



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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Energy Advisory Work Group

DATE: March 18, 2024

TIME: 1:00 PM – 4:00PM

Oregon Department of Energy

Meitner Conference Room

Virtual Option – via WebEx

Meeting Attendees		
EAWG Members	ODOE Staff	Guests
<p>Alessandra de la Torre, NW Energy Coalition (alternate for Fred Heutte)</p> <p>Annette Price, Pacific Power</p> <p>Bridget Callahan, Sustainable Northwest</p> <p>Chloe Becker, Portland General Electric (alternate for Sunny Radcliffe)</p> <p>Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council</p> <p>Jennifer Hill-Hart, Citizens' Utility Board (alternate for Bob Jenks)</p> <p>Jenny Dresler, Pacific Propane Gas Assoc</p> <p>Kerry Meade, Building Potential</p> <p>Kyle Roadman, Emerald People's Utility District</p> <p>Lisa Gaines, Oregon State University</p> <p>Mary Moerlins, NW Natural</p> <p>Nate Rivera, Hermiston Energy Services</p> <p>Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest</p> <p>Nora Apter, Oregon Environmental Council (alternate for Jana Gastellum)</p> <p>Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County</p> <p>Tashiana Wangler, Avangrid</p> <p>Tony Schacher, Salem Electric</p> <p>Tom Wolf, bp America</p>	<p>Janine Benner, Director</p> <p>Abby Reeser, P&I Division Assistant</p> <p>Alan Zelenka, Asst Director Planning & Innovation</p> <p>Michael Williams, Asst Director Central Services</p> <p>Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator</p> <p>Edith Bayer, Energy Policy Team Lead</p> <p>Jenny Kalez, Communications Director</p> <p>Jessica Reichers, Energy Technology & Policy Manager</p> <p>Jimmy Mondal, Helpdesk Analyst</p> <p>Lauren Rosenstein, Equity & Inclusion Analyst</p> <p>Nick Ray, Application Administrator</p> <p>Ruchi Sadhir, Assoc Director, Strategic Engagement</p> <p>Stacey Heuberger, Office Operations Analyst</p>	<p>Alec Shebiel</p> <p>Arlene Sherrett</p> <p>Carra Sahler</p> <p>Dan Kirschner</p> <p>Danelle Romain</p> <p>David Francis</p> <p>Emily Eckert</p> <p>Haley Ellett</p> <p>Hannah Dondy-Kaplan</p> <p>Ian Lynch</p> <p>Jason Heuser</p> <p>Jennifer Joly</p> <p>Lisa McGarity</p> <p>Mark Freeman</p> <p>Mary Rudolph</p> <p>Natalia Ojeda</p> <p>Nikkole Hughes</p> <p>Paul Hawkins</p> <p>Ted Case</p> <p>Tucker Billman</p>

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

- Janine welcomed all in-person and virtual members and announced that introductions will substitute for the traditional roundtable.
- All attending EAWG members introduced themselves.
- Janine shared that ODOE has opened three opportunity announcements:
 - Round three of the [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#) is accepting applications through May 10. There is \$18 million available for renewable and resilience projects.
 - ODOE will soon start accepting applications for the [Grid Resilience Grant Program](#) and there will be \$19 million available to utilities for projects that strengthen the resilience of the grid.
 - ODOE has posted the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant](#) opportunity announcement and the online application portal will open soon. There is \$1.2 million for cities, counties, and local governments who are ineligible to receive funds directly from

the US DOE. This funding can support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transportation projects. A webinar will be held on March 20.

- The [Oregon Rental Heat Pump Program](#) continues to do well and the legislature allocated an additional \$4 million to the program during the 2024 session.
- Funding for the [Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program](#) is likely to be fully reserved by early summer.
- ODOE is working on an application for the [Federal Home Energy Rebate Programs](#) (HOMES/HEAR). ODOE will issue an RFP for a contractor to build essential components of the programs and will also issue an RFP for two implementers. One implementer will work directly with Energy Trust of Oregon in IOU territory, and the other will work in COU territory.
- ODOE is working with DEQ on the [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program](#), and [Oregon's Priority Climate Action Plan](#) was submitted to the EPA on March 1. ODOE and DEQ will now begin working on an application to implement actions outlined in the Plan. That application is due April 1.
- ODOE and PUC, along with a consultant, continue to work on the [Energy Security Plan](#). This plan is a requirement from both federal and state legislation. The deadline for the Plan is September 30, 2024. Janine encouraged members to take the survey recently sent out to help collect information about risks to the energy system. There will be upcoming meetings to discuss draft finding in May. ODOE will be proposing to rename its Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness Division to the Nuclear Safety and Energy Security Division.
- Janine reminded members to fill out the Doodle Poll for the budget-specific meeting of the Energy Advisory Work Group in April.

2024 Session Debrief and Discussion (*Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator*)

- Christy shared that ODOE's [2024 Legislative Report](#) is available and will be continuously updated until the Governor has acted on all bills.
- [SB 1525](#), ODOE's technical fix package, passed with bipartisan support.
- ODOE received permission to administer and add staff for the Grid Resilience State Grant and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant programs in [SB 5701](#). The bill also increased ODOE's budget by \$580,752 to support staffing for contracting and accounting.
- Energy siting continues to be a topic of interest in Oregon. ODOE will be presenting to the legislature on the current siting process during May Legislative Days.
- Christy reviewed the outcome of [siting bills](#) and [climate and energy bills](#) from session.

Questions and feedback:

Nora Apter elaborated on HB 4112 – it is focused on leveraging incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act for manufacturing technologies, while addressing supply chain constraints. There will likely be an interim task force on this bill.

