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MEMORANDUM

Large Electric Consumer Public Purpose Program Fee to Increase July 1

Due to a variety of factors, including rising costs and lower participation than in earlier years, the current two percent program administration fee is not fully recovering our costs per statutory requirements. To bring the program back into statutory compliance, the Oregon Department of Energy plans to raise the <u>Large Electric Consumer Public Purpose Program</u> fee to four percent on July 1, 2024.

The fee, which has remained at two percent for more than 15 years, is applied to the estimated project cost or Green Tags contract costs. The fee is an eligible project cost and becomes part of the total qualified expenditures added to the self-directing sites' credit balance when the application for energy efficiency project credit or Green Tags application is approved. The credit balance, including program admin fees collected by ODOE, is then eligible for participating sites to offset the utility charge for cost-effective energy efficiency recovered through rates or through the renewable portion of the public purpose charge for Green Tags.

What to Expect:

- The four percent fee will be effective for new applications submitted online through the <u>Large Electric Consumer Public Purpose Program</u> portal beginning July 1, 2024.
- The site user will see four percent for the Program Admin Fee Rate (and associated total Program Admin Fee) in the Energy Efficiency Project Application and Green Tags Application screens beginning July 1. The automatically generated "Receipt of Green Tag Application" and "Receipt of Energy Efficiency Project Application" emails sent to the sites beginning July 1 will reflect the four percent fee rate.
- The agency appreciates an ongoing dialogue and questions as they come up. ODOE does
 not anticipate any additional near-term fee changes but will continue to review our
 actual administration costs compared with fees collected. Note that any fee increase
 above the four percent cap currently allowed by OAR would require a public rulemaking
 with planning and initial outreach starting typically three months in advance of
 rulemaking and six months before any fee increase.

Relevant Statutes and Administrative Rules:

Oregon Administrative Rules

See Department of Energy, Chapter 330, <u>Division 140 Self Direction of Public Purposes Charges</u> <u>by Large Retail Electricity Consumers</u> and <u>330-140-0140</u> Administrative Cost Recovery.