

Notice: This meeting will be recorded



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Oregon Community Renewable Energy Grant Program Advisory Committee: Meeting #1

October 14, 2021

For more information:

[State of Oregon: INCENTIVES - Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#)



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Welcome

Harney County, Oregon



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Leading Oregon to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable energy future.

Our Mission

The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.

What We Do

On behalf of Oregonians across the state, the Oregon Department of Energy achieves its mission by providing:

- A Central Repository of Energy Data, Information, and Analysis
- A Venue for Problem-Solving Oregon's Energy Challenges
- Energy Education and Technical Assistance
- Regulation and Oversight
- Energy Programs and Activities

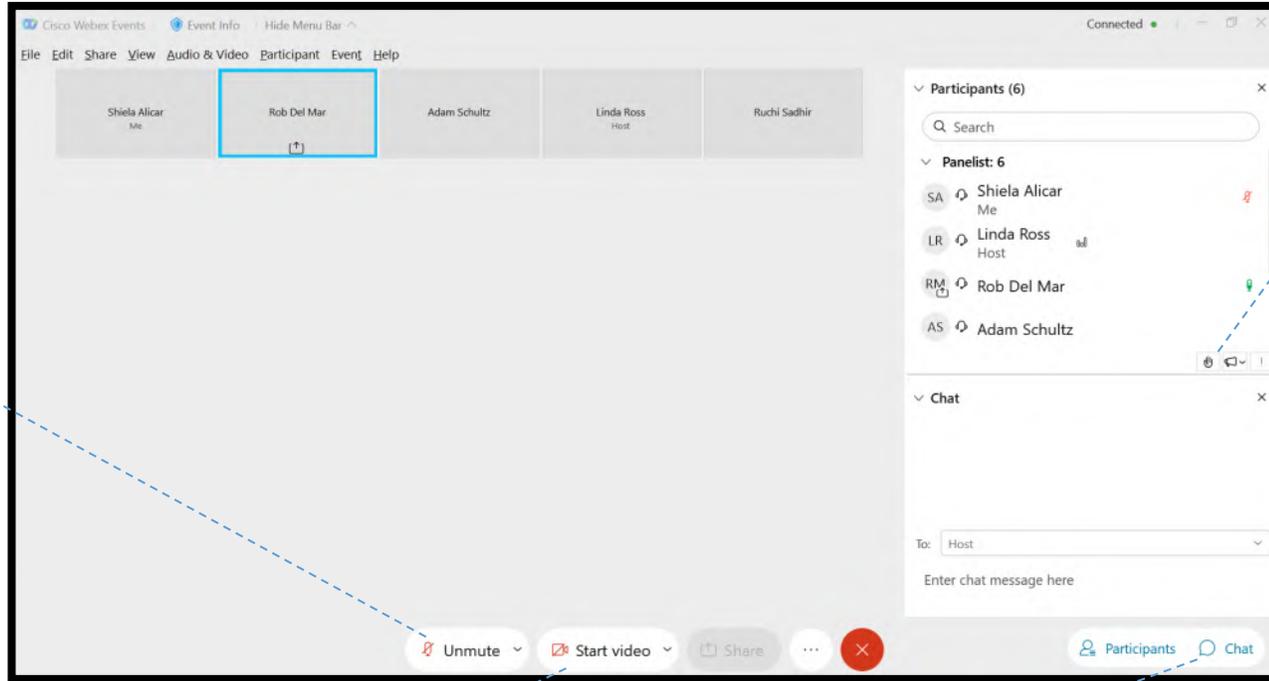
Meeting Logistics

- **Logistics**

- Note that we'll be recording this meeting and will post it online for reference
- Please feel free to use the Chat to ask questions, ODOE staff will be monitoring the Chat
- Please use the “raise hand” function to indicate interest in asking a question or making a comment
- ODOE Staff will work with you on determining the date of the next Advisory Committee meeting
- We have set aside time for Public Comment towards end of meeting

- **Next up – a few instructions on how to use WebEx to participate in this meeting**

