

## Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Notes

June 5, 2024

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### Attending from the council:

Laney Ralph, NW Natural  
Corinne Olson, AWEC  
Noemi Ortiz, Cascade Natural Gas  
Lisa McGarity, Avista  
Jonathon Belmont, Bonneville Power  
Administration  
Charity Fain, Community Energy Project  
Andy Cameron, Oregon Department of  
Energy

Peter Christeleit (for Becky Walker),  
Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
Jake Wise, Portland General Electric  
Kari Greer, Pacific Power  
Kerry Meade, Building Potential (formerly  
NEEC)

### Attending from Energy Trust:

Hannah Cruz  
Alex Novie  
Tom Beverly  
Elizabeth Fox  
Scott Leonard  
Alicia Moore  
Sarah Castor  
Danielle Rhodes  
Melanie Bissonnette  
Laura Schaefer  
Maddie Norman  
Debbie Menashe  
Natalia Ojeda  
Willa Perlman  
Kearstin Estrada  
Adam Shick  
Cameron Starr  
Kirstin Pinit  
Jackie Goss  
Greg Stokes  
Elaine Prause  
Isaiah Kamrar  
Spencer Moersfelder

Andi Nix  
Michael Hoch  
Marshall Johnson  
Kate Wellington  
Maddy Otto  
Thad Roth  
Ryan Crews  
Abi Sloan  
Kenji Spielman  
Julianne Thacher  
Sue Fletcher  
Emily Findley  
Dan Rubado  
Shelly Carlton  
Leila Shokat  
Lidia Garcia  
Akanksha Rawal

### Others attending:

Henry Lorenzen, Energy Trust board  
Brooke Landon, CLEAResult  
Dave Beaulieu, TRC  
Steph Berkland, TRC  
Candice Norton, Resource Innovations

Don MacOdrum, TRC  
Khoeoshi Owens, Empress Rules  
Jeff Cropp, TRC

### 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

<https://www.energytrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/CAC-Packet-June-2024.pdf>.

Hannah Cruz will be stepping away from leading council meetings. Alex Novie, Communities and New Initiatives sector lead, introduced himself as co-facilitator for the June meeting. Hannah Cruz also introduced Alicia Moore, the new diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) services director for Energy Trust.

Hannah Cruz noted an opportunity to give feedback on Energy Trust's 2023 Annual Report. The OPUC has directed Energy Trust to gather feedback on what's included in the report, along with what additions may be helpful. Staff will use any feedback as inputs into the 2024 report. More information is available at [www.energytrust.org/reports](http://www.energytrust.org/reports).

## **2. CAC engagement and recruiting**

### *Topic summary*

Hannah Cruz introduced Kheoshi Owens, CEO of Empress Rules Equity Consulting, and discussed the important role she played in bringing the community agreements forward, as well as the recommendations she provided to improve diverse and inclusive membership and participation in the council meetings.

The council advises Energy Trust's board and staff on strategic matters and organizational goals. The current charter, membership, recruitment and retention processes, along with meeting management techniques, present barriers to having conversations in the organizational focus areas of DEI. Advisory councils with members with diverse perspectives and views are better able to advise staff and the board in DEI areas. Staff worked with Kheoshi Owens to look at recruitment and feedback practices to create inclusive spaces for all members. The recommendations report summarizes the work of council facilitators and presents takeaways for the board and executive team to consider.

See the [June 5 meeting packet](#) for the presentation and more details.

### *Discussion*

The council said how good it is to see the work of the foundational Diversity Advisory Council being implemented on other councils and across the organization. It helps ensure that people who are most impacted by climate change are being better served (Charity Fain). Members also appreciated the comprehensive DEI efforts and requests for resources to carry them through (Peter Christeleit).

### *Next steps*

Staff will continue the discussion internally and bring additional updates to the council as they are available.

## **3. 2025-2030 Strategic Plan development**

### *Topic summary*

Staff provided an update on plan development. The board is close to finishing the remaining strategic plan components. A draft will be published by mid-August and open for comment through about mid-September. The [CAC meeting packet](#) includes the presentation with details about progress and upcoming steps. The vision, purpose and unique role of value statements are unlikely to change by the time the draft is released. Other main elements of the strategic plan (i.e., focus areas, outcomes and goals) are still under discussion.

