Working with more than 90 community wastewater treatment agencies to protect Oregon's water
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26 August 2014

Energy Trust of Oregon
421 SW Oak St #300
Portland, OR 97204

Submitted electronically

Re: Draft Strategic Plan 2015 -2019

The Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) is a private, not-for-profit organization of Oregon's wastewater treatment and stormwater management utilities, along the associated professionals. Our 120 statewide members are dedicated to protecting and enhancing Oregon's water quality. Our clean water responsibilities involve a tremendous amount of energy. Oregon wastewater utilities use approximately 5% of the State's electricity and energy accounts for about 15 percent of a typical domestic wastewater treatment plants operating budget. Saving energy at a wastewater treatment plant saves everything…

ACWA appreciates our partnership with the Energy Trust of Oregon in financially supporting our **Sustainable Energy Management Training Program**. Since the training program started in 2010, twenty-four wastewater treatment plants have participated in the multi-day, customized training program, focused on assisting wastewater utilities in creating and maintaining an energy management system to identify and implement low and no-cost energy efficiency measures, while exploring larger renewable power opportunities at the treatment plant. The program has resulted in long-term energy efficiency savings at the participating treatment plants, along with renewable power installations such as solar P/V projects and biogas installations at the treatment plants that serve Gresham, Pendleton, and Clean Water Services' district.

Regarding the draft strategic energy plan, we suggest Energy Trust consider further customizing its services to the Government and Non-Profit sector. This sector responds to different drivers than the industrial and homeowner sector and a more customized approach may be useful. This would also be consistent with the stated goal of improving the benefits of projects across a number of public policy goals (such as increased use of biogas by co-digesting waste streams, and implementing projects that save both energy and water).

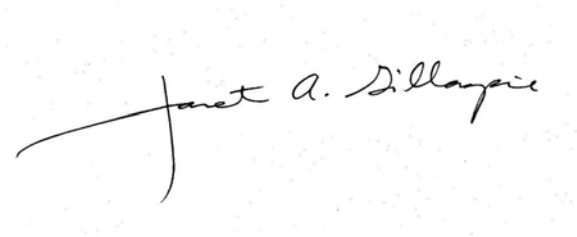
Stephanie Eisner - Chair Raj Kapur - Vice Chair
Michelle Cahill - Secretary/Treasurer

Regarding renewable energy, we strongly applaud the focus of the strategic plan on biogas opportunities. Many Oregon wastewater treatment plants are currently flaring all or a portion of their biogas. This now-wasted energy resource is a tremendous opportunity for local wastewater utilities, and an platform to meet the renewable power goals for the State of Oregon.

ACWA is pleased to be able to continue to partner with Energy Trust of Oregon and other biopower advocacy groups to develop and implement strategies to capture this energy resource.

We appreciate the Energy Trust's investment in Sustainable Energy Management Training programs and its financial assistance to our members for energy efficiency and renewable power projects, and look forward to developing and implementing additional programs for the 2015 – 2019 strategic plan.

Very truly yours,



Janet A. Gillaspie
Executive Director