



June 2022 | Washington | Idaho

# Connections

## Preparing for hot, dry weather

**Avista is committed to doing our part to keep people and property safe.**

We are preparing for the return of hot, dry weather and the increased risk of wildfire that comes along with it. Avista is focused on expanding our current safeguards for preventing and reducing the impact of wildfires.

We are also working on improving our system in areas of high fire risk, including replacing wooden transmission poles with steel. And we have implemented improved tools to better assess fire risk with weather forecasting.

Avista is committed to doing its part and partnering with customers and communities to reduce the risk and impact of wildfires. Our customers and communities can play a role too. Learn how to protect your property at [nfpa.org/wildfire](https://nfpa.org/wildfire).

To learn more about how we manage trees and other plants around our lines, visit us at [myavista.com/VegetationManagementVideo](https://myavista.com/VegetationManagementVideo).



## Driving Electric

**When Joel Breems and his wife moved to Spokane in 2016, the trusted family Subaru came with them.** It had all-wheel drive and plenty of room for hiking and other outdoor gear—a perfect Spokane car.

Soon there was a need for a second car and Breems started looking at electric vehicles. And today electric vehicles (EVs) are all the family has in its garage.

“We didn’t necessarily approach this from a place where we were determined to go electric,” Breems said. “We talked about it a lot and this was in 2017 when the technology was very different. I was afraid of jumping in too fast.”

After much research, Breems leased an all-electric, first-generation Nissan Leaf.

“We still had the Subaru so this seemed like a good place to start,” Breems said. He quickly grew to appreciate that the electric vehicle warms and cools instantly—just by a push of a button.

“It may seem like a small thing but it was really big to be able to take our newborn straight to a warm car,” Breems said.

Around the same time, Breems began volunteering for the National Drive Electric event, which hosts electric vehicle events around the country.

Without even thinking about it Breems found that he picked the EV over the trusted Subaru pretty much any time he needed to drive anywhere.

He took advantage of an Avista incentive program to have an electric vehicle charger installed at home.

Breems said his family is big on camping and he started looking for a replacement compact SUV. The Tesla Model Y was an obvious choice, but he worried it didn’t have the range for camping trips outside Spokane.

“I wasn’t super hot on the Tesla because the range is just 320 miles,” Breems said. “But then we started mapping out camping trips and none of them were anywhere near 320 miles.” The addition of Tesla just reinforced that the family can

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## Continued from front Driving Electric

get its driving needs met by electric vehicles. Breems said it is a solution that doesn't work for everyone, but he's been surprised how easily the transition went for him and his family.

Electric vehicle technology is changing all the time and Breems said it won't be long before gas cars will be of a lower quality than mainstream EVs.

"It's a good idea to start with a lease and see how you like it and how it fits your needs," Breems said. "Let's be honest, if we really look at it we all drive a lot less than we think."

To learn more, visit [myavista.com/transportation](https://myavista.com/transportation).

## Join Avista's My Clean Energy program

**Did you know that Avista's electricity mix is already more than fifty percent clean?** While this is great news, many customers want to take it further and now they can.

Whether you rent or own, you can choose renewable energy by adding as little as \$1 to your monthly Avista payment. Signing up is simple and you can cancel anytime.

To learn more about the benefits associated with My Clean Energy and get started today, visit us online at [myavista.com/MyCleanEnergy](https://myavista.com/MyCleanEnergy). And as always, your participation helps to accelerate the transition to clean, renewable energy for all.

Support  
clean,  
renewable  
energy

## Renewable Natural Gas

**As a focus on clean energy continues to grow at the national, regional and local levels, Avista is moving our clean energy strategy forward.** Our customers and communities continue to express interest in how Avista is planning for the future and the long-term sustainability of our communities.

Last year Avista announced our aspirational goals to reduce natural gas emissions 30% by 2030 and to be carbon neutral in our natural gas operations by 2045. These goals built on the clean electricity goals we set in 2019.

Keeping costs affordable will continue to be central in how we move forward, and innovation and new technologies are necessary to achieve these goals. At the same time, we recognize the value of a diverse portfolio and energy mix today and in the future and that achieving these goals will require a multi-faceted approach.

Avista's approach to reducing natural gas emissions includes investing in new technologies, like renewable natural gas (RNG), hydrogen and other renewable biofuels. While we continue to evaluate how to best integrate RNG into our gas supply portfolio and research hydrogen as another renewable fuel, we are also expanding our customer facing options.

Our Washington and Oregon natural gas customers can now elect to participate in our renewable natural gas program. Participation in the program allows customers to continue to receive all of the great benefits associated with natural gas, with the same level of reliability and a lower carbon footprint.

Visit [myavista.com/rng](https://myavista.com/rng) for more information and to enroll.



## Play it safe above and below a dam

**At Avista, we want you to enjoy recreation activities on area reservoirs and waterways.** But remember, waters near a dam can pose serious hidden dangers to boaters and swimmers. Sudden water discharge from spillways and turbines can also be hazardous. To protect yourself near a dam, follow these safety tips:

- Obey all posted warning and closure signs.
- Never cross the boater safety cable above a dam. Strong currents could pull you through an open spill gate or into an intake area.
- Be alert for debris, obstructions and partially submerged objects.
- Never fish, swim, play or anchor your boat in the area above or below a dam.
- Look out for overhead bridges, cables and power lines.
- Always wear a lifejacket and safety whistle when on the water.

For the current Spokane River waterflow or Lake Spokane and Lake Coeur d'Alene water elevations, visit [myavista.com/waterflow](https://myavista.com/waterflow) or call (509) 495-8043 in Washington or (208) 769-1357 in Idaho. For information about dam safety, visit [myavista.com/damsafety](https://myavista.com/damsafety).

## Connect with us

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