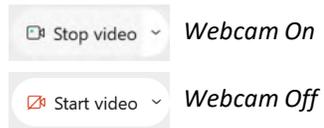
WebEx Functionality



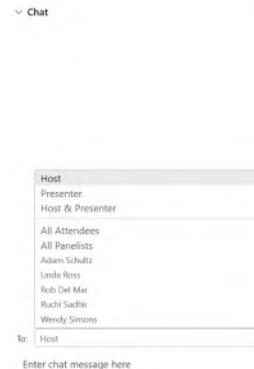
Audio Options



Video Options



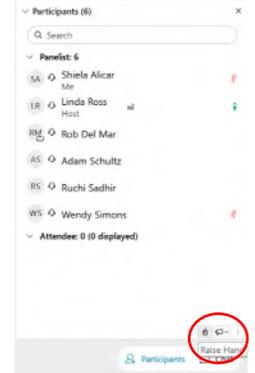
Chat



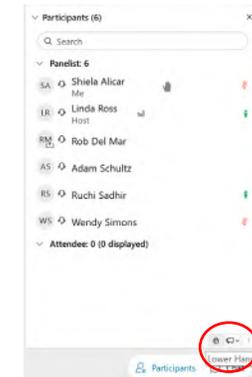
Click in the box next to "To:" for options to send a message to the Host, Presenter, All Attendees, All Panelists or named individuals.

Raise Hand

Click on the little hand icon to raise your hand.

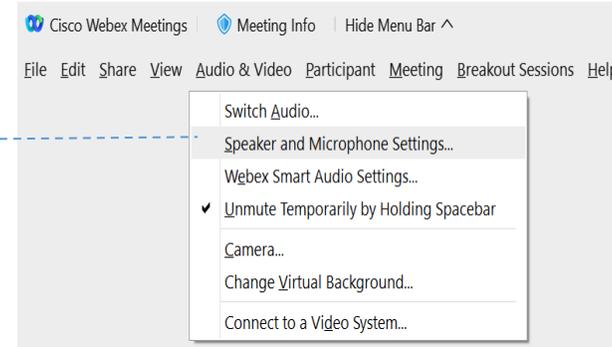


Click on the little hand icon to lower your hand.

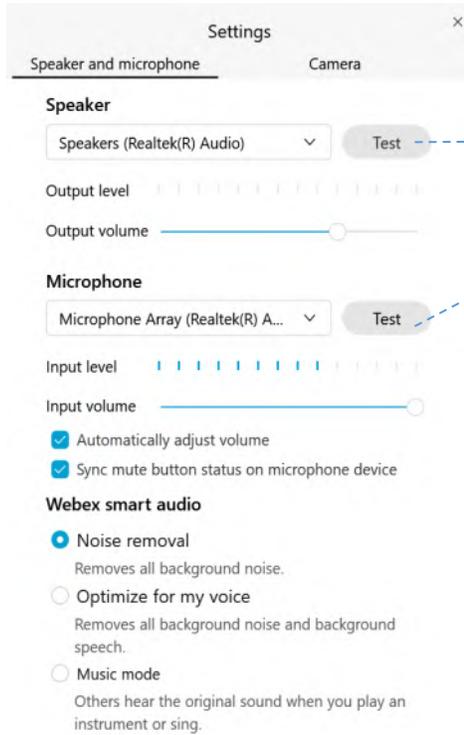


WebEx Audio and Webcam Settings

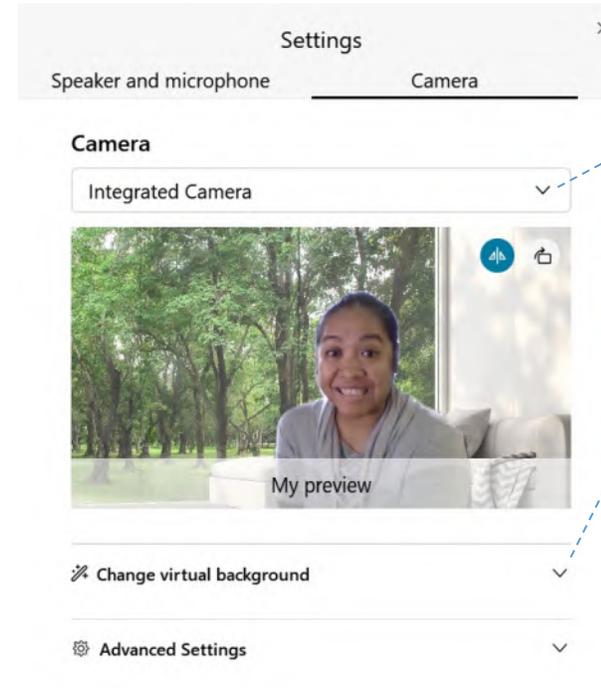
Select Speaker and Microphone Settings... to access the audio settings.



