



The Affiliate Program

Vision, Purpose, and Guidelines

Revised 8/4/2022

NoaNet's Mission Statement

Leverage relationships and resources to develop and operate a world-class, open-access information technology platform and network that enhances people's lives and business opportunities in the state of Washington and facilitates member utility operations.

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Vision

In the digital age, fast and reliable internet is indispensable to equity and economic development. Without it, community members are barred from full access to basic services for improving their quality of life. Since 2001, NoaNet has been working on strategic efforts to improve broadband access through middle mile deployments throughout Washington State, paving the way for future-ready community deployments and regional prosperity.

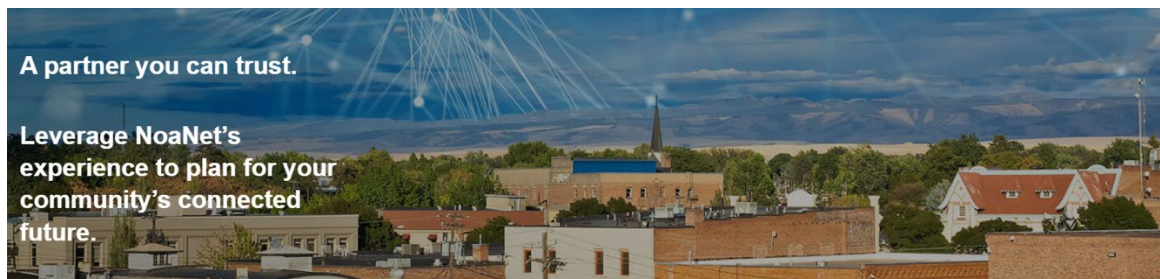
We advocate for the importance of publicly owned, open-access broadband networks for Washington State. We believe when utilizing taxpayer-funded grant programs, it is prudent to maintain the infrastructure deployment from those investments in the public realm so it will be maintained and developed appropriately according to the local need.

Through the development of an Affiliate Program, NoaNet will support grassroots efforts that increase the engagement, power, and influence of Washington communities impacted by digital inequity and that are struggling to have the connectivity necessary to be competitive in today's digital economy. Through extending affiliate membership to other publicly owned organizations supporting broadband expansion, the NoaNet conversation can grow from our core membership group to encompass a more statewide holistic approach, helping to uplift and ensure visibility for diverse and persistently under-invested communities.

Purpose

The NoaNet Board of Directors made up of ten Owner/Member organizations, has established the NoaNet Affiliate program to encourage other public benefit agencies, such as Public Utility Districts, Ports, Municipalities, and others with similarly focused rural public benefit broadband networks to be a part of the NoaNet family. NoaNet affiliate members would share in the legacy of providing state-of-the-art broadband services to rural communities throughout Washington State and participate in events that further encourage rural investment

NoaNet's affiliate members will have access to NoaNet organizational events, resources, and a professional network without the obligation of organizational ownership. We feel developing an affiliate membership with other publicly-owned organizations who are working to bridge the digital divide in our state is in line with NoaNet's organizational mission to continue to enhance people's lives and business opportunities in the State of Washington through the development of world-class telecommunications infrastructure development.



NoaNet Past to Present

On February 7th, 2000, Greg Marney, then Assistant General Manager at Douglas PUD, incorporated NoaNet, the Northwest Open Access Network. During this time the I-5 corridor was booming with economic opportunity and technology expansion, while East of the Cascades' opportunity was shrinking. Telecom investment wasn't being made to expand access to affordable, reliable broadband on the Eastside, further unbalancing economic and social opportunities for the urban vs. rural populations.

Greg led the Douglas PUD in investing in fiber optics versus wireless infrastructure as the "best" strategic utility (telecom) investment. It was noted that this direction would vastly improve real-time monitoring and control for DCPUD utility infrastructure, enabling higher reliability and more efficient and effective management, all the while improving customer delivery of utility services.

In 2000, the PUDs were granted the authority to help bridge the digital divide by providing wholesale telecommunications services. This opened the door for community telecom and the creation of NoaNet. Even though other PUDs within the Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) were also building fiber infrastructure at this time, there was a great challenge in making it both affordable and reliable. Expanding cost-effective services outside the main urban centers of Seattle and Portland proved a challenge. A better solution was needed to connect PUD communities to the Internet.

Serendipitously, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) announced the Public Purpose Fiber Program. The BPA program was advertising access to lease BPA fibers that existed region-wide if the proposing operator agreed to operate in every rural county that the BPA fiber traverses. The BPA Public Purpose fiber lease rates were set low initially, escalating toward commercial rates over a twenty-year term. Greg saw this as the pathway to bringing affordable and reliable Internet to DCPUD and statewide.

Greg advocated for the WPUDA to fund a start-up telecom company to lease and operate the BPA fibers and interconnect to every rural PUD statewide, enabling and expanding the PUD foundation for investment in rural telecommunications. This startup was named the Northwest Open Access Network, with Open Access being a key premise to us all.