### *Discussion*

The council stated the conversations were well orchestrated and expressed appreciation for the diversity of thought included in developing the statements (Jake Wise).

### *Next steps*

The council will be re-engaged in more detail at its meeting on September 11. By then, the draft 2025-2030 Strategic Plan will be published and open for public comment. Materials will be sent in advance.

#### **4. OPUC funding agreement update**

##### *Topic summary*

Staff provided an update on the process to update Energy Trust's grant agreement. The agreement is being updated to reflect changes in statute based on HB 3141 and bring it up to date. The agreement hasn't been updated since 2005.

The OPUC received seven public comments by the May 30 deadline. There was a range of suggestions, including high level and detailed references to adding equity objectives into the body of the agreement, along with accountability for meeting the objectives. There were also comments on termination provisions. The agreement has an initial date of 2030 with automatic renewals up to 2035. There were comments about making these more specific. The sunset date that was lifted by HB 3141 may be reflected in the updated agreement. OPUC staff are reviewing comments, then will engage with Energy Trust on possible responses. Documents are available on the OPUC website.

##### *Discussion*

The council asked how equity measures changing over time will be addressed in the updated grant agreement (Lisa McGarity). Staff responded that the draft agreement has equity objectives that are different from Energy Trust's annual performance measures to the OPUC. The objectives are at a slightly higher level and have very specific measurable outcomes Energy Trust would be compared against.

##### *Next steps*

None.

#### **5. Multiyear planning transition update**

##### *Topic summary*

Staff gave an update on multiyear planning efforts. Energy Trust is looking at ways to set longer-term savings targets and documenting new processes to develop a multiyear plan. Staff focused on developing process and plan management documents, outlining information and data needs, and creating a stakeholder engagement plan. Multiyear planning work will pause in June and begin again in January 2025. Energy Trust's Multiyear Plan will include five-year business, human resource and financial plans as well as a supplemental funding strategy. Advisory council members will be engaged at a January kickoff with timelines and a review of focus areas and outcomes, workshops in March or April, and a review of a draft plan in July, which will also kickoff the public comment period. The full board, the board finance and audit committee, OPUC, utilities and other industry and environmental justice stakeholders will be included in the workshops.

##### *Discussion*

None.

##### *Next steps*

None.

#### **6. EPS New Construction impact evaluation**

##### *Topic summary*

Staff provided a recap of the EPS New Construction evaluation recommendations, background and direction Energy Trust will go based on the recommendations. EPS New Construction uses code as a baseline and works with builders to go beyond code. Incentives are based on how far homes go beyond energy code. The current estimation is that the average EPS home was over 20% more efficient than a typical newly built home. Homes must be at least 10% better than code to receive Energy Trust incentives.

Energy Trust evaluates programs regularly to compare estimated and actual energy savings, called an impact evaluation. The 2022 evaluation showed EPS homes used more energy than estimated. They still saved energy over code homes, but not by as much as expected. Energy use of homes not participating in the program was variable, which made it difficult to do comparisons of participating homes to non-participating homes. Energy models may have miscalculated, data input errors could have contributed and reference homes that were minimally compliant may also have contributed. There may have been impact on non-program homes, as builders indicated that they follow many of the same practices on participating and non-participating homes.

Multiple recommendations are proposed to improve savings of participating homes. They are summarized in the [presentation](#). The next steps include finalizing code reference homes, finalizing the 2012 – 2019 impact evaluation response, modeling above-code home scenarios, collecting installed costs for above-code measures, and determining 2025 program incentives, along with finalizing the measure approval document.

#### *Discussion*

The council asked what kind of monitoring will be done to prevent this from continuing for another two or three years, adding that a quicker turnaround is needed in deciding on continuing the program versus another overhaul (Lisa McGarity). The council also asked if Energy Trust anticipates lowering minimal participation from 10% to 5% better than code (Jonathon Belmont). Staff responded Energy Trust will have quicker turnaround on billing analysis in 2024 and 2025 once there are homes completed under the new code. This will help track how they perform under the new changes. There will also be more frequent analysis. More time will be needed to monitor and do analysis and explained that the bar for entry may be a little lower than previously.

#### *Next steps*

This information will be presented to the board on June 13, then to home verifiers. Staff will return to the council as additional details are developed.

### **7. Council member announcements**

None.

### **8. Public comment**

None.

### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held July 10, 2024.