Select and test your speaker and microphone settings.



Select and Preview your Camera.



Click on Change virtual background to blur your background.

How this meeting will be facilitated:

- **Panelists and Participants**

- Panelists: Advisory Committee Members and ODOE Staff
- Participants: There is time reserved at the end of the agenda for public comment, and you can send questions through chat throughout the meeting.

- **Community Agreements:** Designed to foster inclusive and respectful meeting today

- Be present and ready to learn
- Be respectful to others
- Learning happens outside of our comfort zones
- Listen to learn and not to respond
- Thank you for being flexible and patient around any technology needs or changes
- If you need something at this meeting, ask for it!
 - Technical issues or questions: Contact **Linda Ross** in the chat

AGENDA

1:00 – 1:15	Welcome, Objectives, and Logistics <i>[Done]</i>
1:15 – 1:45	Introductions & Roundtable
1:45 – 2:30	Orientation – bill overview and advisory committee role
2:30 – 2:45	BREAK
2:45 – 4:15	Discussion of Key Questions
4:15 – 4:30	Next Steps / Schedule Next Meeting
4:30 – 5:00	Public Comment

ODOE's Objectives

- First, thank you for serving!
- **Quick recap of HB 2021 Community Renewable Energy Grant Program:** what does it ask ODOE to do?

ODOE Objective:

To work with the Advisory Committee, interested stakeholders, Tribes, and the public to develop and adopt rules for the new Community Renewable Energy Grant Program as well as administer that program over the next four years to accomplish the program goals of providing grants to encourage community renewable energy projects that support resilience and environmental justice communities.



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Introductions & Roundtable



Advisory Committee Members

A member of the Environmental Justice Task Force	Quinn Read, Center for Biological Diversity
A representative of Business Oregon	Mark Brady, Business Oregon
A representative of electric companies	Quisha Light, Portland General Electric
A representative of consumer-owned utilities	Gail Malcolm, Central Lincoln PUD
A representative from an organization that represents community renewable energy development	Shannon Souza, SolCoast, OCEAN, POET, and OSSIA
A representative from a federally recognized Oregon Tribe	Danny Martinez, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Three representatives of local government to represent the interests of counties, cities and special districts	Commissioner Phil Chang, Deschutes County Alan Johnston, City of Gresham Les Perkins, Farmers Irrigation District
Representatives from nongovernmental organizations that represent communities of low income or disadvantaged households	Alessandra de la Torre, Rogue Climate Nick Johnson, Lake County Renewables Initiative Oriana Magnera, Verde
Representatives from relevant state and federal emergency management or response agencies	Michael Harryman, State Resilience Officer Brandi Martin (liaison member), Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, & Emergency Response (CESER) Stan Thomas, Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Roundtable Prompt: Describe a project you imagine being funded by the Community Renewable Energy Program



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Orientation – HB 2021 and Program Overview



Yaquina Head Lighthouse, Newport, Oregon

HB 2021- Summary

- 100% Clean Electricity Targets – PUC and DEQ activity
- Natural Gas Plant Restrictions – ODOE staff working with EFSC
- Community Renewable Energy Grant Program
- Study on Small Scale Renewable Energy Development – ODOE study
- Green Energy Tariffs – PUC activity
- Responsible Contractor Labor Standards – ODOE online portal
- RPS Community Based Renewable Energy Project Target Changes from 8% to 10% – PUC activity