NoaNet was incorporated as a mutual non-profit corporation under the direction of our first Board of Directors and began to collect staff to move forward with making a statewide open-access network dream a reality. In less than 12 months with 6 initial NoaNet employees, NoaNet constructed 23 Points of Presence, installed advanced technology statewide, and was ready to serve customers.

Today, NoaNet operates a fiber network totaling more than 3,800 fiber miles throughout Washington State, connecting the local PUDs anchor institutions and other independent communications networks to each other and the major carrier connection points in Seattle and Spokane. This network touches all of the counties in the state and connects hundreds of communities and businesses, many of whom have never before had access to advanced telecommunication services. Since 2020, we have hosted the state's Next Generation 911 system on our network, providing both ingress and egress to bring calls into the network and route them

to the correct Public Safety Answering Points. We are honored to have been trusted with this vital step to improve emergency communications when it couldn't matter more.

As Washington State's leading wholesale broadband provider and telecom solutions provider for over 20 years, we help our community partners navigate the complex protocols and processes needed for connectivity. We engage community stakeholders to understand their unique needs and priorities, forge a plan, and put it into action. We provide state-of-the-art solutions from beginning to end. From remote mountain communities to island towns, we strive to extend broadband wherever possible through smart, creative, and collaborative problem-solving.

NoaNet is a non-profit organization, so every dollar made goes back into advancing broadband connectivity for Washington's communities, not to shareholders who live across the globe. We are so proud to serve the people and communities of Washington with world-class telecommunications facilities and services.

- 1 Open Access**

Our open-access network is available on a non-discriminatory basis for competing businesses and service providers to deliver high-capacity broadband and voice services.
- 2 Public Benefit Broadband Networks**

Community by community, NoaNet provides leading-edge solutions to expand broadband access in telemedicine, agriculture, education, public safety, and support rural economic development opportunities. We are committed to our service providers to deliver the best in industry broadband and over-the-top solutions to benefit their business and customers.
- 3 Owned by Rural Public Utility Districts**

Public Utility Districts are not-for-profit community-owned utilities that provide electric, water, sewer, and wholesale telecommunications services to customers across Washington State. Like our owners, NoaNet is committed to excellent hometown customer service.
- 4 A Non-Profit Provider**

All revenues from selling wholesale services in the open market are put back into the network to fund our mission and ensure fiscal sustainability. NoaNet does not collect tax dollars or subsidies from water or electrical ratepayers.
- 5 Public Safety Network**

Next Generation 911 services are delivered over our statewide highly reliable emergency communications dispatch network. This represents a vital step in addressing the urgent need to improve communications for Washington State's public safety agencies.

Affiliate Program Guidelines

The Benefits of Affiliate Membership

1. Establish relationships with public-benefit network owners across Washington State
 - i. NoaNet has ten owners/members and interconnects with more than 100 Internet Service Providers in Washington State.
2. Invitations to exclusive NoaNet events
 - i. Our Spring and Fall TechFests offer a chance to learn from people in the offices and the field deploying the networks our organizations run.
3. Leverage the political and lobbying strength of the NoaNet and membership organizations to advocate for advantageous public broadband policies and regulations.
4. Access to the Public Benefit Network Owners Forum
 - i. A private forum for WA public benefit network owners to post questions, share information, and collaborate.
5. Preferred pricing and positioning for strategic support agreements under NoaNet's Network Coordinated Services including prioritized contracting for Internet, VoIP Services, Virtual Storage-Compute, Outside Plant Support, GIS Services, and Engineering Support.
6. As an affiliate, you may display the NoaNet affiliate logo on your website to show the world you are part of the NoaNet team.
7. Affiliate members will be featured on the NoaNet website through affiliate spotlight features to recognize regional efforts as well as on a static affiliates page.
8. Affiliates will have access to a yearly 2-hour one-on-one lunch with NoaNet business development leaders to discuss broadband development strategies for their area.

Level I and Level II Dues

Dues will be paid annually at the first of the year. Members joining at a point mid-year will be assessed a prorated rate based on the month in which their membership would become active. Employee counts to determine if your organization is a Level I or Level II organization are based on the employee count as a whole, not any one office or location of a larger organization.

- Level I (15 or fewer employees) - \$1,000 per year
- Level II (16+ employees) - \$1,500 per year

For More Information

For more information on how to become an Associate Member contact our membership team at membership@noanet.net



NOANET Affiliate Membership Application Form

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Organization: _____

Company Street Address: _____

Mailing address (if different from above): _____

Administrative Contact/Phone: _____

Description of organization (services offered, region served, # of customers, etc.):

PRIMARY MEMBER INFORMATION

Primary Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

DUES LEVEL

___ LEVEL I: 15 or fewer employees.....\$1,000

___ Level II: 16+ employees.....\$1,500

LOGOS

Please email an electronic (.jpg or .png) version of your logo to membership@noanet.net for listing on the NoaNet Affiliate Members webpage.

To submit your application please email this sheet to membership@noanet.net and we'll contact you to coordinate dues payment.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership Approved: _____ Date: _____

Payment Received: _____ Date: _____