

Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Notes
November 16, 2022

Attending from the council:

Jeff Bissonnette, NW Energy Coalition
Andy Cameron, Oregon Department of
Energy
Lisa McGarity, Avista
Tina Jayaweera, Northwest Power and
Conservation Council

Anna Kim, Oregon Public Utility
Commission
Laney Ralph, NW Natural
Tim Hendricks, BOMA
Jake Wise, Portland General Electric
Kari Greer, Pacific Power

Attending from Energy Trust:

Hannah Cruz
Elizabeth Fox
Elaine Dado
Tom Beverly
Tyrone Henry
Cameron Starr
Amber Cole
Fred Gordon
Thad Roth
Themba Mutepefa
Kirstin Pinit
Julianne Thacher
Cheryle Easton
Lindsey Diercksen
Steve Lacey

Shelly Carlton
Marshall Johnson
Alex Novie
Wendy Gibson
Amanda Potter
Kate Wellington
Sloan Schang
Amanda Zuniga
Ryan Crews
Sletsy Dlamini
Abby Spegman
Kenji Spielman
Sue Fletcher
Kathleen Belkhat
Lidia Garcia

Others attending:

Peter Therkelsen, Energy Trust board
Angel Swanson, Skill Demand
John Molnar, Rogers Machinery
Ellsworth Lang, Existing Buildings CBL
Brooke Landon, CLEAResult
Jenny Sorich, CLEAResult
Stephanie Berkland, TRC Companies
Henry Lorenzen, Energy Trust board
Maya Cutforth, NEEA
Ross Ferguson, ICF

Brian Lynch, AESC
Jonathon Belmont, BPA
Tiffany Purn, Skill Demand
Josh Weissert, Energy 350
Huong Tran, Mindful Healing
Patrick Murphy, CLEAResult
Alder Miller, CLEAResult
Victoria Lara, Lara Media
Beth Baxter, TRC
Chris Smith, Energy 350

1. Welcome and Announcements

Hannah Cruz, senior stakeholder relations and policy manager, convened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. The agenda, notes and presentation materials are available at www.energytrust.org/about/public-meetings/conservation-advisory-council-meetings.

2. Energy Trust Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan Overview

Topic summary

Tyrone Henry, DEI lead, provided an overview of Energy Trust's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan, including a shift in Energy Trust's approach and ongoing community engagements to

influence organizational activities. Listening was highlighted as a key activity. Slides are available online as part of the [meeting packet](#).

Discussion

Staff asked Tyrone to clarify his role, which he defined as finding the right people and keeping them moving in the right direction. Tyrone also expressed his gratitude to colleagues at all levels of the organization, along with utility partners, who have been supportive and helped in planning and reaching diversity, equity and inclusion goals.

Next Steps

None.

3. Improving Service to Diverse Customers: Existing Buildings Program Community Based Liaisons

Topic Summary

The Existing Buildings program incorporated Community Based Liaisons as a component to customer service and outreach in 2021. Wendy Gibson, Existing Buildings program manager, provided an overview of the purpose, approach and lessons learned so far from working with Community Based Liaison contractors, including Kheoshi Owens (Empress Rules Equity Consulting), Mustafah Finney (Rose City Alliance), Shelley Beaulieu (Dragonfly Consulting), Victoria Lara (Lara Media), Huong Tran (Mindful Healing), Ellsworth Lang and Greg Delgado, and Lindsey Dierksen (LDL Consulting).

Victoria Lara, Ellsworth Lang and Huong Tran described their experience for CAC members, stating that Community Based Liaisons have worked together in a very close space, like family, to work through difficult experiences and lessons and that the learning experience has been amazing. Colleagues have been supportive through difficult learning. They also stated that they have grown both in and outside of their communities as a result.

Discussion

Staff thanked the Community Based Liaisons who described their work and for bringing stories forward to the group. The Conservation Advisory Council often focuses on numbers and measurable outcomes, and it's helpful to hear other aspects of the work and how it impacts customers and communities. Staff and Community Based Liaisons stated that it takes longer to make progress in diverse communities because that's what community members need and building trust takes time. The Community Based Liaisons network is about being there for the long run (Hannah Cruz, Victoria Lara, Huong Tran, Ellsworth Lang).

Next steps

None.

4. House Bill 3141 Equity Metrics Update

Topic Summary

Hannah Cruz provided a short update on implementation of House Bill 3141, dubbed the "Public Purpose Charge Modernization Bill". Among other provisions, House Bill 3141 requires the Oregon Public Utility Commission to set equity metrics for Energy Trust's stewardship of all ratepayer funds it receives. Anna Kim serves as the Oregon Public Utility Commission staff lead for this work. The bill codifies the longstanding Energy Trust practice of distributing ratepayer funds equitably. The Oregon Public Utility Commission worked with an equity consultant to facilitate public workshops and online sessions. The presentation includes links for sharing comments and reviewing documentation.

The Oregon Public Utility Commission is continuing to engage with stakeholders. They are interested in hearing from community-based organizations who would like to weigh in. Written comments are appreciated and due November 28, 2022.

In addition, Energy Trust submitted requests for cost-effectiveness exceptions on window replacements and certain insulation measures to the Oregon Public Utility Commission. The Oregon Public Utility Commission has posted its staff memo which requests public comment on the exceptions by December 1. If approved by the commission, Energy Trust would be able to consider window and insulation measures more expansively and for the benefit of low-income customers. Energy Trust decided not to pursue a third exception related to heat pumps, but instead will step back to reconsider all heat pump offerings. There is a five-year blanket exception for insulation. Energy Trust is looking to push past typical cost effectiveness tests, which would remove barriers. Staff noted this is a departure from the norm (Alex Novie). Council members asked how the push to help low-income customers will impact work to move past the total resource cost test. Staff responded that Energy Trust hopes to see commissioners approve the exception request on December 13. If they approve it, Energy Trust can roll out higher incentives for income-qualified customers via Savings Within Reach and Community Based Liaisons (Alex Novie).

Discussion

None.

Next Steps

None.

5. 2023 Meeting Dates

Topic Summary

Hannah Cruz discussed 2023 meeting dates. The council typically meets eight times each year. For two of those, Energy Trust hopes to have a joint networking/working meeting with the Diversity Advisory Council and Renewable Energy Advisory Council. The council typically doesn't meet in January, December and one summer month. In 2023, there will be no meeting in August.

Discussion

No questions or topics.

Next Steps

Council members will receive the dates by email and should inform Hannah Cruz if there are any known conflicts.

6. Recruitment for new Conservation Advisory Council members

Topic Summary

Hannah Cruz discussed the new Conservation Advisory Council member recruitment process. The role of council members is outlined in a board approved charter, which gives minimum duties, including providing input on budgets, focus areas, plans and decisions. The council also advises the board of directors as experts on energy efficiency and council members act as advocates in light of where the organization is going. Another goal is for the council to help staff become better at understanding the barriers in place that inhibit customers from participating and work with Energy Trust to remove them.

Hannah Cruz will move into an active recruiting role working with Betsy Kauffman and a consultant to create a more meaningful onboarding experience for new members.

Discussion

Council members asked about membership goals and the current number of members. Staff responded that membership can be between 10 – 18 (Hannah Cruz). There are currently 14 council members.

Next Steps

None.

7. Public comment

There was no additional public comment.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. Meeting materials are available [online](#).