



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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AGENDA

Energy Advisory Work Group

January 14, 2021

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Oregon Department of Energy – via WebEx

Meeting Attendees		
EAWG Members	ODOE Staff	Guests
Annette Price, Pacific Power Bridget Callahan, Sustainable Northwest Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council Kelsey Wilson, Western States Petroleum Association Kerry Meade, Northwest Energy Efficiency Council Kevin Lynch, Avangrid Renewables/Iberdrola Nate Rivera, Hermiston Energy Services Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest Roger Kline, Northern Wasco County PUD Sunny Radcliffe, Portland General Electric Tony Schacher, Salem Electric Alternates Angela Crowley-Koch, OSEIA Jeff Bissonette for Fred Huette, NW Energy Coalition Amanda Hess and Mary Moerlins for Nels Johnson, NW Natural Samuel Pastrick sitting in for Janice Thompson, alt for Bob, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board	Adam Schultz, Senior Policy Analyst Alan Zelenka, Assistant Director for Planning and Innovation Blake Shelide, Facilities Engineer Cathy Connolly, Assistant Director for Central Services Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator Janine Benner, ODOE Director Jennifer Kalez, Communications Director Michelle Miller Harrington, Policy Analyst/Public Records Requests Ruchi Sadhir, Associate Director, Strategic Engagement & Development Shiela Alicar, Application Administration Analyst Stacey Heuberger, Office Operations Analyst Stephanie Kruse, Facilities Engineer Todd Cornett, EFSC Division Administrator Warren Cook, Efficiency & Conservation Manager Wendy Simons, Policy Analyst: Legislative Coordination	Bill Saporito Danelle Romain Greg Martin Hannah Cruz Jenna Jones Jennifer Joly Joshua Reed Kevin Duell Kyle Petrocine Madeline D Rebecca Carey Smith

Welcome and Director's Update

Janine Benner, ODOE Director

Janine welcomed the group. The new Biennial Energy Report (BER) has come out. [ODOE's year in review](#) has an update on ODOE activities.

ODOE applied for a federal grant: The Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant (REDA). The grant is \$100,000 and ODOE would contribute about \$30,000 in staff time. The grant allows ODOE to connect rural and agricultural businesses seeking an energy audit with auditors who are offering services. ODOE will coordinate with consumer owned utilities on partnering opportunities. There was acknowledgement that additional resources would be helpful.

Questions and feedback:

Jana Gastellum offered that OEC has a rural partnership initiative and is doing outreach around rural and agricultural applications. They are interested in the program if it comes together.

EAWG Roundtable – Focus on the 2021 Legislative Session and organization updates:

Roger Kline (Northern Wasco County PUD). NWCPUD has been dealing with mudslides and wind-induced outages on the coast.

- They offered residential and small business customers a longer catch-up payment plan end of summer. There was a 200% increase of accounts in arrears (30-60-90), mainly residential. They partnered with the local CAP assistance office.
- They offer free EV charging at their offices along the river.
- They are interested in the potential federal infrastructure bill, and what it means to the state and region.

Nicole Hughes (Renewable NW). RNW is hiring a new policy manager to work in Oregon. They are working on:

- Land use legislation to address Oregon's outdated land use system.
- An extension to a solar property tax abatement.
- An RTO study bill, which includes an analysis on the regulatory process. They will set up a task force to discuss this and indicated ODOE would play a project manager role.
- They are involved in discussions about legislation to procure more renewables, clean energy or an emission standard in the electricity sector in Oregon.

Sunny Radcliffe (PGE). PGE filed 2 bills:

- A pre-session bill addressing resource adequacy (SB 318).
- An LC package focused on partnering with customers to meet clean energy and resiliency goals and removing barriers. This has five components.
- They are involved with the transportation electrification bill, paying attention to wildfire legislation to ensure efficacy, public purpose charge modernization, energy burden at the PUC, and reach codes.

Jana Gastellum (Oregon Environmental Council).

- They are looking forward to the 2021 session, their focus is on water, reducing toxins in the environment, clean transportation and climate.
- They are excited about opportunities to support energy efficiency including appliance efficiency measures that ODOE is working on.
- They are modernizing their toxic free kids act (2015).
- They are watching implementation of the Governor's EO with a number of rulemakings. They are engaged with DEQ, OHA, DLCD, and the PUC.
- They are looking for a communications director.

