

Renewable Energy Advisory Council Agenda

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To join the Zoom meeting, you will need to register in

advance: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtc-CqrTktG9CwPh1DRGvh8P3aXTKzoWLy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

9:30 Welcome and Announcements

9:40 Energy Trust Staffing Update *(presentation)*
Staff will update the RAC on recently created positions and staff changes within the organization, including the director of innovation and development and the communities and new initiatives sector.

10:00 OPUC Equity Metrics for Energy Trust & Solar Ambassadors *(presentation and discussion)*
Staff will provide an update on the OPUC equity metrics for Energy Trust. The equity metrics were approved by OPUC commissioners in December 2022 and further definitions were presented by OPUC staff in January 2023. As a part of the equity metrics, staff will discuss the Solar Ambassadors Project that aims to increase awareness of and access to solar through community solar ambassadors. The equity metrics are being finalized by the Oregon Public Utility Commission in docket [UM 1158](#). The public comment period runs through February 16.

10:40 Break

10:50 Preliminary 2022 Results *(presentation / Q&A)*
Staff will present results from 2022 for generation and energy savings.

11:05 Community Agreements *(discussion)*
Energy Trust staff will lead a discussion to develop community agreements for RAC to ensure healthy and productive meetings.

11:20 Board Discussion on RAC *(presentation and discussion)*
The Energy Trust Board of Directors discussed the role of the advisory councils at the February 8 board meeting. Staff will present board comments and questions for consideration.

11:40 New Renewable Team Structure *(presentation / Q&A)*
Energy Trust's renewable energy sector has changed its internal structure to respond to new mandates, equity metrics, and new opportunities for funding distribution system connected technology. Staff will provide details on the new structure and answer questions.

11:55 Public comment

12:00 Adjourn

You can view this agenda and notes from previous meetings at: energytrust.org/about/public-meetings.
If you have comments on meeting notes, please email [Alina Lambert](mailto:Alina.Lambert@energytrust.org).

Next meeting: The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 19.

Memo

To: OPUC, utilities, stakeholders
From: Renewables Sector
Date: February 7, 2023
Re: Energy Trust Renewables Team restructure

Summary

The Energy Trust Renewables Sector has recently completed a planning process to better align our work structure with our critical functions and priorities. In this memo, we are communicating the reasons for and results of that planning process.

The main things that are changing are:

- We are changing our sector's core organizational structure. We have historically been split by technology into two primary groups: "Solar" and "Other Renewables". We are reorganizing into two groups that better relate to our core work functions: "Market-Ready Solutions", and "Custom Solutions".
- We are embedding most of the work done under our non-PPC contracts, including Community Solar, into these two groups.
- We are reallocating work across the team to better spread workload and define roles. Several team members are changing supervisors.

We welcome any questions regarding this change. Please direct those to Betsy Kauffman, sector lead for the renewable energy sector.

Why are we Restructuring?

The Renewables sector has long been divided by technology, with the Solar team handling all things solar and the Other Renewables team, focusing on non-solar technology, mainly hydropower and biopower. This structure served us well for a long time, in part because this also captured the divide between the high-volume and highly-prescriptive work done by the Solar team in managing our standard solar offers, and the long-term, relationship-heavy custom offers supported by our Other Renewables team.

When we began supporting the Oregon Community Solar Program, we established a third mini-group to manage our program administration role. Our additional non-PPC contracts have primarily been managed from within the Solar team.

Several factors have caused our key work functions to come out of balance with this structure, and it no longer optimally serves us:

- Our solar work is expanded, and the Solar team now manages our legacy high-volume incentive programs while also developing and piloting a range of new program offerings. Different members of that team do very different kinds of work.
- Our work is no longer easily divided by technology. For example, our two teams have parallel conversations with municipal partners.

- We have new mandates and opportunities attached to our core Renewables funding, specifically a growing need to deliver on resilience and equity. We need to be thoughtful in how we organize to take advantage of our opportunities and meet our requirements.
- The work is not evenly balanced across our team.

What is our New Structure?

We are restructuring our group to be organized by critical work function, rather than technology. The specific changes we are making are:

- Establishing two new primary groups:
 - The “Market Ready Solutions” team will be led by Dave McClelland and will focus on our mature and high-volume offerings, such as our legacy solar programming and Solar Within Reach, among others.
 - The “Custom Solutions” team will be led by Dave Moldal and will have a strong emphasis on individual customer relationships. This team will focus on highly-custom program offerings and on piloting new ideas.
- We are embedding our non-PPC funding sources into these two groups depending on the core work function required to deliver the work.
 - Notably, our Community Solar program administration work is shifting to the Market Ready Solutions team, reflecting that program’s transition from a launch phase to an ongoing management phase.
- Our current team members will largely be divided among these new teams.
- Ryan Cook is shifting into a Policy and Strategy role in the group, picking up many of the duties previously managed by Lizzie Rubado before her transition to Innovation and Development team and supporting sector-level needs. He will also continue to head up the Community Solar contract and report to Betsy.

