



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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Energy Advisory Work Group

DATE: July 14, 2022

TIME: 3 – 5 p.m.

Oregon Department of Energy – via WebEx

Meeting Attendees

EAWG Members	ODOE Staff	Guests
Bob Jenks, Oregon Citizens Utility Board Brooke Brownlee, Portland General Electric (alternate for Sunny Radcliffe) Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition Jennifer Hill-Hart, Oregon Citizens Utility Board (alternate for Bob Jenks) Kevin Lynch, Avangrid Renewables Kyle Roadman, Emerald People’s Utility District Mary Moerlins, NW Natural Nate Rivera, Hermiston Energy Services Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest Tony Schacher, Salem Electric	Janine Benner, Director Adam Schultz, Senior Energy Policy Analyst Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator Danae Hammitt, Finance & Operations Manager Erica Hertzsh, Public Affairs Specialist Jennifer Senner, Grants Officer Jenny Kalez, Communications Director Jessica Reichers, Energy Technology & Policy Manager Kaci Radcliffe, Program Analyst Linda Bures, Associate Dir Human Services Max Woods, Asst Director Nuclear Safety & Emergency Preparedness Michael Williams, Asst. Director Central Services Ruchi Sadhir, Assoc Director, Strategic Engagement Stacey Heuberger, Office Operations Analyst	Alec Shebiel Anthony Samperio Danelle Romain Haley Ellett Hannah Dondy- Kaplan Jennifer Joly Kathy Moyd Maddy Do Mike Freese Nora Apter Sarah Buchwalter Tess Milio Tim Davis Tucker Billman

Welcome and Director’s Update *(Janine Benner, Director)*

- Janine welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the Energy Advisory Work Group within a month. She updated members that applications for the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program’s first opportunity announcements were due July 8 and there was a lot of interest. There were 68 applications submitted, 34 of those were planning projects, and 34 were construction projects. The requested grants totaled \$27 million and if you add all of the renewable energy generation from the submitted projects, it would total over 30 MW. ODOE is completing the eligibility and completeness review of the applications and will then move into the competitive review process.
- The 2020 Electricity Resource Mix data has been updated and is available on ODOE’s [website](#).

Questions and feedback:

A question from the chat asked if ODOE would be sending the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program numbers out and Janine confirmed that ODOE will and expect to have those numbers in the next newsletter as well.

2022 Biennial Energy Report (*Jessica Reichers, Energy Technology and Policy Manager*)

- Jessica shared the BER timeline and it is largely the same as what has been shared with EAWG before with a few adjustments to address timing on USDOE 2020 data sets.
- The 2022 BER will have a similar look and feel to the 2020 report and will include the same sections: Energy by the Numbers, Energy History Timeline, Energy Resource & Technology Reviews, Energy 101s, and Policy Briefs.
- Energy by the Numbers is a data driven piece on energy consumption, production, and sector information.
- The Energy Resource & Technology Review section will include pieces on hydrogen, energy efficient building technologies, and an overview of all types of transportation fuels, except aviation which will likely be addressed in the 2024 BER.
- Topics in the Energy 101s section include an overview of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, utility resource planning and acquisition, clean energy opportunities in agriculture, and an overview of climate programs and actions happening across state agencies.
- Policy Briefs are a deeper dive on several relevant and timely topics. The biggest topic in this section is, “Accelerating the Energy Transition: Identifying Pathways to Achieve Oregon’s Clean Energy and Climate Goals.”
- Jessica shared the list of studies used by lead author, Adam Schultz, to inform the Clean Energy policy brief. These studies were selected based on two criteria – the studies had to be recent (all were completed in the last four years, mostly within the last two years), and the studies had to be relevant to Oregon.
- Jessica asked members to review the list and identify any gaps or missed studies. Members can email Adam.schultz@energy.oregon.gov with suggestions.
- The 2022 BER will include a piece about workforce and supply chain opportunities and challenges, informed by real-world experiences from energy developers and suppliers. Understanding these issues could be beneficial for decision makers as they consider policy options and develop programs that support the state’s energy goals.
- Jessica asked members to share supply chain or workforce experiences at AskEnergy@oregon.gov or linda.ross@energy.oregon.gov to request time to talk through these issue with ODOE staff.
- Erica Hertzsch provided a preview of the interactive history timeline that will be included in the online BER. This timeline includes layers of information, along with audio, videos, and interviews. Janine said that a link would be sent to members to explore the timeline and asked them to reach out if there are events or anecdotes that they would want included or highlighted. The timeline will go live in November.