Angela Crowley Koch (OSEIA). Despite supply chain disruptions, residential installations are still going well, commercial has slowed.

- OSEIA is supporting an extension of the Solar Plus Storage Rebate.
- They are hoping to work with the Federal stimulus bill to do a RED-type grant with a community resilience focus on green energies.
- They support the Public Purpose Charge extension and are keeping an eye on the extension of a pilot program payment in lieu of taxes for utility-scale solar.
- They have a workforce development bill, which updates the limited renewable technician license with IEUW and NICA.
- OSEIA is working on EO implementation and community solar programs.

Annette Price (Pacific Power). They are working on COVID-19 issues with a group of public and private utilities asking for additional funds for LIHEAP and at the federal level. They are dealing with the effects of heavy rains and windstorms to get customer lights back on.

- They are engaged in energy-related bills but are not coming to the table with a specific ask.
- Their regulatory activity continues, the PUC has several dockets and they are engaged in all of them.
- A rate case finished late last year, and an order came out with a good outcome.

Mary Moerlins (NW Natural).

- Rulemaking has completed on SB 98, allowing them to start procuring renewable natural gas on behalf of their customers.
- They are focused on a transportation bill to allow rate basing and vehicle and refueling infrastructure.
- They have had great success in coordination with Cherriots, serving the Capitol and Salem.
- They are engaged with DEQ and the Executive Order and will continue to be engaged there.

Nate Rivera (Hermiston Energy Services).

- They are watching any 100% clean energy legislation for any impact on full requirement customers, specifically, hydro.
- They are focused on COVID-19 education about low cost/no cost energy usage, and how they can help as a utility partner.
- He weighed in on the Federal energy grant ODOE has applied for.

Janine thanked him for bringing up the issue on energy efficiency. ODOE is aware of the gaps to rural customers, so the agency will work with COUs and other rural partners to ensure people can participate statewide.

Bridgette Callahan (Sustainable NW).

- SNW was invited to participate in a variety of REDA teams over the last three or four years, and she is excited that ODOE is an applicant for this. While they have been invited to participate on a variety of teams, the geography has been limited and they are focused on co-op territory in Oregon.
- They are currently putting together an energy audit team with marketing materials to engage utilities across state to make this program meaningful to everyone.
- They officially launched their electric tractor pilot this year, working closely with Bonneville Environmental Foundation and WY'East Community Development. Three tractors are on their way to Oregon now to be tested on a variety of farms and demonstration sites across the state. They will be equipped with sensors so that they can receive real-time data on a virtual dashboard to give a real sense of fuel savings and emission reductions and other benefits.

Kevin Lynch (Avangrid Renewables/Iberdrola). From a legislative policy standpoint, there are some important priorities for Avangrid renewables and in what RNW is pursuing.

- They are continuing to grow their renewable generation portfolio in the state.
- They completed a repower of their Klondike Wind Project in Sherman County.
- They broke ground on a new wind project - Golden Hills, which will be 200 MW. They anticipate bringing another one online this year.
- They are starting to build a very large solar installment in Oregon.
- As a large user of Bonneville's transmission system, they are engaged in the rate proceeding and are concerned at the increases being proposed in their transmission rates.

Kelsey Wilson (Western States Petroleum Association). They are preparing for the upcoming session. In the fall when the fires hit, they were actively engaged to make sure that those who needed access to transportation had it, by donating gas cards to several communities affected by the fires.

Tony Schacher (Salem Electric).

- During the fires, they sent crews up to Consumers Power for two weeks. This last Thursday they again spoke with Consumers Power to see if they needed help, as they got hit pretty hard with where there was fire damage and at the coast.
- COVID-19 has brought them down to a half staff who are isolated and separated. Office staff are on a rotation with many virtual offices at home.

