

Diversity Advisory Council Meeting Notes

February 18, 2020

Attending from the council:

Charity Fain, Community Energy Project
Cheryl Roberts, African American Alliance for Homeownership
Dolores Martinez, EUVALCREE (by phone)
Indika Sugathadasa, PDX HIVE
Kaeti Namba, Native American Youth and Family Center
Kheoshi Owens, Empress Rules
Shane Davis, City of Portland
Sherry Tran, Bend small business owner
Susan Badger-Jones, special projects consultant
Vero Silva, Rogue Climate (by phone)

Attending from Energy Trust:

Mana Haeri	Julianne Thacher
Ashley Bartels	Tyrone Henry
Amber Cole	Shelly Carlton
Greg Stokes	Susan Jowaiszas
Sue Fletcher	Kathleen Belkhat
Debbie Goldberg Menashe	Phil Degens
Oliver Kesting	MacKenzie Kurtzner
Michael Colgrove	Amanda Zuniga
Alex Novie	

Others attending:

Mark Kendall, Energy Trust board (phone)	Nick Dreves, ICF
Elee Jen, Energy Trust board (phone)	Laura Hall, ICF
Ruchi Sadhir, Oregon Department of Energy (by phone)	Linda Woodley, Prisma Point
Anna Kim, Oregon Public Utility Commission	Ulrike Mengelberg, Cascade Energy
Greg Harr, Evergreen Consulting Group	Marci Sanders, Resource Innovations
Alex Bertolucci, CLEAResult	Tamara Falls, Portland General Electric
Whitney Miller, CLEAResult	Annie Savaria-Watson, LatinoBuilt
Jenny Sorich, CLEAResult	Berenice Lopez, LatinoBuilt
Sada Naegelin, Stillwater Energy	Heather Moline, Northwest Energy Coalition

1. Welcome

Tyrone Henry, Energy Trust's diversity, equity and inclusion lead, convened the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

The agenda, notes and presentation materials are available at Energy Trust's website at <https://www.energytrust.org/about/public-meetings/diversity-advisory-council-meetings/>. The

meeting was recorded on GoToMeeting. If you'd like to refer to the meeting recording for further detail on any of these topics, email info@energytrust.org.

This was the council's first meeting since six new members joined in January 2020.

2. Overview of OPUC's Relationship to Energy Trust

Topic summary

Debbie Menashe, Energy Trust's director of legal and human resources, introduced Anna Kim from the Oregon Public Utility Commission, who gave an overview of OPUC's relationship to Energy Trust.

Anna Kim, the staff liaison to Energy Trust, read OPUC's mission statement that outlines powers given to it by the Legislature. It regulates investor-owned utilities in Oregon to ensure safe, reliable and high-quality utility services at reasonable rates. OPUC supports energy efficiency since it is the lowest cost and least risk resource and relies on Energy Trust in that area.

OPUC regulates Energy Trust's work as a nonprofit, non-governmental entity that distributes public purpose funds. In regulating Energy Trust, OPUC focuses on transparency, fiscal prudence, efficacy of programs and costs.

Discussion

Member asked how just and reasonable rates are determined (Kheoshi Owens) and when the last time OPUC's mission statement was updated (Charity Fain). Anna Kim explained that reasonable rates are determined through review of utility costs for generation and operations. Debbie Menashe noted a bill under consideration in the Legislature, HB 4067, would require OPUC to consider different factors such as energy burden and equity in rate making.

Next steps

None.

3. Overview of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Operations Plan

Topic summary

Debbie Menashe reviewed Energy Trust's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Operations Plan. She noted that historically underserved communities experience barriers across many systems, including accessing Energy Trust programs.

Starting in 2017, Energy Trust committed itself to reaching more diverse customers. To measure the organization's progress, it created a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Operations Plan for 2018-2020 with 10 goals focused on increasing participation among underserved groups. This is a starting point and that the next version of the plan could look different.

