

## Renewable Energy Advisory Council Meeting Notes

April 19, 2023

### Attending from the council:

Alan Beane, Geograde Constructors  
Amy Schlusser, Oregon Department of Energy  
Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association  
Anna Kim, Oregon Public Utility Commission  
Brikky King, Fairway Mortgage  
Jaimes Valdez, Portland Clean Energy Benefits Fund

Joe Abraham, Oregon Public Utility Commission  
Josh Peterson, Solar Monitoring Lab, University of Oregon  
Max Greene, Renewable Northwest  
Ryan Harvey, Pacific Power  
Tess Jordan, Portland General Electric

### Attending from Energy Trust:

Alanna Hoyman-Browe  
Alina Lambert  
Ashley Bartels  
Bayo Ware  
Betsy Kauffman  
Danielle Rhodes  
Dave McClelland  
Dave Modal  
Elaine Dado  
Elisa Simko

Elizabeth Fox  
Greg Stokes  
Hanna Cruz  
Jeni Hall  
Joshua Reed  
Juliette Poff  
Julianne Thacher  
Kyle Petrocine  
Lidia Garcia  
Lori Lull

Matt Getchell  
Melanie Bissonnette  
Mike Colgrove  
Renita Lamberth  
Ryan Cook  
Shelly Carlton  
Steve Lacey  
Sue Fletcher  
Thad Roth  
Themba Mutepfa

### Others attending

Susan Brodahl, Energy Trust Board  
Henry Lorenzen, Energy Trust Board  
Emily Griffith, Renewable Northwest

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### Welcome and Announcements

Bayoan Ware, renewable energy project manager, convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. Notes were taken by Lori Lull. 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/>.

Amy Schlusser from Oregon Department of Energy and Joe Abraham from Oregon Public Utility Commission are new Renewable Advisory Council members.

## **1. City of Portland Washington Park PRV Hydropower Project**

### *Topic summary*

Kyle Petrocine, renewable energy senior project manager, presented on an in-conduit hydropower project and the Energy Trust incentive process. Kyle presented via PowerPoint and discussed the project location, evaluation criteria, above market cost analysis and how the incentive is structured. Energy Trust is prepared to offer a \$315,000 incentive. The first \$150,000 would be at the commercial operation with the remainder after one year when the city has a year of operation and potential receipt of the Federal Tax Credit.

### *Discussion*

Council members discussed the capacity factor that was used in calculations and whether the City of Portland would look at funding this type of project through operating budget.

### *Next steps*

None.

## **2. Budget Discussion: Market Intelligence**

### *Topic summary*

Energy Trust project manager Alana Hoyman-Browe facilitated feedback from council members on market trends in the clean energy industry to inform strategic priorities for Energy Trust as it develops the budget for the coming two years.

### *Discussion*

The energy landscape is changing based on increased consumer interest and demand for energy storage and increased electrification. There is more interest in community solar and community-based projects which is exposing barriers to those projects (Jaimes Valdez). Within the mortgage industry, cost savings to the consumer are important and electric vehicles are influencing an increase in battery storage (Brikky King). In utility scale solar, there's growth in the market for bifacial solar systems that track the sun throughout the day and other smart solar technology (Josh Peterson). Portland General Electric notes that storage investment continues to be dominated by utility scale projects and that solar overall is driving growth in Renewables. In 2022 there was an increase in investment in both large and small scale solar projects (Tess Jordan).

The energy industry has seen an increase in customer concerns about wildfires and a need for smoke mitigation (Brikky King, Amy Schlusser). The Oregon Department of Energy has been researching removing fuel from fires and burning biomass for energy (Amy Schlusser). Customers are still dealing with supply chain constraints (Tess Jordan, Josh Peterson). There are high interest rates and an overall workforce shortage that only seems to be growing (Tess Jordan). High interest rates are affecting the demand for solar installations and rates are expected to continue to increase, further affecting the market (Angela Crowley-Koch). There are some concerns that there will be retroactive tariffs to solar modules (Max Greene). Within the commercial market, customers are interested in receiving assistance with interconnection applications but are constrained by bandwidth or expertise, complicating developers' efforts to take advantage of various funding opportunities. Pacific Power would like to leverage opportunities with Energy Trust (Ryan Harvey).

