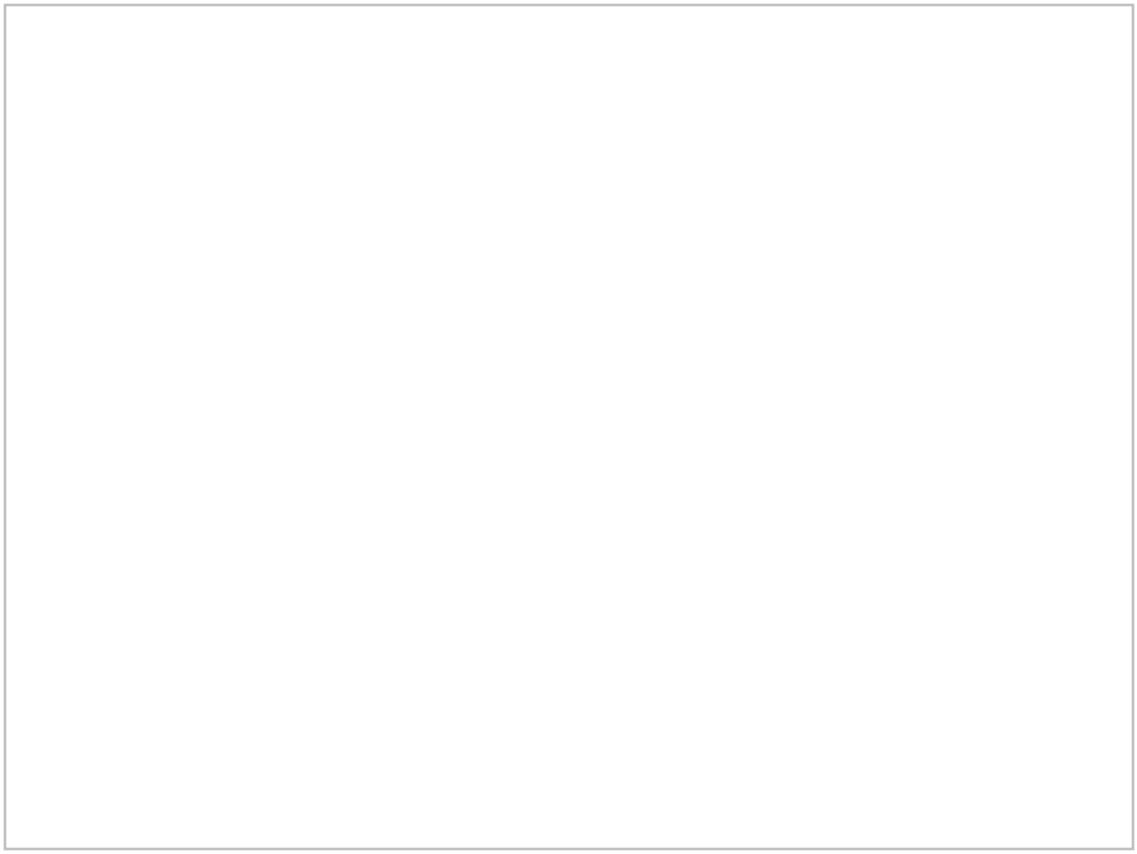
From: Jenna Kay
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan; Jeffrey Delapena
Subject: FW: Pierce County Establishes Battery Energy Storage Standards (BESS)
Date: Friday, September 25, 2026 8:06:08 AM

For the record

From: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2026 6:52 PM
To: Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; Small, Rebecca <Rebecca.Small@cityofvancouver.us>; Community Engagement <CommunityEngagement@clarkpud.com>
Subject: Pierce County Establishes Battery Energy Storage Standards (BESS)

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From Don Steinke
fyi
Pierce County Establishes Battery Energy Storage Standards (BESS)



On September 15, 2026, the Pierce County Council concluded its public hearing and officially passed Ordinance No. 02026-526s4, establishing clear local guidelines for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

As battery storage becomes central to home resilience and commercial power backup, predictable local codes are essential for safety and permitting efficiency. The final ordinance adopted key amendments that clarify installation requirements:

- **Commercial Capacity Alignment:** The Level 2 capacity bracket was expanded to cover systems from 2 MW through 7 MW (up from 2 to 5 MW), accommodating mid-scale commercial and partner systems.
- **National Safety Alignment:** Clearances and perimeter building setbacks were updated to align with NFPA 855 safety standards.
- **Interagency Coordination:** Public Works will directly notify local fire departments upon battery storage submissions, strengthening emergency preparedness and local responder coordination.
- **Consistent System Sizing Oversight:** Multi-phase installations

operating as single unified systems will be evaluated under cumulative capacity standards to ensure proper fire safety reviews.

These updates establish clear ground rules that allow safe, modern energy storage projects to proceed in Pierce County.