



Executive Summary

Issue Title: Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium
Meeting Date: July 15, 2025
Time Required: 15 Minutes
Department: Department of Community Development (DCD)
Attendees: Rafe Wysham, Scott Diener, Jim Rogers

Action Requested At This Meeting: No action necessary – briefing on Battery Energy Storage Systems moratorium and workplan.

Background:

On June 11, 2025, The Board of County Commissioners adopted a 365-day moratorium on the acceptance of new Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) applications. Ordinance 639-2025 notes several unknown or poorly understood elements of developing BESS that without properly executed permits could create emergent situations. The ordinance gives the County 365 days to properly analyze potential impacts, life safety matters, and adopt revised code. A public hearing on the moratorium is scheduled for July 14, 2025.

Workplan:

Kitsap County DCD intends to use the time allowed by the ordinance to accomplish analysis and investigative review of several work tasks that need to be understood to responsibly permit BESS. Understanding the issues and appropriate solutions will lead to an ordinance which specifically addresses BESS installation in Kitsap County. While the deadline for the moratorium is technically June 10, 2026, DCD's internal deadline, including a recommendation by the Planning Commission and a decision by the Board, is May 2026. The workplan will assess a variety of issues including:

- Fire Safety and Emergency Response
- Environmental Impacts, including Noise
- Zoning Regulations
- Construction Standards
- Economic Impacts and Financial Sureties

Attachments:

Ordinance 639-2025
BESS Workplan