Upcoming opportunities include the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund implementing programs in 2024 and continuing conversations to bring program ideas together to implement equitable pathways (Jaimes Valdez). Energy Trust can play a role in community based renewable projects that utilities can include in their Clean Energy Plans (Anna Kim). The Oregon Department of Energy is working with the Department of Environmental Quality on a climate reduction plan and a comprehensive climate action plan to create statewide opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Oregon Department of Energy would like to partner with Energy Trust on these endeavors (Amy Schlusser). Oregon Solar plus Storage Industries Association is interested in the Solar Within Reach Program, Solar plus Storage increased incentives, and Oregon Department of Energy's residential rebate so that there continue to be more opportunities for outreach to new markets (Angela Crowley-Koch).

Upcoming strategic priorities include increasing communication around costs and connecting customers to more incentives (Brikky King). There should be more focus on how Energy Trust can assist others in meeting their clean energy goals and reduce rate impacts (Anna Kim). Portland General Electric is strategizing what a personal claim of being green will look like when the utility grid will be 100% renewable in 2040 (Tess Jordan). Developing the Community Solar Program that allows certain customers to access renewable energy and save money is a priority (Angela Crowley-Koch). There's interest in transparency of the energy system overall in order to meet 2030 and 2040 goals (Henry Lorenzen).

#### *Next steps*

This was the first of two input sessions. July will be a deep dive into program design questions. October will be a joint advisory output session.

### **3. 2023 State Legislative Update**

#### *Topic summary*

Energy Trust staff member, Hannah Cruz, provided information about energy-related bills that are being monitored during Oregon's 2023 state legislative session. The presentation included the status of House Bill 3418, House Bill 3004, House Bill 2990, House Bill 3378, House Bill 3166, Senate Bill 852, ReBuild Task Force, House Bill 2534, Senate Bill 522, House Bill 3579, House Bill 2001 and the CHIPS Act. Many of these are sitting in the joint ways and means committee right now and waiting for the May revenue forecast. The session ends by the 25<sup>th</sup> of June.

*Discussion:* No questions from the Advisory Council members.

#### *Next steps*

None.

### **4. Summary of 2022**

#### *Topic summary*

David McClelland, solar senior project manager, and Dave Moldal, renewable energy senior program manager, provided an overview of 2022 activities and accomplishments for the Renewable sector. Overall, the sector exceeded its goals, the Mackenzie hydropower project came online, 29% of funding was spent on low- to moderate-income communities and the irrigation modernization program leveraged \$209 million in federal and state funding. Trends included more interest in renewables by municipalities, new players such as Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund, community solar maturity and a growing portfolio of offerings.

The renewable sector has reorganized into two teams: The Market-Ready Solutions team and the Custom Solutions team. The solar program is part of Market-Ready. Energy Trust has reached milestones of 20 years and 25,000 solar systems supported. Overall, 50% of the residential generation has been in the last three years, due to a huge growth in residential solar. Recent trends include rising costs, high volume contractors with zero down loans driving residential growth and battery storage in 6.5% of systems. In 2023, expect to see battery incentives, the next phase of the Solar Ambassadors program and more partnerships with utilities.

The work done by the “Other Renewables” team has been incorporated into the Custom Solutions team. During 2022, the team invested \$1.03 million in project development assistance for 30 projects.

#### *Discussion*

Council members asked for more details on locational efforts for solar and which communities are being targeted (Amy Schlusser). Staff responded with more details on how the program will be coordinating with the Portland General Electric Smart Battery Pilot to drive focused adoption with the Oregon Department of Energy’s Smartgrid Advanced Load Management and Optimized Neighborhood (SALMON) grant project which is specific to the North Portland Overlook neighborhood as well as south Hillsboro (Dave McClelland).

#### *Next steps*

None

#### **5. Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### **6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.