

TOLC Staff Assistant

From: Scott Thomas <administrator@townoflaconner.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 8:25 AM
To: Jennifer
Subject: FW: Meeting Follow-up on Residential Battery Storage Systems

From: Leslie Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 3:13 PM
To: mayor@townoflaconner.org; council_2@townoflaconner.org; council_3@townoflaconner.org; council_4@townoflaconner.org; council_5@townoflaconner.org; council_1@townoflaconner.org
Subject: Meeting Follow-up on Residential Battery Storage Systems

Dear Mayor Hanneman and Town Council,

It was excellent to hear Mary's report yesterday at the Town Council meeting re Solarize Skagit. A real achievement to be proud of!

I am following up on a related topic that came up in last night's meeting - battery storage systems associated with private residential (or small-scale commercial) solar power.

I want to take a moment not to discourage progress, but to help keep our eye on the potential downsides and prepare ourselves for them should they occur.

Here are a few quick reads that helped me consider some of those downsides. In particular, the fire risk when lithium-ion batteries are subject to external fire or salt water and are also affixed to our homes/garages.

The LA Times covered issues seen after the Palisades fire. <https://www.dailynews.com/2025/01/17/burning-teslas-fried-battery-storage-systems-slow-la-return/>

University of South Carolina covered issues after Hurricane Helene – relevant for us in the flood plain. <https://sc.edu/uofsc/posts/2024/11/conversation-flooding-fire-threat-ev-lithium-ion-batteries.php>

Good 2024 article from the UK Fire Protection Association regarding insurance risks: <https://www.thefpa.co.uk/news/insurance-risks-of-li-ion>

Finally, a US insurance rating group shares interesting data. <https://core.verisk.com/Insights/Emerging-Issues/Articles/2024/May/Week-1/Risks-of-Residential-Battery-Energy-Storage-Systems>.

Thank you all for your excellent service to La Conner,

Leslie

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