



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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Energy Advisory Work Group

DATE: January 19, 2022

TIME: 1:00-3:00pm

Oregon Department of Energy – via WebEx

Meeting Attendees		
EAWG Members	ODOE Staff	Guests
Angela Crowley-Koch, OSEIA (alternate for Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest) Annette Price, Pacific Power Bridget Callahan, Sustainable Northwest Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council Kelsey Wilson, Western States Petroleum Assoc. Kerry Meade, NW Energy Efficiency Council Lisa Gaines, Oregon State University Mary Moerlins, NW Natural Nate Rivera, Hermiston Energy Services Roger Kline, Northern Wasco County PUD Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Sunny Radcliffe, Portland General Electric Tony Schacher, Salem Electric	Janine Benner, Director Alan Zelenka, Asst Director Planning & Innovation Andy Cameron, Efficiency & Conservation Manager Cathy Connolly, Asst Director Central Services Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator Jake Rosenbalm, CIO/IT Manager Jennifer Senner, Grants Officer Jessica Reichers, Energy Technology & Policy Manager Kaci Radcliffe, Program Analyst Mary Knight, Budget Analyst Max Woods, Asst Director Nuclear Safety & Emergency Preparedness Pandian Krishnaswamy, Energy Incentives Manager Ruchi Sathir, Assoc Director, Strategic Engagement Sheila Alicar, Application Administration Analyst Stacey Heuberger, Office Operations Analyst	Aaron Ames Abby Watson Alec Shebiel Alex Ruiz Alexander Knorr Bill Saporito Danelle Romain Donald Williams Elin Shepard Haley Ellett Ian Casey Jason Heuser Jeff Bissonnette Jenna Jones Jennifer Joly Jessica Zahnow John Powell John Terpening Jordan Bice Kathy Moyd Kevin Duell Madeline Do Marli Klass Nick Keenan Ramsey Cox Robert Mullin Tess Milio Tracy Farell Tucker Billman

Welcome and Director's Update *(Janine Benner, Director)*

- ODOE is about to launch two new programs in the spring: the [Wildfire Efficient Rebuilding Incentive Program](#) and the [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#).
- ODOE plans to launch a rulemaking effort for the [Solar and Storage Rebate Program](#) later this month.
- Janine introduced Pandian Krishnaswamy, ODOE's new Energy Development Services Division Manager. Pandian will head the implementation of these new programs.
- Janine also welcomed Lisa Gaines to her first meeting as a member of the Energy Advisory Work Group.

- As part of the roundtable, Janine asked EAWG members to give an update on what their session priorities are and whether they are following or pursuing any funding under the infrastructure bill.

EAWG Roundtable

Annette Price, Pacific Power

- Pacific Power has had staffing changes.
- There are no bills that Pacific Power will be pursuing this session.
- Pacific Power is communicating with federal staff regarding the Klamath Basin funding in the infrastructure bill.

Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council

- OEC will be supporting a number of policies this session, including the Reach code bill to improve building energy code standards, emergency heat relief, and water bills, including sprinkler efficiency.
- OEC is interested in making sure that projects related to climate and equity get funded with federal infrastructure money.

Angela Crowley-Koch, OSEIA (*alternate for Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest*)

- This session, OSEIA is partnering with other renewable groups and labor unions to work on technical fixes relating to labor standards in HB 2021.
- OSEIA is also working on a bill that would provide a partial property tax exemption for the residential portion of community solar projects.
- They are not involved in the infrastructure bill but are on pulling together energy pieces that didn't make it through the Build Back Better legislation and hoping those can find a way through this year.

Kelsey Wilson, Western States Petroleum Association

- WSPA is watching for repeat bills from the 2021 session related to mandates and bans, particularly on diesel.
- WAPA is also watching Senator Dembrow's energy bill and have had conversations with the Senator about the language and goals of the bill.

Nate Rivera, Hermiston Energy Services

- This session they are watching the property tax exemption for community solar; broadband, at both the state and federal level; system hardening; and building codes.

