

Renewable Energy Working Group Meeting
April 29, 2008 -- Roth's West Salem
Meeting Notes

Mike McArthur, Co-Chair, welcomed the group and introductions were made. Diana Enright, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) Assistant Director, thanked all of the REWG members for their past work and welcomed the new members. Mike briefly reviewed the group's charter, focusing on the goals and mission of the group. He indicated that the REWG will meet at least quarterly, although if subcommittees are re-established, they may meet more frequently.

Kip Pheil, ODOE Senior Policy Analyst, gave a presentation about **Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)**, established by SB 838 in 2007. He discussed the obligations and conditions of the standard, which requires of 25% renewably-generated electricity by 2025 for Oregon's largest utilities. One issue the group discussed was the current low number of certified account holders in Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS), which certifies electricity generators for compliance with the RPS. Suzanne Leta Liou, Renewable Northwest Project, stated that her organization has a list of current renewable projects under construction and operating in the Pacific Northwest at their website: www.rnp.org. For more detail, please review Kip's presentation at: http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/RENEW/docs/REWG--Oregon_RPS--29apr2008-ver1A.pdf

Diana gave a brief overview of ODOE's draft list of **proposed legislative concepts**. These are currently preliminary and will be further clarified (and possibly combined with other state agency proposals). The concepts tie in with the Governor's Climate Change Energy Package and include: energy efficiency, residential renewable energy, renewable energy for state agencies, biofuels technical changes, energy loan program changes, greenhouse gas mitigation measures, and a power plant emission performance standard.

Cylvia Hayes, Co-Chair, discussed current efforts with **workforce development** in the clean technology and sustainable industries (green jobs) sector. Many projects are ongoing, including training programs and classes offered by community colleges and universities that are consistently full. Additionally, the Governor's office is staffing a workforce committee to review the various issues and developments around the state.

Mark Kendall, ODOE Senior Policy Analyst, presented a white paper that he recently compiled to provide facts and analysis on **corn ethanol**. To see the draft paper, go to: <http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/RENEW/docs/CornEthanol.pdf>. Mark is seeking suggestions and input for the paper. Additionally, a presentation that accompanies the paper is located here: <http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/RENEW/docs/WangonCorn050823.pdf>. Among other things, Mark noted that corn ethanol is one way to help with our transition to lower carbon fuels. Tim Raphael, Pacific Ethanol, stated that they just received a grant to begin development of a cellulosic ethanol demonstration plant in Oregon.

Dave Van't Hof, the Governor's Sustainability Advisor, presented the **Governor's vision for the REWG**. He noted that climate change is one of the Governor's top five priorities for 2009. The legislative proposals that he would like to see include a cap and trade proposal for carbon emissions, energy efficiency improvements, development of green jobs, and additional steps in

renewable energy policy. Other focus areas are water (including storage and conservation options for adapting to diminished water supplies due to climate change) and transportation (including a low carbon fuel standard, reduction in vehicle miles traveled, technology and infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, and congestion pricing). **The Governor is looking at the REWG for input on any renewable energy legislation**, which could include the proposals from ODOE or others. Draft recommendations should be completed by the end of June and final recommendations should be submitted by the end of August.

The REWG discussed **potential focus areas** for the group to work on this year, including potential legislative concepts. Christy Splitt, Legislative Aide to Rep. Ben Cannon, noted that legislative proposals will be best received if they are very low or no cost, due to the forecasted decrease in state revenues. The group's ideas included:

- Transmission needed for large scale renewable energy development
- Renewable Energy Zone establishment in Oregon (to focus renewable and transmission development in the most appropriate sites)
- Helping solar reach its full potential in Oregon
- Defending policies that are in place (such as the Business Energy Tax Credit)
- Creating opportunities for utilities to encourage conservation and distributed generation
- Identifying current policies that may be limiting renewable energy potential
- Energy storage technology development (to accompany renewable energy development)
- Technology for integrating small-scale distributed generation
- Innovative solar energy project financing and ownership (such as the Berkeley, CA model)
- Policies to enable utilities to develop more renewable projects

The REWG members requested that we get **informational updates** from members or staff of the other renewable technology working groups, such as the wind working group, biomass coordinating committee, etc. The REWG would like to get their input on any barriers they have encountered and any opportunities for the REWG to help address these in legislative concepts. If any REWG members have ideas for specific task areas, opportunities, or new initiatives the group can work on, please e-mail those to Robin at robin.straughan@state.or.us. She will compile those prior to the next meeting. Additionally, REWG members should take time to review the Renewable Energy Action Plan for further guidance the group's goals (<http://oregon.gov/ENERGY/RENEW/docs/FinalREAP.pdf>).

NEXT MEETING

The group decided that they want to meet again in about a month. ODOE will be sending out an e-mail to get input on meeting dates during the last week of May and the first week of June. At the next meeting we are hoping to get updates from the other renewables working groups and discuss opportunities that could be further developed. The REWG would like to get some perspective on the industry market conditions. Robin will extend invitations to the staff working with these groups. Proposed agenda topics include a solar industry update from Joe Reinhart (OSEIA), Suzanne Leta Liou (RNP) and Christopher Dymond (ODOE), economic barriers to project development from Robert Grott (NEBC), and a report regarding the transmission group discussions headed by BPA. Some REWG members indicated interest in starting a subgroup looking at specific transmission issues. If you are interested, please contact Robin at robin.straughan@state.or.us.