What’s not changing?

- We are not making any changes to the way we are structured from the customer or trade ally contractor’s standpoint, nor are we changing the way we talk about our programs. The changes are internal-facing.
- Incentive offers are not changing.

Other relevant information for other teams:

- **Timing.** The changes will happen over a transition period during January and February of 2022 as we finalize PDs and transition tasks from various team members to others.
- **Budget.** In 2023, we are maintaining our current budget structure, divided between Solar and Other Renewables. We will engage Finance, Operations, and other affected groups on a longer-term approach.
- **Impact on customers:** This new structure will enable us to more efficiently serve municipalities and underserved customers with clean energy solutions. Some points of contact will change, but the change will be invisible to the majority of customers we serve.
- **Points of contact.** In some cases this re-organization will lead us to re-assign the internal point of contact for various work items. We are currently taking stock of the needs here.



OPUC Equity Metrics Update

Renewable Advisory Council

February 15, 2023



Recap of 2022 – 2023 OPUC Equity Metrics

OPUC developed Equity Metrics for Energy Trust in 2022

- OPUC and FC Hurdle community engagement in 2022
- OPUC Commissioners approved Equity Metrics in December 2022
 - OPUC staff asked to provide granular definitions and targets

Additional definitions, current activities, and targets (Q1 2023)

- Energy Trust identified activities and baseline efforts in 2022
- OPUC proposed targets for 2023

OPUC Equity Metrics vs Energy Trust DEI Plan

OPUC Equity Metrics for Energy Trust

- Mandated by HB 3141
- Represents OPUC oversight of Energy Trust
- As performance measures for Energy Trust, these are not aspirational but a minimum expectation for us

Energy Trust's Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Plan

- DEI Plan is living document centered on community engagement
- Who we as an organization want to be, instead of what *minimum* performance targets we need to hit
- More aspirational indicators of success ("metrics" in the DEI Plan) that includes additional aspects not currently in OPUC Equity Metrics



OPUC Metric #1: Capacity building

Increased support to nonprofit organizations with a purpose to serve environmental justice communities or to support nonprofit-led initiatives serving environmental justice communities. Increased support can be incentives, training and funding for energy efficiency upgrades, solar, or solar-with-storage projects.

Estimated 2022 baseline spending: \$1.6 million

- Includes dollars spent to support nonprofits with an environmental justice (EJ) focus and/or serving EJ communities

Proposed 2023 target (OPUC staff): \$1.8 million—15% increase



OPUC Metric #2: Outreach to environmental justice communities

Increased funding to support targeted outreach to environmental justice communities, including funding for community ambassadors, education, and workshops.

Estimated 2022 baseline: 16.5 Energy Trust and contractor FTE and 12 community members

- OPUC proposed to include Energy Trust outreach staff FTE
- Includes Solar Ambassadors work groups in 2023

Proposed 2023 target (OPUC staff): 10 additional combined FTEs or community ambassadors focused on this effort—roughly 35% increase in people



OPUC Metric #3: No- and low-cost offers to reduce energy burden

New and expanded low-cost and no-cost offers to reduce energy burden created and launched.

2022 baseline: 8 total offers (select examples below)

- No-Cost Ductless Heat Pump (DHP) Pilot (no-cost)
- Strategic Energy Management for Affordable Multifamily Housing organizations (no-cost)
- Direct install home ceiling insulation (low-cost)

Proposed 2023 target (OPUC staff): 10 total offers—25% increase



OPUC Metric #4: Community resilience (Solar + storage)

Solar and solar-with-storage system projects supported for low and moderate-income residents in areas with limited infrastructure or high energy burden.

Estimated 2022 spending: \$140k

- Energy Trust is developing a solar plus storage offer launching mid-year
 - No expected increase in spending from 2023

Proposed 2023 target (OPUC staff): at least 5 CBOs engaged in creating and evolving the solar plus storage offer



Further opportunities for engagement

- OPUC public comment period currently open through 2/16/2023
 - [UM 1158 docket on Equity Metrics for Energy Trust](#)
- **Energy Trust is** working with stakeholders – RAC and CBOs serving environmental justice communities – to design and roll out solar + storage program supporting metric #4 (community resilience)
- **Engage with Energy Trust** through our ongoing opportunities for stakeholder engagement include:
 - Advisory councils – DAC, RAC and CAC
 - Outreach and community engagement efforts on our 2023 efforts
 - Help inform future efforts in the 2024 budget and action plan process



Thank you!

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