

Joint Advisory Council Strategic Planning Input Session – Discussion Summary

January 10, 2024

Meeting Participants:

Oswaldo Bernal, OBL Media
Terrance Harris, Oregon State University
Jonathan Belmont, Bonneville Power Administration
Ryan Harvey, Pacific Power
Kari Greer, Pacific Power
Les Perkins, Farmers Irrigation District
Indika Sugathadasa, PDX HIVE
Lisa McGarity, Avista
Noemi Ortiz, Cascade Natural Gas
Susan Badger-Jones, special projects consultant
April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress
Mark Rehley, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Charity Fain, Community Energy Project
Andy Cameron, Oregon Department of Energy
Brikky King, Fairway Mortgage
Joe Abraham, Oregon Public Utility Commission
Kerry Meade, Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
Angela Crowley Koch, Oregon Solar + Storage Industry Association
Laney Ralph, Northwest Natural
Josh Peterson, University of Oregon
Martin Campos-Davis
Jeff Bissonnette, NW Energy Coalition
Alan Beane, GeoGrade Constructors LLC
Jaimes Valdez, Portland Clean Energy Benefits Fund
Jake Wise, Portland General Electric
Rhea Standing Rock, Sunlight Solar
Christopher Banks, Urban League of Portland
Dolores Martinez, EUVALCREE

Key Themes

Throughout the Joint Advisory Council meeting, discussions in all small group breakout sessions centered around these key themes:

1. Focusing on reaching customers who have traditionally not benefitted from energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy programs and services will be key to equitably meeting decarbonization goals.
 - Energy Trust is well-positioned to partner with others to develop and deliver energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy programs that directly benefit **historically underserved customers**.
 - Energy Trust has experience and relationships with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) whose input will be necessary to effectively deliver clean energy solutions to diverse communities.
 - Energy Trust is a trusted benefactor of consumers with positive brand recognition.
 - Energy Trust has a proven ability to deliver clean energy programs in a coordinated way with clear messaging.
 - Opportunities where Energy Trust can improve:

Joint Advisory Council Strategic Planning Input Session – Discussion Summary

January 10, 2024

- More up-front effort to understand community needs and build awareness
 - Increased partnership with CBOs
 - Provide training opportunities, as subject matter experts, to equip partners with capabilities needed to deliver clean energy solutions
2. Because of the shortage of workers who can install and maintain new energy efficiency and renewable energy equipment, **workforce development** is necessary to meet energy efficiency and renewables goals. Simultaneously, this is an opportunity to meet equity goals by supporting disadvantaged communities and bolstering rural economies through technical training programs.
 3. **Affordability** will be a major concern for rate payers, in terms of their energy bills and their ability to finance project costs to access incentives for energy efficiency and renewables.
 - Cost of capital is currently high
 - Inflation in other costs of living is putting pressure on customers' ability to absorb further rate increases or make investments in energy efficiency or renewables
 4. **Resiliency** issues will be paired with energy going forward—energy supply, disaster mitigation and awareness, and economic resiliency.
 5. There will be a substantial **increase in funding** for energy efficiency and small-scale renewables programs. With that influx of resources, it will become more important to ensure programs are delivering as intended. Leveraging well-vetted trade allies and performing quality assurance work will be a key component to delivering value to ratepayers and program participants.