Nicole Hughes elaborated on HB 4080 – it was the work of a diverse group that included equity organizations, environmental organizations, labor, fisheries, Tribes, ports, and others, that met for over a year discussing how Oregon should move forward on offshore wind.

Strategic Program Evaluation Update (*Ruchi Sadhir, Associate Director Strategic Engagement*)

- This is the last year of the current strategic plan and ODOE plans to develop another in 2025.
- As part of the Assess and Modernize Agency Programs and Activities Imperative of the current strategic plan, ODOE is conducting an evaluation of each program and activity. Evaluations are in process and ODOE staff and managers of each program are working through the criteria that was shared at the previous Energy Advisory Work Group meeting. ODOE's next steps will be to internally talk through ideas for improvements to effectiveness and efficiency. ODOE will also be

reaching out to “customers” and interested parties of those programs for feedback. Ruchi handed out a list of ODOE programs with descriptions and asked EAWG members if there were any they would like to dive deeper into. The list was emailed to members who joined virtually.

Questions and feedback:

Jennifer Joly asked if ODOE would consider eliminating programs even if it would require legislative action. Janine said yes and added that ODOE has already identified a small portion of one program that should be eliminated to reduce duplicative reporting that will be proposed in a legislative concept.

State Energy Strategy Discussion and Feedback (*Edith Bayer, Energy Policy Team Lead*)

- ODOE has issued two RFPs, one for a technical contractor and one for a facilitator, and is currently reviewing those proposals.
- A [charter](#) describing a vision for the Strategy has been published.
- A public webinar was held, and engagement and discussions with Tribes, the Environmental Justice Leaders group, and organizations have begun.
- An Inter-Agency Steering Group has been formed and includes ODOE, PUC, DEQ, DLCD, ODOT, Business Oregon, and the Governor’s Office.
- ODOE will wait until the technical contractor and facilitator are on board to launch a formal stakeholder engagement process and to explore data, scenarios, and sensitivities. ODOE is hopeful to kick off with the consultants in late April into May.
- Edith reviewed [themes](#) and [key questions](#) heard so far.
- A [slide](#) summarizing a high-level process for developing the technical analysis was shared, and indicated that ODOE is thinking through key questions and starting to look at data and assumptions.
- Members participated in a whiteboarding exercise answering [proposed questions](#) and writing their thoughts on Post-It notes. Members attending virtually were asked to respond in the chat. ODOE will collect all responses and use them to inform development of the Energy Strategy.

Questions and feedback:

Nate said that there should be some foundation on key questions, such as the Lower Snake River Dams, before getting started on the Plan. He said that until Congress acts on that issue, Oregon should view that as a non-starter since it is part of the non-carbon emitting resource in the state. Janine agreed that ODOE will not want to duplicate efforts since that topic is coming up in other venues, but may want to explore scenarios to show possible implications of reducing or increasing the amount of hydro power available.

Edith clarified for Kerry Meade that HB 3630 did not define policies and it only directs ODOE to prepare the Strategy to help meet the state energy objectives. The charter elaborates on this more. ODOE will look at anchor policies that are driving progress, HB 2021, and the [Transformational Integrated Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Project Report](#) (TIGHGER) and build off those.

Nora Apter asked if there will be multiple targets, or if the Strategy will stick with the 2030 and 2050 goals. Edith said that there is not an answer for that yet and the engagement process can help inform how the Strategy should look.

Key Energy Indicators (*Jessica Reichers, Energy Technology & Policy Manager*)

- Under ODOE’s strategic plan to Assess and Modernize Agency Programs and Activities Imperative is the initiative to collaborate with energy stakeholders to identify Key Energy Indicators (KEIs) and state priorities and objectives.

- While Oregon has statutory goals with respect to clean energy and climate change, there is a need to better track the progress in meeting those goals and what impact ODOE and others are making. ODOE is beginning the development of KEIs to help measure that progress.
- The first group of KEIs will be published in the 2024 Biennial Energy Report, due November 1.
- To begin this process, ODOE conducted a review of existing energy-related policies and developed a [draft list of KEIs](#) focused on metrics that are descriptive of the energy systems, but at a high level.
- To get feedback on the KEIs, members participated in a whiteboarding exercise answering [questions](#) using Post-It notes. Members attending virtually were asked to respond in the chat. ODOE will collect all responses.
- Jessica will send a survey with the same questions if members need more time to respond or if other ideas arise.

Questions and feedback:

A question from the chat asked if the draft KEIs cover all existing energy-related statutory targets, goals, and executive orders. Jessica responded that the KEI list should cover all of those, but if something has been missed to please bring it up in the exercise.

Jessica clarified that ODOE will consult with stakeholders on how often KEIs will be updated but doesn't believe it could be more frequent than every year.

Energy Research Fund (*Alan Zelenka, Assistant Director Energy Planning & Innovation*)

- Due to time, Alan provided context to the Energy Research Fund instead of diving into the initial discussion. ODOE will follow up with an email and survey to members.
- The Energy Research Fund was funded in ODOE's 2023-25 budget for \$250,000 from the US DOE State Energy Program grant.
- The purpose of the Fund is to allow ODOE to contract with outside firms for studies, research, and analysis, when necessary, to supplement existing ODOE resources.
- ODOE has prepared a [list of potential study ideas](#), in priority order. Alan noted that the top five priorities would exceed the \$250,000 budget. These ideas are a starting point and ODOE will seek review and recommendations from members for this Fund based on criteria listed in the [EAWG Charter](#).

Closing Comments/Q&A

- ODOE will follow up with members on:
 - April budget meeting date.
 - Draft KEIs.
 - More information on the strategic evaluation of programs for those who are interested.
- Janine asked members to weigh in on virtual or in-person meetings.