

**Public Comments for the Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG)
October 12, 2006**

Summary Information

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) has received public input on the issues being addressed by the REWG, specifically the renewable portfolio standard (RPS). Many people said the use of renewable energy would help offset the effects of global warming. Comments support the RPS, with some calling it a “clean energy standard.”

All but one e-mail comment was sent to the REWG Comments mailbox at ODOE. The telephone calls and letters came to ODOE for Mike McArthur in the weeks following the Sept. 13 REWG meeting. Various staff members answered the calls.

Demographics

Letters

We have received 370 form letters dated between Sept. 16 and October 6. The form letters come via Working Assets as a citizen letter. Working Assets is a wireless, phone and credit card company, “created in 1985 to help make the world a better place.”

Following is the breakdown of letters by city.

Portland	126
Eugene	37
Ashland	28
Corvallis	15
Salem	14

Bend residents sent eight letters.

Seven letters each came from residents of Beaverton, Gresham and Lake Oswego.

Five letters came from Coos Bay residents.

Four letters each came from Medford and North Bend.

Three each from residents of Junction City, Newport, Sherwood, Hillsboro, Williams, Forest Grove, Roseburg, Grants Pass and Elmira.

Two letter each were received from Enterprise, Nyssa, Florence, West Linn, Pendleton, Silverton, Bandon, Springfield, Monmouth, Talent, McMinnville, Gold Beach and Blachly.

One letter each came from Lafayette, Hood River, Canby, Walton, Philomath, Estacada, Glide, Pleasant Hill, Welches, Deadwood, Dallas, Rickreall, Sisters, Wilsonville, Eagle Creek, Cannon Beach, Damascus, Corbett, Oregon City, Eagle Point, Gates, La Grande, Prairie City, Dexter, Tillamook, Brookings, Hermiston, Garibaldi, LaPine, Brightwood, Otis, Lyons, Manzanita, Milwaukie, Jacksonville, Amity, The Dalles, Cottage Grove, Joseph, Waldport, Phoenix, Klamath Falls, Langlois, Fairview, Reedsport, Lebanon, Yachats, Mill City, Clackamas, Wheeler, Yoncalla, Dufur, Canyon City, Cove, La Farge, WI

The letter content is the same and urges action against global warming by “recommending to the legislature that utilities be required to draw 25% of their power from clean sources by 2025.” It also states that “Global warming does more than melt glaciers and cause hurricanes. Effects are also severe here at home.” It continues, “This measure is not only good for the environment. It will give a boost to the solar power industry and to small-scale, renewable-power producers.”

Telephone Calls

We have received to date 27 calls from different callers. Of those, 25 supported the RPS goal or 25% renewable energy by 2025. Two suggested earlier targets (one suggested 50% by 2015, another suggested 25% by 2010).

The callers were from:

Coast (2 callers)

Valley (3)

Southern OR (4)

Central OR (2)

Portland metro area (10)

Unknown location (left message w/o mentioning location: (6)

Additional comments:

One person said 25 by 25 should be a first step.

One said state government should use renewables and we should look at the long term.

E-mail Comments

From March 18 through Sept. 27, the REWG Comments mailbox received 421 e-mails from people in support of renewable energy and the RPS. One e-mail was sent to Michael Grainey.

While some of the comments appeared to be similar in wording, many were personal expressions. The e-mails came from Brookings, Tidewater, Sweet Home, Portland, Eugene, Corvallis, Selma, Hillsboro, Ashland, Clatskanie, Cannon Beach, Sandy, Gold Hill, Astoria, Troutdale, Sisters, Beaverton, Cascadia, Talent, Lincoln City, Hood River, Newberg, Bend, Bandon, Lake Oswego, Gaston, Oregon City, Salem, Aloha, Springfield, Eddyville, Gresham, Cottage Grove, The Dalles, Otis, Cave Junction, Amity, Sherwood, Coos Bay, Medford, Albany and others.

Following are some of the comments received to the REWG Comments mailbox:

“Oregon can reduce global warming pollution by getting more electricity from clean energy sources like wind and solar. Oregon could meet all of its power needs with wind power, and even the rainiest parts of our state get more sun than Germany or Japan, world leaders in solar energy production.

“Oregon only gets one percent of its energy from clean energy sources. Utilities in Oregon should at least generate 25 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources by 2025.”

“We have many people in Oregon and specifically in Portland ready to do the "right" thing as far as cutting global warming but who are lacking know-how, funds and direction. Oregon should expand incentives for residents and businesses to use clean energy sources. Oregon should also try to educate the public as to which of these technologies are available and what is required to implement them. We should ensure Oregon is a leader in using solar power and local renewable energy like community wind farms. We should set an example for the rest of the nation!!”

“Oregon should strive to be a leader in wind power. Oregonians have historically been leaders in ecology, why stop now? Personally, I think we should have half of our energy coming from wind and solar power by the year 2025. It would be great if the state of Oregon would expand incentives for residents and businesses alike to use clean energy sources. Perhaps if they did it would get clean energy off to an inspirational start.”

“I am encouraged that you exist, and that there is attention being paid to the need for clean energy for Oregon. My family has paid a surcharge on our power bill for years toward the development of alternative energy resources by Pacific Power, has owned hybrid autos since 2001, and in general has tried to counteract the many sources of global warming and pollution in general, but puny individual efforts are NOT ENOUGH.”

“We need ever more intense effort and action on the part of government to reverse the damage - expanded incentives for individuals and businesses, hugely increased wind/solar/and sea power, in addition to the real efforts already being made.”

“I hope that new energy producing methods will develop in Oregon as we need to move away from outdated, environmentally harmful, and non-efficient methods used today. New Zealand is a great example for the utilization of wind-energy and the quest for other alternatives. I hope that the Renewable Energy Working Group will also take into consideration more small-scale, community focused and run energy sources that fit the people and environment's needs and capabilities (i.e. wind supply in the gorge, solar in eastern oregon, small-scale hydro for farmers).”

“If Brazil can do it, Oregon can! Obviously our federal government does not want to be a leader here. Someone has to. Let's affirm the commitment to the environment that Has been an Oregon tradition. 25% renewable energy!

“I think we could do so much more and it needs to be done faster - 19 years is too long. Think of the damage global warming could cause in 19 years! We need to start today. I have a 20 month old son. I don't want him to have to wait until he's 20 to have clean air!!!”

“Wind farms, solar PV arrays, wave generation will all work in different parts of the state. The investment initially will look somewhat daunting, but one must look beyond dollars and see the savings in carbon emissions as part of the economic equation. We simply cannot afford to continue with business as usual and expect the environment to keep absorbing our waste products.”

“I support the Governor's plan to increase Oregon's use of clean energy to 25% by 2025. We are too complacent about the effects of global warming on our country and on the world.

I like to think of Oregon as a leader in environmental causes. I take pride in my own use of the light rail, and walking, while leaving my car at home, day after day.

We have waited too long to require- or inspire - our citizens to use fuel-efficient vehicles; and to experiment with renewable energy sources.”

“Get with it will you!!!!!!”

“We Love you. Keep at it.” Love, Kristan, Philadelphia, PA

The e-mail to Michael Grainey came from Brian Cole at the Oregon Economic Development Association.

“The OEDA Legislative Committee would like to play a supportive, strategic role with respect to many of the recommendations of the Renewable Energy Working Group (REWG). While OEDA will probably refrain from a "boiler plate" endorsement of the entirety of the REWG's recommendations, we would like to go on record in support of the retention and expansion of business development incentives supported by the REWG.

OEDA regards the creation of jobs through the advancement of the renewable energy industry as a key part of our agenda.”