Mary Moerlins, NW Natural

- NW Natural had their first Integrated Resource Plan meeting of 2022 and continue to work with regulators on the future of gas docket.
- They have completed a report that outlines pathways to achieve their Vision 2050 goals.
- The Climate Protection Plan became effective in January 2022. There are still important program elements that need to be finalized and NW Natural will continue to engage to see how these will impact their customers.
- They are hopeful that the infrastructure bill will have smart policies regarding hydrogen.

Roger Kline, Northern Wasco County PUD

- They continue to track resource adequacy around the region.
- They are watching state and federal legislation for unintended consequences of well-intended policies.

Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability

- They continue to work on their community wide energy goals and are focused on making sure that energy is not just clean but also accessible to vulnerable members of the community.
- This session they are watching the reach code bill and the emergency heat relief bill.

Kerry Meade, NW Energy Efficiency Council

- NEEC is not very active in session but would be supportive of the reach code and heat pump bills.
- After session, NEEC is thinking about doing some education with the legislature on grid interactive efficient buildings.
- They are working on upcoming webinars, training programs, and a conference in August.
- They are tracking the pieces of the infrastructure bill that relate to workforce development and training.

Bridget Callahan, Sustainable Northwest

- Priority bills for Sustainable NW this session relate to water resources and wildfire mitigation and recovery efforts.
- They have been pulled into conversations around rural electrification. They are specifically looking at opportunities in the agriculture sector and plan to provide recommendations next session.
- They have been working with communities around the state to help better understand the opportunities around ODOE's Community Renewable Energy Program.

Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition

- A priority bill this session is the Reach code bill.
- They are not the type of organization that will seek federal infrastructure money, but Fred said that it is important for Oregon to receive some of that funding to push ahead with an ambitious agenda.
- Fred thanked ODOE for the work with the renewable energy siting assessment process, the work on offshore wind, and the SB 589 report.
- Fred also thanked ODOE for the comments submitted on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2021 Power Plan. The Council hopes to adopt the plan in February.
- NWECC is focusing on Oregon's Energy Affordability Act.
- NWECC is tracking that all three Oregon investor-owned utilities have current draft RFPs that are focused on acquiring new renewable energy.

Lisa Gaines, Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources

- Lisa shared that they are following two bills this session. The first would develop an environmental justice mapping tool that would require support of the Institute. The other

is related to natural and working lands to increase carbon sequestration and would require the Institute to work with stakeholders and develop acceptable metrics.

- They are on the very periphery of broadband mapping conversations.

Tony Schacher, Salem Electric

- Salem Electric has been able to send crews out to help get power restored from various storms.
- They are working on local projects.

Sunny Radcliffe, PGE

- PGE has an initiative set up to figure out how to pursue federal funding.
- They have submitted their FEMA BRIC grant application. This would allow them to do powerline undergrounding at Mt. Hood.
- PGE filed their income qualified bill discount program with the PUC. If approved, they hope to launch the program in April.
- They are working through HB 2021's new policies and programs and setting up the Community Advisory Work Group.

2022 and 2023 Legislative Sessions (*Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator*)

- Christy provided a list of the bills that ODOE will be tracking this session:
 - Two bills regarding heat pump incentive programs.
 - Energy Security Plan.
 - Environmental Justice Council changes.
 - HB 2021 responsible labor standards fix.
 - Landscape sprinkler efficiency standard.
 - Oregon Global Warming Commission natural and working lands next steps.
- For the 2023 session, ODOE is working within the timeline set by the Department of Administrative Services. ODOE will be able to share legislative concept and policy options package ideas with EAWG at the Spring meeting.

