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The Council uses data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Grid Monitor to track actual regional electricity loads. These data are used to inform the Council's load forecasting efforts. They can also be used to understand how actual loads in the region compare to the forecasts assumed in power planning.

The 2021 Power Plan used several different load forecasts in its analysis. The graph on the next page compares actual loads to two of the plan forecasts:

- **Baseline Forecast with Indirect Effects:** The Council used this forecast for most of the scenario analysis. The forecast represents the baseline assumptions adjusted for forecasted indirect impacts from climate change, such as air conditioning saturation rates, per capita consumption, etc.<sup>1</sup>
- **Partial Decarbonization Scenario Forecast:** The Council developed this forecast to support the Pathways to Decarbonization scenario modeling. This forecast represented a step towards economy-wide decarbonization goals by assuming increased transportation electrification, electrification of buildings, etc.<sup>2</sup>

Data on actual loads show that they are currently within the Council's assumed range of loads from the 2021 Power Plan for both these forecasts. This suggests that the 2021 Power Plan resource strategy continues to be sufficient in the near-term. The key difference between these two forecast ranges is the anticipated long-term impact on electric loads. The Council will continue to track actual loads, as well as update its load forecast assumptions, as part of its ongoing Mid-Term Assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> More information available in the 2021 Power Plan Supporting Materials:

[https://www.nwcouncil.org/2021powerplan\\_incorporating-climate-change-economic-and-demographic-forecasts/](https://www.nwcouncil.org/2021powerplan_incorporating-climate-change-economic-and-demographic-forecasts/).

<sup>2</sup> More information is available in the 2021 Power Plan Supporting Materials:

[https://www.nwcouncil.org/2021powerplan\\_partial-decarbonization-analysis/](https://www.nwcouncil.org/2021powerplan_partial-decarbonization-analysis/).

# Regional Historic Load & Power Plan Forecasts

