

Renewable Energy Advisory Council Meeting Notes

September 14, 2022

Attending from the council:

Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Solar +
Storage Industries Association
Ryan Harvey, Pacific Power
Tess Jordan, Portland General Electric
April Snell, Oregon Water Resources
Congress
Brikky King, Umpqua Bank

Ross Ferguson, ICF
Les Perkins, Farmers Irrigation District
Anna Kim, Oregon Public Utility
Commission
Raphaella Hsu-Flanders, Bonneville
Environmental Foundation
Max Greene, Renewable Northwest

Attending from Energy Trust:

Joshua Reed
Dave Modal
Ryan Cook
Kyle Petrocine
Tracy Scott
Dave McClelland
Matt Getchell
Betsy Kauffman
Hannah Cruz
Elaine Dado
Shelly Carlton
Steve Lacey

Taylor Ford
Susan Fletcher
Jeni Hall
Melanie Bissonnette
Michael Colgrove
Greg Stokes
Fred Gordon
Jay Ward
Amanda Thompson
Elizabeth Fox
Alina Lambert
Bayo Ware

Others attending:

Susan Brodahl, Energy Trust Board
Elee Jen, Energy Trust Board
Christy Splitt, Oregon Dept. of Energy
Kaci Radcliffe, Oregon Dept. of Energy
Jake Wise, Portland General Electric
Christina Medina, Pacific Power
Kari Greer, Pacific Power
Jon Miller, McKinstry

Donald MacOdrum, TRC Companies
Guillermo Castillo, Small Business Utility
Advocates
Maddy Do, Thorn Run Partners
Audrey Burkhardt, Portland General Electric
Keith Kueny, Farmers Conservation Alliance
Kacia Brockman, Oregon Public Utility
Commission

1. Welcome and announcements

Josh Reed, renewable energy project manager, convened the meeting at 10:00 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/>. Dave Modal, senior program manager, informed the council about the budget presentation to the board of directors scheduled for Wednesday, October 12 and the joint

advisory council meeting on scheduled for Friday, October 21. These meetings will provide a high-level overview of the draft budget and action plan. Josh Reed announced the opening of the second round of Working Together Grants. More information on the grants is available on Energy Trust's website at <https://energytrust.org/working-together-grants/>.

2. Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment

Topic summary

Kaci Radcliffe, project manager & program analyst at the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), discussed the Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment, which was developed with a \$1.1 million grant from the Department of Defense. Key project goals are to create relevant educational tools for stakeholders, agencies, local governments, and policy makers about renewable energy development, military training and operational areas, economic/community benefits, land use considerations, natural, cultural, and environmental resources, and other regulatory requirements. This features two components: the ORESA Report and the online Mapping and Reporting Tool. The report found that there is at least enough potential to reach those goals. The tool is a database that aggregates baseline renewable energy siting information in an online mapping platform with queries that can be transformed into printable reports.

- Learn more about the ORESA project: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/ORESAS.aspx>
- Visit Renewable Energy landing page on Oregon Explorer: https://oregonexplorer.info/topics/renewable-energy?qt-subtopic_quicktab=0&ptopic=62
- Send comments and questions: <https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/en-US/ORESAS/>
- Sign up for email updates: <http://web.energy.oregon.gov/cn/a6n53/subscribe>

Discussion

Energy Trust staff asked about the level of granularity that could be reached in the Mapping Tool (Betsy Kauffman). ODOE staff replied that the tool did not go to the jurisdiction or substation level but expressed that there is interest in creating further granularity. This furthered curiosity regarding constraints or strained service across the state (Betsy Kauffman) to which ODOE staff replied that it is looking to improve datasets and requested complementary or better datasets with which to populate the tool. ODOE staff relayed that identification of transmission opportunities and constraints is the next best step for the tool. There is also a desire to identify needs and opportunities for all datasets, such as community needs. The council was invited to comment in the Mapping Tool's portal or to contact Kaci Radcliffe directly at kaci.radcliffe@energy.oregon.gov.

Next steps

None.

3. Engagement on new concepts in development with utilities for the 2023 Energy Trust Utility-Specific Action Plans

Topic summary

Tracy Scott, energy programs director; Jake Wise, community outreach manager at Portland General Electric; Kari Greer, senior community relations manager at Pacific Power; and Christina Medina, manager of stakeholder policy & engagement at Pacific Power presented on the development of the Utility-Specific Action Plans to field questions and seek input regarding the process. Objectives shared by the electric utilities included the development of community-based renewables, incentive offers for Distribution System Connected Technology and

resilience planning followed by the unique aspects of their plans. Pacific Power staff discussed stakeholder engagement and the upcoming projects as a result of House Bill 3141.

Discussion

Council members expressed support regarding the priority for households experiencing low incomes (Angela Crowley-Koch). Staff agreed and replied that Energy Trust will continue to develop the relationships it has been fostering for the past four years with community organizations, which have allowed it to better serve this demographic (Betsy Kauffman). Members requested an update on feedback given to increase communication with Indigenous communities specifically, and other communities of color in urban areas (Brikky King). Energy Trust plans to develop strategies to foster stronger relationships with the First Nations in 2023 (Betsy Kauffman). Staff outlined the Solar Ambassadors project which aims to increase access to residential solar electrical systems to Black, Indigenous, and communities of color in the Portland Metro area. Members stated a desire to work with staff on the financing aspect of that effort (Brikky King). Staff concluded the topic by highlighting the increased opportunities that the Inflation Reduction Act creates for Oregon's renewable energy sector.

Next steps

Staff will continue to engage the Renewable Energy Advisory Council regarding possible program concepts such as residential solar financing options.

4. Public Comment

Members asked staff what barriers it faced to additional community engagement, specifically as it relates to the development of separate strategies for rural and urban (Brikky King). Staff responded that staffing is key to engagement work and is a limited factor and that staff will update the council on efforts that the organization is making in this area. Staff will be working with about several communities across the state that have faced natural disasters to develop Emergency Management Plans to better support vulnerable populations in the wake of these events (Betsy Kauffman). Members suggested engaging with formal local community leaders at the highest level to create deeper and more consistent engagement (Brikky King). Staff stated that its coordination with utilities will help ensure that engagements are most efficient and mutually beneficial to all parties involved and at the right cadence (Tracy Scott).

Staff mentioned Central Oregon's irrigation modernization project's publicity in national news outlets that highlighted both its energy and non-energy benefits for rural communities (Dave Modal).

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.