Discussion

Members asked if this plan is separate from Energy Trust's strategic plan (Kheoshi Owens). Debbie Menashe said yes, but diversity, equity and inclusion is also incorporated in the strategic plan.

Members asked how the plan involves young people (Kheoshi Owens). Engagement with young people is reflected in internships at Energy Trust and partnerships with community-based organizations, some of which might work with young people. Tyrone Henry noted staff are looking into the possibility of working with school districts on an energy efficiency curriculum and

with unions and/or labor groups to promote energy efficiency training, which could reach young people.

Members said it would be useful to know how the plan relates to Energy Trust's budget and what amount of spending is tied to this work (Charity Fain). Debbie Menashe said spending on specific and related diversity, equity and inclusion activities were budgeted this year and those amounts could change as the organization works to understand what it takes to achieve these goals.

Members also asked how Energy Trust has used this plan since 2018 and how relevant these goals remain in 2020 (Shane Davis). Debbie Menashe said the plan has focused staff efforts and continues to be effective in that way in 2020. It was also helpful in drafting the strategic plan. Progress to the plan is captured in quarterly and annual reports, and the current plan and goals will provide lessons for the next version.

Next steps

Staff will look to the council for guidance on the next operation plan.

4. Data enhancement project update

Topic summary

Energy Trust staff are exploring new ways to learn about the demographics of eligible utility customers and Energy Trust participants. Alex Novie, Energy Trust's measure development manager, and Phil Degens, evaluation manager, described the various activities underway, including continued review of the data baseline work undertaken in 2018, Fast Feedback customer surveys, and an expanded Customer Insight Survey in 2020. Better data collection for utility territories and in specific communities will inform more effective program design.

Tyrone Henry said help from partners—including community-based organizations and the council members—will be important to ensure accurate data collection.

The next data enhancement focus area will be contractor research and analysis.

Discussion

Members asked about the status of surveys and who is being surveyed (Shane Davis). Surveys are ongoing for utility account holders and people who received Energy Trust incentives at a known site.

Members asked how Energy Trust will avoid duplication in counting a diverse contractor who is both minority- and women-owned (Kheoshi Owens). Energy Trust plans to provide a total number of unique projects completed by minority- and women-owned trade allies and a total for minority- and women-owned trade allies since some firms will have multiple certifications.

Next steps

Staff will give more information at the council's March 10 retreat.

5. Commercial request for proposals update

Topic summary

Debbie Menashe provided background on the upcoming request for proposals (RFP) for programs that serve existing commercial buildings, multifamily buildings and commercial and industrial lighting customers, which will be released March 9. This is Energy Trust's single

largest RFP with a budget of about \$20 million annually. While previous RFPs have had diversity requirements, this one will have requirements on subcontracting with diverse firms.

Discussion

Members asked about ways to simplify the State of Oregon's Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity process for diverse contractors (Kheoshi Owens) and potential downsides of certification (Cheryl Roberts). Tyrone Henry said it is valuable to go through the state's certification process because it allows eligible contractors to be considered for other contracting opportunities outside of Energy Trust.

Next steps

Debbie Menashe will send the RFP press release to council members and follow up via email to see if a council member could serve on the RFP selection committee, a 30- to 40-hour commitment.

6. Public comment

Mark Kendall thanked presenters for a clear explanation of how Energy Trust is pursuing more diverse participants. Elee Jen complimented the intention of the RFP to promote diversity and encouraged clear language be included to achieve that.

Kheoshi Owens said she is hosting a diversity and anti-racism training March 20-21 and will offer discounts to Energy Trust participants and affiliates.

Heather Moline from NW Energy Coalition, a nonprofit policy advocacy group that is working on HB 4067, introduced herself and offered to talk with anyone wanting more information about the bill.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m. The next public meeting of the council will be a joint meeting with the Conservation Advisory Council and the Renewable Energy Advisory Council to consider Energy Trust's 2021 organizational goals. That joint meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2020.