Kerry Meade (Northwest Energy Efficiency Council). Updates on the legislative front:

- They are reviewing bills, but not running any.
- They have moved their programming online and are working remotely.
- They have a focus on workforce development and continue to administer the BOC program and are developing a new fundamentals course. They are developing curriculum that may be funded by DOE as a part of their benefit roll out (pre-BOC).
- They are working on materials to reopen schools and dealing with COVID-19 from a building perspective.
- They are launching a conference this fall which was postponed last year.

Samuel Pastrick for Janice Thompson and Bob Jenks, (Oregon Citizens' Utility Board).

- Last year they moved their annual policy conference online. They will keep options open for 2021.
- They are tracking policy related bills on energy, telecommunications and digital equity issues.
- The public purpose charge bill has been a major priority for the past 18 months.
- They are supportive of the appliance standards and the Reach code bill.
- They will be supportive of and involved in the transportation electrification bill and the energy affordability bill (HB 2475).
- Bob was asked to join DEQ's RAC with regard to the EO.

Jeff Bissonette for Fred Huette (NW Energy Coalition).

- Their top three priorities are the energy affordability bill, the update to the public purpose charge, and the appliance efficiency standards bill (HB 2062).
- They are involved in the 100% clean conversation. Fred is involved in regional issues and the NW Power Pool conversation, so he could not be here today.

ODOE Updates

[Strategic Planning Update](#)

Ruchi Sadhir, Associate Director, Strategic Engagement & Development.

Ruchi provided [an update](#) on ODOE's strategic planning process, including draft language and how the agency has incorporated feedback throughout the process. ODOE is finalizing stage 2 elements, which included five areas where work is needed to deliver our mission.

Janine expressed additional thanks to EAWG members who provided feedback.

EAWG members didn't have specific comments or questions at this time.

[ORESAs Grant Update](#)

Ruchi Sadhir, Associate Director, Strategic Engagement & Development.

Ruchi also provided [an update](#) on ODOE's Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment project, including the goals and objectives and the five main project components. Ruchi discussed where the agency and its partners are in the process, including highlighting recent opportunities for public involvement through a series of webinars. The ORESA project is expected to wrap up in June 2021.

EAWG members didn't have specific comments or questions at this time.

[ODOE 2021 Legislative Session Update](#)

Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator

Christy provided an overview of [ODOE's five priorities](#) for the legislative session. ODOE has four bill priorities, and also hopes to serve as a resource on energy issues for legislators, policymakers, and other stakeholders throughout session. She urged EAWG members to be in touch if ODOE can provide any expertise or support.

EAWG Comments/Questions:

Jeff Bissonette asked a clarifying question for the numbers for the bills. Christy pointed to the website and the one-pagers available.

Biennial Energy Report Engagement and Outreach Plan Update

Janine Benner shared ODOE's [plan for outreach and engagement](#) around the 2020 Biennial Energy Report. ODOE has a set of objectives for engagement and outreach, in part to gather input from stakeholders ahead of the 2022 report.

ODOE is interested in EAWG members' ideas around what topics and webinars ODOE should cover as it presents the report over the next year. Janine and Ruchi welcome feedback after the meeting as well if members want to spend some time with the report and the outreach plan before commenting.

ODOE is also interested in EAWG feedback on what type and level of recommendations the agency should develop over the next year ahead of 2022.

EAWG Comments/Questions:

- Nate Rivera expressed his appreciation for ODOE's work, particularly around the agriculture information in the report. Locally for them, there's a farm fair that could be a good location for a webinar or presentation. It's hosted by Oregon State University, typically in the fall. Ruchi will follow up to get contact information.
- Jana Gastellum added that the Oregon Environmental Council works with a statewide coalition on climate and energy, which would be a great venue. She also expressed appreciation for the baseline info provided in the report.
- Bridget Callahan noted that Sustainable NW is happy to feature the report on one of their coalition quarterly calls in 2021. She has been in touch with Rob Del Mar and Ruchi.

The regular meeting session concluded.

Members who were interested were welcome to stay on for a [short presentation](#) on the 2020 Biennial Energy Report.

[Biennial Energy Report](#)

EAWG feedback on outreach and engagement - *Janine Benner, Ruchi Sadhir*

Closing comments and discussion - *EAWG Members and ODOE Staff*

After meeting: **Introduction to 2020 Biennial Energy Report - Q and A with EAWG members and ODOE staff**