Questions and feedback:

Kathy Moyd asked if there was any consideration of doing a breakdown of the sources and potential uses of the waste energy on page 1 of the 2020 BER? Jessica said that ODOE does want to pull together a Sankey-type diagram that looks at different aspects of the energy sector and waste energy is one of those aspects, but do not have the resources to do that this time. ODOE is looking at waste energy as a topic to talk about in the Energy by the Numbers section.

Jennifer Jolly asked in the chat if a draft of the 2022 BER will be published for stakeholder comment prior to finalizing content. Jessica answered that the report will not be posted for comments. ODOE has been driving the report from a forward-moving process by finding out what people were interested in hearing about up front, gathering information, and verifying that information and data sets are being accurately reflected while drafting the report. Ruchi added that when there are references to specific companies or utilities in the report, ODOE typically reaches out for confirmation on accuracy.

A question in the chat asked if ODOE will look at retirement or removal of existing renewable energy sources in the analysis in the Clean Energy policy brief. Jessica replied that it will not get that specific but there are studies that look at forecasting what energy resources might look like in the future.

Mary Moerlins said that the interactive timeline would be interesting to use with students and asked if there was an outreach component to schools. Erica said that there will be outreach and this is perfect for schools and young people.

Preparing Fuels Sector for Wildfire Season *(Max Woods, Asst Dir Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness)*

- Max reported that to be better prepared for this summer's wildfire season, ODOE developed and is implementing a plan with partners at the Oregon Department of Aviation, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service, and private sector fueling companies to quickly identify, assess, and respond to any potential issues with jet fuel related to fighting wildfires.
- This team will closely monitor fire activity and make proactive contact with local airfields that might be supporting wildfire response to assess their fuel needs and fuel supplies. They will also stay in close contact with industry to prepare for quick response and are also trying to establish proactive emergency accounts between private sector partners that deliver fuel and local airports that may potentially run into shortages this summer.
- BP will be barging aviation fuel into the Port of Portland to provide augmentation of supply, in addition to the Olympic pipeline deliveries.
- A partnership with fuel supplier, Titan Aviation Fuels, has been established. Titan has a dedicated fuel delivery truck and driver on standby to respond quickly to emergency needs in support of wildfire fighting across the state.

Strategic Plan Update *(Ruchi Sadhir, Assistant Director Strategic Engagement, Jenny Kalez, Communications Director, Linda Bures, Associate Director Human Services)*

- Ruchi and Jenny provided updates on two of the objectives within the Expand and Improve Stakeholder Engagement imperative.
 - Objective – Year-over-year increase in agency engagement with organizations representing historically and currently underserved populations and communities. Ruchi shared that one of the tools that ODOE uses to track engagement is an external events tracker. This tracker is not comprehensive and does not track every meeting ODOE attends, but it does track events where staff might share ODOE's work, like conferences, workshops, legislative presentations, and larger stakeholder meetings.

- In Quarter 1 of 2022, ODOE has attended, presented at, or organized 109 events, and a total 1220 events since tracking began in 2018. By topic, ODOE has attended the highest number of events relating to energy efficiency, followed by renewable energy, climate change, transportation, diversity and equity, and resilience/emergency preparedness.
- Objective – Year-over-year increase in the external use of agency produced reports, studies, and presentations. Jenny Kalez provided stats on ODOE’s social media followers, media mentions, podcast episode streams, and presentations to the legislature. All of these platforms show an increase.
 - Website statistics show hits for ODOE’s three websites: ODOE Main, Energy Info, GoElectric. All three sites show increases and are a good indicator for how ODOE’s materials, dashboards, and reports are being used.
 - Ruchi and Linda Bures provided updates on the Build Practices and Process to Achieve More Inclusive and Equitable Outcomes imperative.
 - Objective – Year-over-year increase in the percent of agency job applicants identifying as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. In 2019, the state acquired a human resource information system that would allow applicants to disclose race. Since that time, ODOE has been able to track efforts to increase the diversity of their applicant pool. Linda reported there has been a significant increase in diversity and ODOE has more than doubled the diversity of their applicant pool since 2019. These results come from a combination of efforts such as increased or broader advertising in appropriate publications and job sites, requesting referrals, asking employees to spread the word to community-based organizations, and increased remote work and schedule flexibility to draw applicants from a broader geographic area.
 - Objectives – Year-over-year increase in the percent of historically and currently underserved populations and communities participating in ODOE programs and services and Year-over-year increase of collection, review, and analysis of data. For both objectives, ODOE is using the existence of the five new programs (Solar + Storage, Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding, Community Renewable Grant Program, Rural and Ag Energy Audit, and Heat Pump programs) to help capture data and participation. These new programs, either by statute or rule, prioritize historically and currently underserved populations.