2022 Biennial Energy Report (*Ruchi Sadhir, Associate Director Strategic Engagement*)

- The Biennial Energy Report is legislatively required and produced every even-numbered year to help inform local, state, and regional energy policy, planning, and investments.
- There are statutorily required topics that must be included in the report.
- The 2022 Biennial Energy Report will follow a similar format as the 2020 report.
- Ruchi reviewed the timeline and how to provide input to inform this report and encouraged substantive input from stakeholders, including EAWG, by March 31, 2022. Comments and suggestions can be submitted through an [online portal](#) or through email at AskEnergy@oregon.gov.
- Between now and April, ODOE will be updating two existing sections with current data: Energy by the Numbers and Energy Technology and Resource Reviews.
- Energy by the Numbers is a quick reference guide full of energy facts, infographics and explanations about energy resources, sectors and use. She asked EAWG members if there are any infographics that they would like to see or different data sources that should be evaluated.
- The Energy Technology and Resource Reviews section contains information about energy technologies and resources in Oregon. Ruchi shared the current list of reviews in the

2020 report and a list of reviews ODOE is considering for the 2022 report. She asked EAWG members if there are any other energy resources or technologies not included in the two lists that would be helpful to see in the 2022 report.

- Another part of the report that Ruchi would like EAWG members to review is the Oregon Energy History section. She is asking for feedback on missing energy history events or events where ODOE can expand on the information or include media content such as links or photographs.
- ODOE will be updating the Energy 101 and Policy Brief sections between April – June. The online comment portal and the report handout will be updated with more questions for guiding input after session.

Questions and feedback:

- Nate Rivera suggested including the passage of the initiative prohibiting new nuclear power in 1980 (WPPSS) since that has a significant impact, especially in the Columbia Basin. Janine replied that she will follow up with Nate because that piece is in a call out box in the timeline but could be a good example of something ODOE could expand on in the enhanced online version of the timeline.

Federal Funding *(Janine Benner, Director)*

- Janine walked through slides of what is currently known about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and what money may be coming to Oregon.
- The infrastructure bill includes billions of dollars for energy infrastructure, transportation and broadband, among other things. Janine highlighted three pots of money that Oregon will be receiving through formula funds:
 - State Energy Program (\$6.5 million through ODOE)
 - Energy Efficiency (\$3.2 million through ODOE)
 - Weatherization (\$34.7 million through Oregon Housing and Community Services)
- Other relevant programs where Oregon that will be receiving money include \$50 million for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and up to \$2.5 million for energy auditor training. The USDOE is also working on funding for resilience and reliability of the electric grid and there is \$2.5 billion earmarked to states for this purpose. They have put out Notice of Intent called [“Building a Better Grid Initiative to Upgrade and Expand the Nation’s Electric Transmission Grid to Support Resilience, Reliability, and Decarbonization.”](#)
- There are a number of provisions that ODOE is tracking that will apply to all federal funds in the infrastructure bill. These include the requirement of contractors and subcontractors to pay local prevailing wages, Buy American provisions, historic preservations, and the Justice 40 initiative where at least 40% of the overall benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy are delivered to disadvantaged communities.
- Some of the first money ODOE expects to see is through USDOE’s State Energy Program. The SEP was created by Congress in the 1970s to encourage and facilitate state programs to implement energy efficiency and measures. ODOE receives around \$800,000 annually from SEP for projects such as home energy scoring, the electric vehicle dashboard, and energy efficiency standards. In addition to this annual funding, the infrastructure bill would send ODOE \$6.5 million over the next five years. There is a new requirement in the infrastructure bill that bolsters SEPs ability to fund energy planning activities and now

requires state offices work with their governors, PUCs, and utilities on an energy security plan in order to receive funds. ODOE is already preparing how to plan for this work.

- There is a caveat that funding must be used to supplement, not supplant, state and local funds. ODOE cannot move existing programs funded by the ESA or general fund onto SEP funding, but it can be used to support new or expanded efforts.
- There is not a formal timeline of when funds will be coming. The USDOE will need to have rules and guidance in place before money will be out the door.

Questions and feedback:

Nate Rivera said that in Eastern and rural Oregon, the challenges related to building energy codes that they see is with training, education, and building officials. Finding someone that is qualified and understands codes to do inspections is a real challenge so while Oregon pushes these projects out, it would be beneficial to know that they are being implemented correctly and safely. Janine said there is an opportunity with the funds that are specifically earmarked for training and understands that this is a priority.

