

PNNL as a Valued Neighbor and Resource

How PNNL partners with diverse communities to address regional challenges



PNNL outreach efforts are focused on connecting the transformative research and leadership at PNNL to the outside world. Whether serving as a conduit for identifying trusted expertise to inform decisions; generating a sense of community leadership, philanthropy, and volunteerism; or advancing high-quality, immersive science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education experiences to build the future workforce, PNNL delivers real-world impact at local and regional levels. These endeavors provide economic and intellectual resources to local communities, cultivate important complementary and enduring partnerships, and promote the value and impact of science and technology to local stakeholders.

Strategically aligning PNNL scientific capabilities, expertise, and leadership helps accelerate community priorities to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Convening community leaders across traditional divides is possible because PNNL has multiple locations across Washington State and beyond, each having unique demographic and economic profiles and each connecting to PNNL through trusted relationships built over time. Strategic partnerships and programs strengthen PNNL's reputation as a valued employer and community and regional asset.

ENHANCING COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH GIVING AND VOLUNTEERISM

Philanthropic and volunteer activities led by Battelle, PNNL's operating contractor, foster a culture of giving, volunteerism, and public service among staff members. Battelle has contributed nearly \$30 million in philanthropic gifts to the predominately rural communities in which PNNL staff live and work. These investments accelerate PNNL priorities in STEM education, equity, diversity, health and human services, the arts, and civic programs—resulting in enhanced quality of life for local citizens and more resilient regional economies. Beyond philanthropic contributions, PNNL manages two staff involvement programs, **Life@PNNL** and **Team Battelle**, which directly connect staff members with the community. Through their participation in these programs, staff have contributed more than 335,000 volunteer hours and talent during the last decade alone.

LEADING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to spear-heading several diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, PNNL is highly regarded for its STEM outreach focused on underserved populations, which spans several rural communities in southeast Washington and on the Olympic Peninsula.

In 2017, Battelle launched a CEO group focused on fostering a more diverse and inclusive local Tri-Cities community. Battelle also sponsored the first-ever local community diversity summit.

More recently, Battelle became a leading supporter of the MyTri2030 initiative, a regional visioning initiative with a fundamental goal to build broad community support and drive collaborative action. The initiative resulted in six bold opportunity areas important to PNNL and

the region—education, energy, inclusion, life, prosperity, and agriculture—many of which are benefiting from the strong participation and expertise of PNNL leaders.

PNNL's signature STEM outreach program, **STEM Ambassadors**, prepares staff from diverse backgrounds and career stages, including operations and machinist professionals, to participate in a training program to create interactive, hands-on STEM demonstrations. STEM Ambassadors engage with students and teachers in various communities and at local community events, and are also a favorite of visiting dignitaries during Lab tours. These experiential learning opportunities provide an inclusive, multicultural view of the DOE workforce and STEM careers, and help generate understanding that STEM is for everyone.

MAKING PNNL EXPERTISE USEFUL AND RELEVANT TO OUR REGIONS

PNNL experts are enthusiastic about serving as trusted resources for the state of Washington and the communities in which PNNL operates. Engaging with public audiences requires a different approach than engaging with scientific audiences. As opportunities arise, **PNNL outreach programs** train and coach staff on storytelling, two-way dialog, and nonpartisan framing. PNNL staff serve as unbiased resources in many settings: as members of state and local boards and task forces, as frequently invited subject matter experts for executive and legislative bodies and regional and community organizations, and as technical partners who address regional challenges. PNNL has been especially active in informing the planning and implementation of Washington State's clean energy policies.

A long-running program, the **S&T Seminar Series**, encourages business leaders, community organizations, local and state officials, and others to engage in discussions of important scientific topics, including the COVID pandemic. PNNL also piloted a **regional innovation challenge** in which multidisciplinary PNNL teams employed user-centered design principles to develop regionally relevant solutions to a local challenge.

PNNL leverages national and local expertise and resources, trusted community partnerships, and staff who are eager and prepared to engage diverse communities to address national challenges in communities across the Pacific Northwest.

ABOUT PNNL

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory advances the frontiers of knowledge, taking on some of the world's greatest science and technology challenges. Distinctive strengths in chemistry, Earth sciences, biology, and data science are central to our scientific discovery mission. PNNL's research lays a foundation for innovations that advance sustainable energy through decarbonization and energy storage and enhance national security through nuclear materials and threat analyses.

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