Questions and feedback:

Mary Moerlins asked if workforce will intersect with the objective to increase the percentage of historically and currently underserved populations and communities participating in ODOE programs, specifically the Rural & Agricultural Energy Audit Program. She said there seems to be a shortage of energy auditors, especially in those communities. Ruchi said that this program has opened the door to a lot of good connections in rural communities and there have been discussions across the network and ODOE hopes to be able to speak to workforce issues. Energy auditors are also going to be an IJJA focus. Jen Senner added that ODOE is anticipating a competitive grant under IJJA specifically to train energy auditors. ODOE is actively working to prepare for that grant.

Follow Up on Budget (*Janine Benner*)

- Janine provided follow-up on Policy Options Packages that members had questions on at the last meeting.
- Energy Research Fund. This POP would establish a fund that will be used to contract with outside firms for studies, research, and analysis when necessary to supplement existing department resources. This POP will be submitted in ODOE's agency request budget with ESA revenue but ODOE plans to shift the funding source to federal funds once the IJJA State Energy Program dollars are received in the Fall. Janine asked members is there are types of analysis that would be helpful to run through the Energy Research Fund and what the vetting process through EAWG should look like.

Questions and feedback:

Nicole Hughes asked if ODOE anticipates doing one or two projects a year through the Energy Research Fund and will ODOE be asking EAWG for feedback. Janine answered that ODOE would like to explore the process with EAWG members to figure out what it should look like. Nicole added that having this fund will be helpful and will eliminate having to go to the legislature every time there is an issue and recommended having an energy strategy for the state to help refine what should be focused on. Looking at previously vetted studies to help identify what the challenges are would be a good place to start when looking at what kind of studies to do.

Question from the chat asked how the Energy Research Fund intersects with legislatively commissioned studies and is it meant to be additive or a source for those studies. Janine said this fund is to contract out for expertise that ODOE does not have. If the legislature assigned ODOE a study, most of it would be covered by existing staff unless there was a piece that needed certain expertise that ODOE was unable to cover.

Nicole Hughes added that consolidation of information would be helpful to identify barriers in the state. Jessica Reichers shared the example that recently ODOE wanted to provide three scenarios for offshore wind but were only able to provide one because ODOE could not provide support to Northern Grid for the additional scenarios.

Nicole also added that it would be beneficial for this fund to participate in regional study opportunities.

Fred Heutte expressed frustration that Northern Grid declined to provide ODOE with the extra scenarios when those studies have obvious value. Janine said that they weren't opposed to doing the studies, ODOE was unable to provide them extra resources.

- Navigator for Community Capacity Building. This POP was brought up at the IJJA public webinar and there was a lot of need identified for communities. Janine asked members to share ideas of how this position could support communities, tribes, and local governments.

Questions and feedback:

Nicole Hughes spoke specifically about tribes and said that they don't even have the capacity to start considering involvement in renewable energy projects. She suggested looking at the NREL and MTERA study that identifies specific barriers to tribes.

Fred Heutte added that there is plenty of interest from these communities and consistent outreach is key.

- Equitable External Engagement. Janine asked members to reach out on methods of engagement they or their organizations have used that could be a helpful focus for ODOE to reach rural communities, tribes, lower income Oregonians, or currently or historically underserved communities.

Closing Comments/Q&A

- Janine reminded EAWG members of ODOE's public budget meeting on July 25.