

# **4.18.000-P Economic Development Policy**

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<b>History</b>			
<b>Source</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action/Notes</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>
Board Decision	April 7, 2004	Approved (R265)	June 2004
Board	June 9, 2004	Econ. Dev. Initiative (R277)	June 2007
Policy Committee	October 3, 2007	No changes	October 2010
Policy Committee	October 12, 2010	No changes	October 2013
Board Decision	October 1, 2014	Revised (R714)	October 2017
Board Decision	November 8, 2017	Revised (R818)	November 2020
Board Decision	December 17, 2021	Revised (R953)	December 2024

## **POLICY RATIONALE**

The Economic Development Policy affirms Energy Trust's interest and commitment to working closely with economic development entities and professionals.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

1. Economic development is a significant and important focus of the utilities whose customers provide funding to Energy Trust and the communities jointly served by those utilities and Energy Trust. Energy Trust's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs advance economic development. These programs deliver significant energy and non-energy benefits which customers can leverage to lower production costs and increase operating reserves and profits. By doing so these customers become more competitive in the markets in which they operate which allows them to invest in personnel, facilities and equipment, all of which stimulate economic activity. Additionally, businesses and communities participating in Energy Trust programs use less energy and can contribute to their own organizational and overall state policy objectives such as lower particulate and greenhouse gas emissions, among others.
2. It is consistent with Energy Trust's vision and purpose to cooperate intentionally and proactively with economic development entities and professionals and utilities that are supporting businesses in their growth and development and in their exploration of coming to, staying in, or expanding in Oregon and Energy Trust's service territories.
3. Energy Trust staff is authorized to make commitments to projects with economic development potential consistent with the same program standards, board policies, and legal requirements that apply to other projects of the same kind.

**SCOPE**

1. The Economic Development Policy applies to all Energy Trust personnel and considerations of program design.

**DEFINITIONS**

The following are terms specific to this policy. Defined terms not defined here are defined in the Energy Trust's Glossary of Terms

**Economic development entities** are entities that work to support and advance expanding economic activity and development for specific jurisdictions.

**Economic development professionals** are individuals who operate and implement the work of economic development entities.

**PROCEDURES**

1. **Energy Trust staff may make available information to help economic development entities, economic development professionals, utility account representatives, and utility customers who are not assigned utility account representatives understand how Energy Trust programs support new and existing commercial and industrial facilities;**
2. **Energy Trust staff should proactively reach out to economic development entities and economic development professionals to provide current and relevant information and stay current on state and regional priorities and topics of interest. Examples of Energy Trust outreach include sponsorships, attendance and presentations at customer meetings, conferences, or training sessions including those hosted by economic development entities and utilities;**
3. **Energy Trust staff should designate a contact person to coordinate quick responses to inquiries on economic development matters from the State of Oregon, economic development professionals, or others.**