

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Renewable Energy Working Group
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Northwest Environmental Business Council
Energy Forum
www.nebc.org

ENERGY FORUM

Energy Forum

An industry-led group supporting the interests of companies building and servicing the evolving energy economy.

Objective

Improve Oregon's position as THE place for companies doing innovative work in the energy sector.

- ▶ **Support local companies**
- ▶ **Attract outside companies**
- ▶ **Help get projects built**

IDENTIFIED AREAS OF NEED

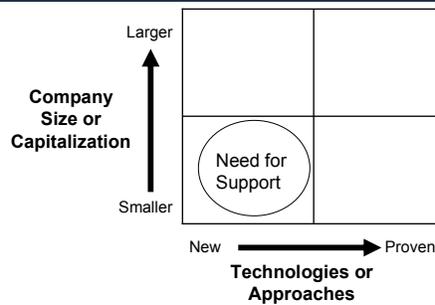
- ▶ Direct & Indirect Financial Support
- ▶ Regulatory Assistance
- ▶ Information Access
- ▶ Workforce Supply

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Challenge



Project Financing Barriers

- ▶ Judged as presenting too high a risk
- ▶ Technology lacking sufficient track record
- ▶ Concerns about long-term warranty coverage
- ▶ Difficulty obtaining bonding and/or insurance

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SUGGESTED SUPPORT MECHANISMS

Lowering barriers for projects otherwise judged sound:

1. State supported revolving loan fund for projects that do not meet standard risk screens (managed by SELP)
2. Short-term construction loans (provided by SELP)
3. SELP interest rate buy-down program for targeted sectors
4. State loan guarantees or other backing for private project financing
5. Warranty backing through state-managed pool or other mechanism
6. Bonding & insurance support through state-managed pool or other mechanism

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SUPPORTING THE BETC

Enhance the BETC's Effectiveness

- ▶ Allow the five-year pass-through credit to be purchased in one-year increments
- ▶ Increase certainty regarding the qualified cost level for solar projects
- ▶ Provide ODOE with sufficient staff to respond to the volume of applications
- ▶ Promote active project equity participation as well as pass-through participation

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REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Challenge

- ▶ Navigating the complex web of state and local permitting processes – especially when introducing technologies

Suggestion

- ▶ Office of Regulatory Assistance
- ▶ Located in Governor's Office
- ▶ Work with DEQ, utilities, local permitting agencies to:
 - Guide Applicants through permitting processes
 - Educate agencies and regulators about energy technologies
 - Provide guidance for local permitting agencies (e.g., fire marshals)
 - Pursue land use variances where needed

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OTHER NEEDS

INFORMATION ACCESS

- ▶ Challenge: Helping emerging companies and out-of-state companies identify and connect with Oregon assets.
- ▶ Suggestion: A “portal” or “electronic Welcome Wagon” for companies wanting to do energy projects in Oregon
- Status: Working with Sustainable Economy Network project

WORKFORCE SUPPLY

- ▶ Shortage is at all levels & skill sets
- ▶ Urban & rural
- ▶ Need to augment training with recruitment from out-of-state
- Status: Working with OECDD & other efforts

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