Bill Implementation at ODOE: **Studies**

Small-Scale
Renewable Energy

Regional
Transmission
Organizations

Floating Offshore
Wind

Renewable
Hydrogen

Sign up for email alerts for any of these at
oregon.gov/energy – Get Involved

HB 2021, Section 29 - 36

HB 2021 Establishes the “Community Renewable Investment Fund” to:

- Offset costs of planning and developing community renewable energy projects
- Support projects in traditionally underserved communities
- Promote small-scale community renewable energy projects
- Provide direct benefits to communities across Oregon by improving energy resilience, creating local jobs, promoting economic development, and offsetting local energy costs.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

- 50 percent or more for grants to be awarded for planning or developing community renewable energy projects that qualify as **community energy resilience projects**.
- 50 percent or more for grants to be awarded for planning or developing community renewable energy projects that primarily serve **one or more qualifying communities**.

QUALIFYING COMMUNITIES

Environmental justice communities:

- Communities of color
- Communities experiencing lower incomes
- Tribal communities
- Rural communities
- Coastal communities
- Communities with limited infrastructure
- Communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

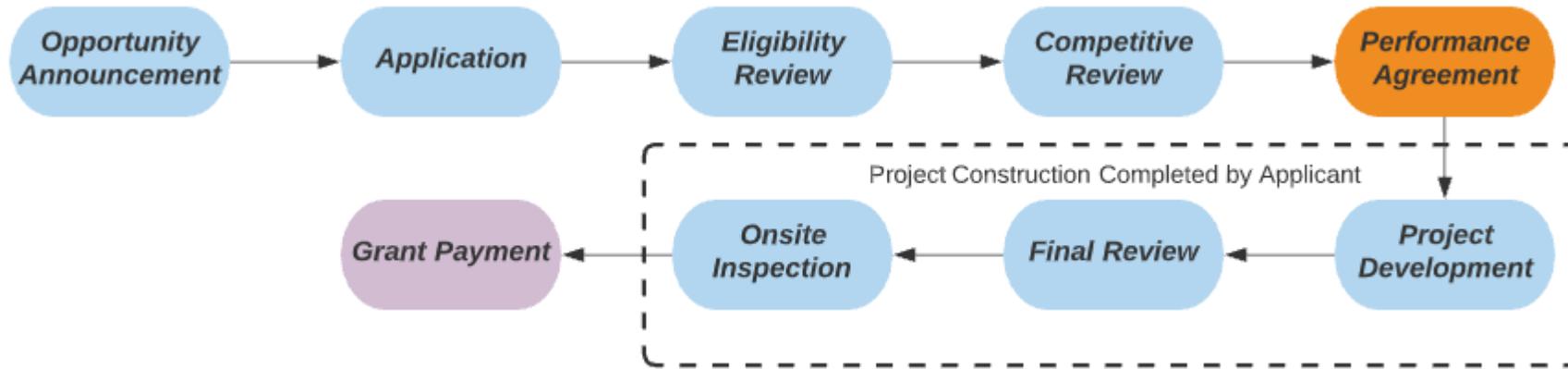
- Tribes
- Counties
- Municipalities
- Special government bodies such as ports and irrigation districts
- Consumer-Owned Utilities



