

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Equity Advisory Committee
Meeting #1 Summary
Dec. 7, 2022 / Zoom



The first meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee for the Community Climate Investments portion of the Climate Protection Program.

List of Attendees

Equity Advisory Committee Members:

Kali Abel, *Portland resident*
Nora Apter, *Oregon Environmental Council*
Rene Braga, *Unite Oregon Rogue Valley*
Charity Fain, *Community Energy Project*
Kyna Harris, *Oregon Public Health Institute*
John Hillock, *Wallowa County resident*
Bradford McKeown, *Coos Bay resident*
Steve Mital, *University of Oregon*
Mason Murphy, *Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation*
Nakisha Nathan, *Neighbors for Clean Air*

DEQ staff:

Whitney Dorer, *Climate Policy Community Engagement Coordinator*
Rachel Fernandez, *Greenhouse Gas Program Analyst*
Colin McConnaha, *Office of Greenhouse Gas Programs Manager*
Nicole Singh, *Senior Climate Policy Advisor*

General public:

Approximately 55 additional members of the public attended the meeting.

Schedule

3:00 p.m.	Welcome Meeting Slides DEQ staff welcomed the committee and members of the public to the first ever gathering of the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) for the Community Climate Investments (CCI) for the Climate Protection Program, reviewed the agenda, and shared guidelines for participating on zoom.
3:10 p.m.	Introductions Equity Advisory Committee 2022-2023 Member Bios 10 EAC members introduced themselves and organizations that they represent. 4 DEQ staff introduced themselves and their role on the team.
3:35 p.m.	Overview of the Climate Protection Program and Community Climate Investments CPP and CCI Overview Members had clarifying questions about the committee's role in selecting the organizations that will develop and implement greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects funded by CCIs, role of fuel suppliers in relation to this process, role of the CCI entities, emission reduction targets and priorities, and how the CCI program might interact with potential state IRA funding.

DEQ staff responded that the committee's role will be to give recommendations to DEQ staff as program materials are reviewed, CCI entities are considered, and project work plans are developed and proposed. The committee does not hold a formal authority for decision making.

Fuel suppliers have the option to use CCI credits to meet a portion of their compliance. They are not able to direct CCI entities on what to do with the funds and must give an equal amount of funding to each approved CCI entity. DEQ staff confirmed that CCIs can be combined with other sources of funding including potential IRA funding.

CCI entities can be implementors of projects, subcontract to other organizations to implement, or both, depending on each CCI entity, their strengths, mission, and capacity. This will be outlined in the workplans developed by approved CCI entities and approved by DEQ.

DEQ acknowledged that it will be critical for this program to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction goal of one ton of emissions reduced for each CCI credit and the potential challenges in achieving this goal. Some projects will be able to achieve greater emission reductions than others. Direct emission reductions will be a large factor in discussing projects, and reductions will need to be seen in environmental justice communities in Oregon. It will be the role of the committee to consider how program success will be judged and what additional metrics to use.

DEQ covered the draft timeline on slide 12 of [Meeting Slides](#). It is expected that this timeline will evolve as the program develops.

Members had clarifying questions regarding the potential for future RFP cycles for CCI entities. DEQ shared that at any point we can open the process to solicit new CCI entities, but our initial request for information (RFI) will go out in the next few weeks and the formal request for proposals (RFP) will hopefully go out in Spring of 2023.

4:15 p.m. Break

4:20 p.m. Draft charter discussion

[Draft Equity Advisory Committee Charter](#): DEQ staff shared that this is a living document. Feedback and suggestions for changes were requested from members.

Operational agreement discussion:

Requests from members:

- Clarify responsibilities for members to connect with communities “regularly”. This additional clarification should embrace flexibility and acknowledge this could look different for each person and organization. Some members have multiple opportunities to engage directly with community members or leaders, others have done engagement work previously or engage in outreach where it fits into their regular work as it is not funded work (beyond resources provided to committee members for mtg participation and preparation). Some members are representing their communities as individuals and will also informally connect with their communities.
- Add specificity around gathering input and ensuring it supports any public comment provided at or in response to committee meetings.
- Add specification on how input it will be incorporated in the CCI process.
- Add a goal around committee members having information they need from DEQ to provide input, ask questions, and participate.

- Require DEQ to connect with members around what organizations they are connecting with and guidance on additional groups of potential interest for engagement.
- Ensure space at meetings for members to share updates on who they are engaging with and feedback they are receiving to build awareness and capacity for doing this work collaboratively. Also do not underestimate informal connections, as community members speak well for themselves.
- Clarify DEQ contact for members.

DEQ requested that even if members can also share what isn't helpful, that would be appreciated.

Relational agreement discussion:

Requests from members:

- Desire to be clear about what respectful means and how that could be taken differently by each person. Suggested change to being able to disagree without being disagreeable.
- Suggested addition of committing to build trust-based relationships.
- Suggested addition that while members will assume good intentions of others, important to acknowledge and address any words or actions that may cause harm. Important to recognizing impact and acknowledge when it is harmful, and members must be open to that.
- Members also noted that the charter is specifically written for a virtual meeting space. For now, zoom will be the platform used, but DEQ planted the seed regarding in person gathering, what barriers there might be, and interest from members in this option.
- DEQ stated that virtual meetings have led to increased participation and public attendance from across the state.

Decision making discussion:

Members suggested renaming and rewording this section of the charter. This was in response to DEQ clarifying that the committee provides feedback and comments and does have formal authority for decision making. Final decisions are made by DEQ.

Initial discussion led to a suggestion for 80% of the committee being present to move forward with the meeting, meaning 8 out of 10 members.

Additional clarity was requested around what types of decisions would be made by the group to move this conversation forward. One example was given: we have three potential CCI entities that applied, and DEQ comes to the committee with a proposal for selecting two of the three. DEQ will come to the committee to give feedback on that decision.

Potential ways to obtain feedback could be polls, everyone sharing their feedback verbally, or guiding the group through consensus. More to come on this topic at the next meeting.

Public comment – DEQ asked members to think about how the group would like to handle public comment. The committee could consider verbal comment at meetings, follow up written comments, or another option. This topic will be discussed further.

4:55 p.m. Poll – February meeting:

2 members had a conflict with Feb 8, 2023. Doodle poll will be sent out.

5:00 p.m. | Adjourn

Alternate formats

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