

**Renewable Resources Advisory Council**

Wednesday, June 16, 2004

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Energy Trust Watt/Kilowatt Conference Room

733 SW Oak Street, Suite 200

Portland, OR 97205

**Attending from the Council:**

Frank Vignola, UO and SRMC

Doug Boleyn, Cascade Solar Consulting

John Reynolds, UO and Board

Sonja Ling, RNP

Virinder Singh, PacifiCorp

**Others attending:**

Jon Miller, OSEIA

Dave Tooze, City of Portland OSD

Dave Robison

**Attending from Energy Trust:**

Anna Parry

Kacia Brockman

Peter West

Sherry Secrest

Maureen Quaid

**1. Introductions / review agenda**

Council approved notes from the February meeting.

**2. Solar Thermal Market Assessment**

Rick Kunkle of WSU Energy Program presented results from a market characterization study of solar thermal systems. Information was collected from State of Oregon tax credit records and follow-up interviews were conducted with people who had purchased systems and key informants in the market. The review found that the market is flat and that most systems have been installed in existing residences. Market barriers exist, including system costs and unsightly equipment. Economic and environmental factors motivated buyers. The study provided recommendations for marketing solar thermal systems and addressing market barriers.

Questions arose about system reliability and perceptions of consumers, as well as comparisons to purchasers of PV systems. Peter said that we are trying to co-market PV and thermal and we need to think through the right strategy, taking into consideration the characteristics of buyers, including frugality.

**3. City of Corvallis Biogas Proposal**

Peter presented the analysis of a proposed biogas project at the Corvallis Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project will be a small-scale 55 KW stirling engine. Between 11 and 18 sewer treatment plants may be able to take advantage of this technology. Capital budget issues and long lead times are market barriers.

A shared savings model is being developed for the project. The Energy Trust would get the green tags for the project. Staff proposes to pay on production and the City will lease the equipment and contract for the operations.

Since the funding from the Energy Trust will be less than \$50,000 the RAC is the key reviewing body. All RAC members present supported staff's recommendation to proceed.

#### **4. OPUC Benchmarks**

Peter walked through the draft benchmarks for the Energy Trust as described by the Oregon Public Utility Commission. The OPUC is looking for benchmarks to assess how the Energy Trust is performing relative to its mission and goals. There are 5 proposed benchmarks, including meeting savings and generation goals, fiscal prudence, administrative costs, and customer satisfaction.

For renewable energy generation, there was general agreement that a target of 15 aMW per year (on a three year rolling average) was supportable. Comments on the draft are due to Janet Fairchild by June 25, and a public hearing is July 6.

#### **5. Break**

#### **6. Review of Strategic Issues**

Peter presented staff's summary of program accomplishments and strategic actions. Staff is recommending continuing on the same strategic path with minor changes in actions. The proposal revises the renewable generation goal to 150-190 aMW due solely to Energy Trust investments. Questions were asked about timing and balance in the plan, promotion of geothermal resources, and other issues. Peter recommended that the Energy Trust support standard offer projects that are replicable. Peter asked the Council for review comments within a month on the proposed approach, and specifically for input on what role the Energy Trust can play in breaking down market barriers.

#### **7. Program Updates**

Peter showed slides of renewable projects he visited as part of a Renewable Conference in Bonn, Germany

#### **8. Public Comment**

No public comments were offered.

#### **9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at noon. The next scheduled meeting of the Renewable Resources Advisory Council will be on August 12, 2004 between 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.