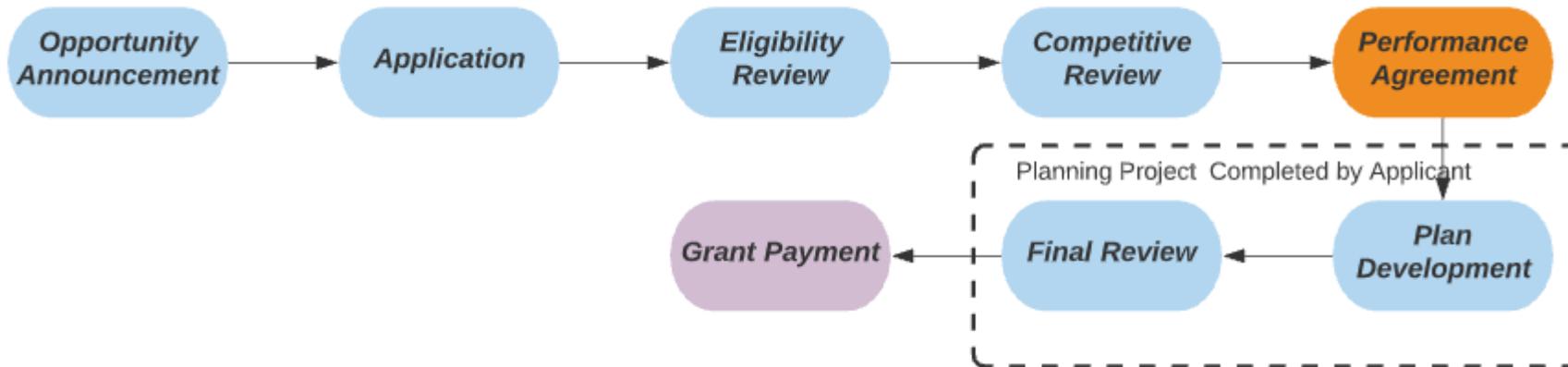
Grid Edge Demonstration Project in Eugene
Photos courtesy of Eugene Water and Electric Board

Draft Overview of Grant Process

Construction Grants



Planning Grants



OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROJECT CATEGORY	MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD	MAXIMUM % OF COST
Planning, Energy Resilience	\$100,000	100%
Planning, Renewable Energy Only	\$100,000	100%
Construction, Energy Resilience	\$1,000,000	100%
Construction, Renewable Energy Only	\$1,000,000	50%

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis and will include performance agreements and time limits for completing projects.

TIMELINE TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM





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Orientation – Advisory Committee Roles & Responsibilities

Vista House, Columbia River Gorge

Advisory Committee Roles

- **October 2021 – February 2022: “Rulemaking Advisory Committee” or “RAC” role - input and feedback to adopt rules**
 - Share ideas and advice for definitions and methodology with Advisory Committee and ODOE staff to accomplish the intent of the law
 - Provide input and feedback to ODOE staff on program details
 - Review draft program rules and provide feedback to ODOE staff
 - ODOE Staff will use feedback to finalize program rules for approval by ODOE Director
- **January 2022 through sunset of program: “Advisory” role - Support in outreach and project application review (as described in program rules)**
 - Will involve outreach activities to help encourage applications across Oregon
 - May involve some or all advisory committee members in reviewing project applications and evaluating against criteria in rules and may involve providing recommendations for projects
 - ODOE Director may consider Advisory Committee recommendations in making grant decisions

Roundtable Questions: Do you have questions about these roles? Do you have ideas on how the committee could support the program in the “Advisory” stage?

Advisory Committee Process

- September 2021 – January 2022: “RAC” role - input and feedback to adopt rules
 - Meetings will be open to the public and recorded
 - No voting will be expected
 - No quorum required for meetings to take place
- January 2022 through sunset of program: “Advisory” role - Support in outreach and project application review (as described in program rules)
 - TBD depending on program rule development and advisory committee role
 - The final decisions on applications will be with ODOE
- ODOE Staff will create a *draft* Advisory Committee Charter for review and feedback based on this discussion

Roundtable Questions: Do you have questions about these processes?
Do you have ideas on how the advisory committee meetings are run?



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10-Minute Break (return at _____)

Sunset on the Columbia River in Boardman



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Discussion: Equity Metrics

Crater Lake National Park

Background: Equity Metrics

HB 2021 is crafted to ensure equitable distribution of funds, and the program will only succeed if it reaches Oregonians of diverse racial, social, and economic backgrounds. The bill requires that 50% or more of the grants are to be awarded to projects that primarily serve environmental justice communities. Additionally, projects located in environmental justice communities are to receive priority scoring under a competitive review process. ODOE will need to evaluate projects to determine if the benefits accrue to an environmental justice community, so the program guidelines will need to provide clear guidance to applicants about how to demonstrate the project will benefit environmental justice communities.

Equity Metrics – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: What measurable criteria could be established to enable ODOE to ensure a project is serving an EJ community?

HB 2021, Section 1 (5) “Environmental justice communities” includes communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, tribal communities, rural communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities.

