

Renewable Energy Working Group Meeting
July 17, 2008 -- Roth's West Salem
Meeting Notes

Community Renewable Energy Feasibility Program

Diana thanked everyone for their letters of support for the CREF. She announced that the E-board granted ODOE limitation to use half of the funds for the CREF Program. She handed out a draft of the webpage that will be added to ODOE's site to describe the program, and noted that the program will be launched August 1st. Funding of up to \$50,000 will be available for projects.

ODOE's Legislative Concepts

Diana presented the 8 legislative concepts that ODOE has submitted – they are “approved for drafting” at this point. LC 001-004 relate to the Governor's Energy Efficiency Package, LC 005 is basic housekeeping changes for the energy loan program, LC 006 is greenhouse gas mitigation measures, and LC 007-008 are the Governor's Renewable Energy Package. LC 008 includes “other measures to be developed by the Renewable Energy Working Group.” The legislative counsel is just starting the process of reviewing these and writing bill language; ODOE provided language for adding small hydro into the Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC) program (one of the REWG's concepts). The REWG still has time to submit bill language, through the Governor's office, under LC 008. Diana provided the form that ODOE uses to develop concepts for submittal so that the REWG would know what kinds so questions they need to answer in theirs.

Cameron noted that the Energy Efficiency Working Group (EEWG) is working on their major concepts in subgroups in order to get their concepts fleshed out and submitted to the Governor by August 15th. The EEWG's latest list of legislative concepts was also handed out to the group, for information.

Geothermal Project

Diana presented a slideshow from her recent trip to see the exploratory geothermal well drilling at the Newberry Crater. The site is outside of the National Monument, but within the Deschutes National Forest. The developer, Davenport Power, is hoping to eventually develop 3 sites, with up to 40 MW of electric generation each. They have submitted a Notice of Intent to the Energy Facility Siting Council to develop the project.

Workforce Development

Cylvia noted that there are various efforts occurring around the areas of workforce development in Oregon. She noted that there are no specific initiatives being proposed for the clean tech industry and that the REWG may want to consider this as a potential legislative concept. She suggested “establish a comprehensive initiative to develop a strong work force for clean tech industries” be added to the REWG's list. She noted that some of the recommendations from the recent clean tech workforce gap analysis could be developed into a legislative concept.

Legislative Concepts Review/Schedule

Robin explained that the REWG Legislative Concepts document was proposed by a subgroup and needs to be vetted by the REWG. She suggested that the group review and prioritize the topics to decide which would be the best concepts to put forward. She also presented a proposed schedule for upcoming meetings to get information on the topic areas from agency and other experts. Due to the need to have the topics narrowed down by the end of August, the schedule was changed and subcommittees were established to do specific concept work. Suggestions for agency “experts” to bring in were presented as well:

- Oregon Energy Facility Siting Process – Tom Stoops, ODOE
- Oregon Department of Energy’s Energy Loan Program (SELP) – Jeff Keto, ODOE
- Project bonding and warranty – Rep from Oregon State Treasurer’s office
- Production-based payment (feed-in tariff) pilot project – Christopher Dymond & Carel DeWinkel, ODOE
- Net-metering Changes – Christopher Dymond & Carel DeWinkel, ODOE
- Economic Development Initiatives – Marian Hammond, OECDD & David Kenney, BEST
- RETC Changes – add 2- & 3-wheeled electric vehicles – Rick Wallace, ODOE
- BETC Changes – Betty Merrill, ODOE

Other Issues

Cylvia stated that the group might want to become more informed on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and ethanol issues. Some members noted that any natural gas issues are outside of the purview of the REWG, and that the group should go back to focusing on the implementation of the Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) as their charter suggests. Some members noted that it would be acceptable to learn about natural gas issues, forecasts, etc. not for the purposes of taking sides or adding additional work tasks. Some members disagreed with that suggestion. Mike noted that he would like to get an update on how the implementation of the RPS is going. It was also suggested that the group revisit the REAP and get an update on our status with the plan implementation. The members decided that the next meetings should be mostly focused on the development of the group’s legislative concepts, since they are a part of related to accomplishing the REAP.

Peter noted that the group should focus on the legislative concepts for now since they feed into the REAP work. After that the REWG can move on to other topic areas. Robin noted that the group does need to really look at the proposed REWG LC list today and figure out which are the best issues to move forward for further development.

The EEWG LC list was brought up for discussion since some felt that there were overlaps with renewables. They have one item [Allow industrial customer (>1 aMW) to self-direct the renewable portion of the public purpose charge toward on-site energy efficiency] that was a concerning to some REWG members. While the group agrees that energy efficiency is important and effective, the REWG’s charge is to help support the development of renewables. Cylvia suggested that any specific comments could be forwarded to the EEWG.

Subcommittees

The REWG decided that each of the proposed legislative concepts should be reviewed and considered at the subgroup level and then proceeded to set up the groups. See separate “REWG Committees July 2008” document for the details.

Upcoming REWG Meeting Schedule/Agenda Topics:

August 14, 2008, 10 am – 1 pm, Salem

- Update on Electricity Service Suppliers (3rd party-owned projects) Ruling - OPUC
 - Look at developing LC if needed
- Reports back from all subcommittees – base language
- Expert presentations? (if needed)
- Review of REAP? (if time allows)

August 27, 2008, 10 am – 3 pm, Salem

- Present final concepts
- Get consensus on language to submit
- RPS Update? (if time allows)