

Renewable Energy Advisory Council Meeting Notes

September 15, 2021

Attending from the council:

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources
Congress
Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon
Solar+Storage Industries Association
Anna Kim, Oregon Public Utility
Commission
Erik Anderson, Pacific Power
Jaimes Valdez, Portland Clean Energy
Community Benefits Fund

John Cornwell, Oregon Department of
Energy
Josh Peterson, University of Oregon Solar
Radiation Monitoring Lab
Les Perkins, Farmers Irrigation District
Max Greene, Renewable NW

Attending from Energy Trust:

Alexis Bright
Alina Lambert
Amber Cole
Bayo Ware
Betsy Kauffman
Cameron Starr
Dave McClelland
Dave Moldal
Elaine Dado
Emily Estrada
Fred Gordon
Gayle Roughton
Greg Stokes
Hannah Cruz
Ian Brysen Pagatpatan
Jay Ward
Jeni Hall

Josh Reed
Julianne Thacher
Kyle Petrocine
Lizzie Rubado
Matt Getchell
Melanie Bissonnette
Mike Colegrove
Robert Wyllie
Shelly Carlton
Sletsy Diamini
Steve Lacey
Susan Fletcher
Taylor Navesken
Tracy Scott
Tyrone Henry

Others attending:

Audrey Burkhardt, Portland General Electric
Diane Henkels, Small Business Utility Advocates
Elee Jen, Energy Trust Board
Frank Vignola, University of Oregon
Jed Jorgensen, Farmers Conservation Alliance
Knowledge Murphy, Multnomah County
Tess Jordan, Portland General Electric

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Betsy Kauffman, sector lead for renewables, convened the meeting at 9:32 a.m. on Zoom. The agenda, notes and presentation materials are available on Energy Trust's website at <https://www.energytrust.org/about/public-meetings/renewable-energy-advisory-council-meetings/>.

Betsy Kauffman announced the draft budget for 2022 will be available online on October 6th and a public budget workshop on October 13th. Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Solar+Storage Industries Association, was welcomed as a new Renewable Advisory Council Member.

2. Draft Budget and Action Plan for 2022-23

Topic summary

Betsy Kauffman presented a recap of feedback provided by council members and stakeholders over the spring and summer. The renewables team will focus on low and moderate-income customers in 2022 and 2023. Interest in renewable energy remains high among residential and municipal customers driven by climate and sustainability goals, desire for resilience and the need to manage energy costs. Tyrone Henry, diversity, equity and inclusion lead, reviewed the four Community Summits held by Energy Trust over the summer. Summits included residential and housing leaders across Oregon, tribal leaders and small businesses, commercial and industrial leaders and professional businesses. Staff heard feedback that more engagement with community groups is needed, as well as more people of color in our Trade Ally Network. Summit attendees encouraged Energy Trust to go broader and deeper with equity across multiple programs. Staff will be de-prioritizing parts of the residential solar market with careful engagement with stakeholders throughout. Part of the engagement includes a trade ally contractor survey distributed at the end of September. Staff heard that early project assistance and work in 'unsticking' parts of the market, such as assisting communities with grant writing and management, and involvement in the Oregon Community Solar Program should be prioritized in 2022-23.

Dave Moldal, senior program manager, provided an overview of the past year of custom distributed renewable energy generation projects that were supported with installation incentives based on above-market costs and development assistance. The Other Renewables program proposed a 2022-23 Action Plan and budget would focus primarily on in-conduit hydropower projects and biopower projects. It will continue to support the irrigation modernization program that leverages state and federal funding, expand community lead engagement in energy planning and pursue energy resilience investigations and feasibility studies.

Dave McClelland, senior program manager, presented an overview of the planned transition for the solar program. To address equity goals related to the passage of HB 3141 in the 2021 legislative session, one-third of solar incentives are to be distributed to low- or moderate-income households. Staff will partner with local community-based organizations to address access and awareness barriers. Staff is proposing to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to leverage existing funds and provide customer incentives for critical facility or community resilience hub projects. In addition, the program plans to expand support for a robust and diverse Trade Ally Network and increase investments in solar leads, business development funds, and training and workforce development opportunities.

Discussion

Members agreed with Energy Trust's proposed plan for 2022-23 (Angela Crowley-Koch, Jamies Valdez, Max Greene). A member suggested that Energy Trust offer scholarships targeted at the groups that it would like to promote (Josh Peterson). Coordination with tribes to add to existing

scholarships is suggested (Frank Vignola). Staff agreed and noted that that scholarships are under consideration (Dave McClelland). Portland General Electric is supportive of proposed changes and reiterated the importance of close coordination with utilities (Tess Jordan, Erik Anderson). An attendee inquired about HB 3141 and the implications for small commercial and small businesses (Diane Henkels). Staff expectation is that funding levels will remain stable for these customers and further discussion will take place in the Conservation Advisory Council meeting, as it is part of the action planning context for energy efficiency programs (Betsy Kauffman, Hannah Cruz).

Next steps

Staff continues to collect feedback from members and trade allies.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m. The next meeting will be a joint budget workshop on Wednesday, October 13.