Equity Metrics – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: What metrics can be established to enable ODOE to evaluate involvement and leadership by representatives of environmental justice communities in developing grant applications?

HB 2021, Section 30 (10)(f) (f) Incorporate equity metrics developed in coordination with the Environmental Justice Task Force established by ORS 182.538 for evaluating the involvement of and leadership by people of low income, Black, Indigenous or People of Color, members of tribal communities, people with disabilities, youth, people from rural communities and people from otherwise disadvantaged communities in the siting, planning, designing or evaluating of the proposed community renewable energy projects.

Equity Metrics – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: Should applicants be responsible for demonstrating their status as a qualifying community? If so, what specific evidence can be provided by applicants?

Question: If applicants are required to demonstrate their status as an EJ community, are there tools available to help demonstrate qualification? Are these tools accessible to smaller communities with limited staff to develop grant applications? Are EJ Screen and U.S. Census analysis good tools for the program to use to help determine if an applicant qualifies as an EJ community?

Equity Metrics – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: Should ODOE develop a standardized process for applicants to demonstrate qualifications as an EJ community? If so, how?

Equity Metrics – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: Are there other grant programs in Oregon or in other states that seek to benefit EJ communities that could be used as a model?



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Discussion : Energy Resilience

Trillium Lake, Mt. Hood

Background: Energy Resilience

HB 2021 provides the first program in Oregon specifically targeted to community energy resilience. The bill requires that 50% or more of grants are to be awarded to community energy resilience projects. The bill defines these projects as renewable energy systems that support the energy resilience of structures or facilities that are essential to the public welfare. Additionally, energy resilience projects are to receive priority scoring under a competitive review process. ODOE will need to evaluate projects to determine energy resilience benefits.

Energy Resilience – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: Are there existing designations of structures or facilities, essential to public welfare, that ODOE could consider adopting or modifying for purposes of this program? For example, some existing designations that staff have researched include those identified by FEMA and Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

Energy Resilience – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: To what extent should ODOE's rules prioritize projects that demonstrate alignment with a FEMA-approved Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Energy Resilience – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: What specific resilience metrics could be included in program rules to enable differentiation between applicants? For example, some resilience metrics that staff have researched include criticality of the facility or structure, population served, number of people served, and location in a high-risk area.

Energy Resilience – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: Should ODOE establish minimum criteria to qualify a project as a resilience project? For example, some minimum criteria that staff have researched include critical infrastructure to be powered and whether the structure or facility could be expected to survive a natural disasters or other resilience events.



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Discussion : Additional Funding Priorities

North Fork John Day River, Grant County

Additional Priorities – Questions for Advisory Committee

HB 2021 includes additional priority scoring requirements beyond equity and resilience considerations. Please consider the questions associated with the following additional priorities.

Additional Priorities – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: What should constitute a significant prior investment?

HB 2021, Section 30 (10)(b) Demonstrate significant prior investments in energy efficiency measures at the project location or will result in aggregate improvements to demand response capabilities.

Additional Priorities – Questions for Advisory Committee

Question: Should ODOE establish a minimum ratio of project funds to be awarded to qualifying contractors? As contracts may not be awarded until the grant funding is in place, how would an applicant demonstrate compliance?

HB 2021, Section 30 (10)(d) Projects constructed in part or in whole by disadvantaged business enterprises, emerging small businesses or businesses that are owned by minorities, women or disabled veterans.

HB 2021, Section 30 (10)(e) Include inclusive hiring and promotion policies for workers working on the projects.

Next Meeting

- Any Questions not Covered today?
- Date of next meeting
 - Will avoid Thanksgiving Week
 - Any other dates/times to avoid – please add to the Chat



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Public Comment

Haystack Rock, Cannon Beach

Public Comment

(1) Please state your name and any affiliation/organization

(2) Identify which topic you're responding to:

- Bill Overview / Timeline
- Advisory Committee Roles and Responsibilities
- Discussion Guide – topics ...

Please limit your comments to 5 minutes, thank you!



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Thank
You!

For questions or more
information:

Rob Del Mar

Rob.Delmar@energy.Oregon.gov

The next meeting of the Advisory
Committee will be _____.

St. John's Bridge, Portland