Silvia Tanner was wondering if Multnomah County's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program expansion would fit in s SEP's energy planning and activities box for funding. Janine responded that USDOE has provided resources for that program in the past and would image that there would be an opportunity in the infrastructure bill.

Mary Moerlins wanted to emphasize the importance of funding for training.

Bridgett Callahan echoed the need for training and workforce development.

Fred Huette referred to USDOE's notice of intent and said that it is a very big deal for those dealing with transmission. He said that the initiative will pull together a lot of different pieces that are under USDOE's authority and form a high-level consolidation process that will provide a lot of momentum. He said that state agencies, utilities, and Bonneville need to find a better way to work together on transmission, especially in Central, Eastern, and Southern Oregon.

Janine asked if there would be interest in a workforce/training follow up meeting and asked interested members to add their names to the chat if so.

Sunny Radcliffe shared thoughts on grant opportunities. She said that there will be interest in doing something around resiliency for water systems, both drinking water and sewage treatment plants. Communities are interested in undergrounding their systems so federal grants could potentially be helpful. They are also thinking about grid flexibility and modernization. Other opportunities include transportation electrification and help with funding the West Coast Clean Transit Corridor to advance school bus electrification.

Strategic Plan (*Ruchi Sadhir, Associate Director Strategic Engagement*)

- ODOE is currently working to implement Year 2 initiatives.
- There are five imperatives that ODOE developed for the second phase of the strategic planning process. Ruchi walked through work that is currently underway for these imperatives:

1. Expand and Improve Stakeholder Engagement
 - On-going webinars for incentive programs and studies.
 - Communication plan and engagement process with currently and historically underserved communities.
 - Expanding online portals.
2. Build Practices and Processes to Achieve more Include and Equitable Outcomes
 - Human Resource team is working on enhancing ODOE's internship program and expanding recruitments.
 - Conducted an internal intercultural effectiveness survey with 100% staff participation.
 - ODOE received guidance and toolkits from DAS and the Governor's Office that were informed by the Governor's Racial Justice Council.
 - Providing program information in multiple languages.
3. Assess and Enhance Organizational Data Capabilities
 - Added new Research Analyst.
 - RTO, Renewable Hydrogen, Floating Offshore Wind, Small-Scale Renewable Energy Projects studies and the Biennial Energy Report.
 - New incentive programs will create new data.
4. Assess and Modernize Agency Programs and Activities
 - Continue to evaluate the scope of the assessments related to ODOE's programs and activities.
 - Scoping of Key Energy Indicators during the 2022 Biennial Energy Report development.
 - Siting Division RFP for program evaluation.
5. Optimize Organizational Efficiency and Impact
 - Covid/remote work has created additional process changes that fit well into the Strategic Plan.
 - Evaluating ideas from staff provided in town hall meetings.
 - State government software and process changes.

Questions and feedback:

Nate Rivera asked in chat when the assessments will occur and how ODOE will share those results along with baselines once they are developed. He also suggested adding progress tracking to the website. Ruchi replied that ODOE looks forward to sharing when the information is available and said that they will really need help comparing what ODOE's evaluations show and what that looks like in comparison with what work is happening across the energy ecosystem with utilities and other organizations. She said that sharing information on the Strategic Plan webpage is a great idea.

Closing Comments/Q&A

- Janine said that ODOE would like to convene the next EAWG meeting in April to review legislative concepts for the 2023 session, to start the conversation on budget, and to share any new information on federal funds.
- Janine asked for feedback on this meeting format compared to former meetings.
- Nate asked if there were any plans for Christy Splitt to reach out to stakeholders on legislative concepts before they become more finalized in April and if there would be a public presentation on the budget. Christy answered that there will be meetings for both, but now is the time to contact her with any legislative concept ideas. After the internal

deadline, Christy will be reaching out to any stakeholders that may have an interest. Janine added that ODOE is not anticipating a lot of LCs. Specific dates for the meetings are not yet set.