



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



550 Capitol St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-378-4040

Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035

FAX: 503-373-7806

www.oregon.gov/energy

Energy Advisory Work Group

DATE: September 29, 2025

TIME: 9:30-10:00AM

Oregon Department of Energy

550 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301

Meeting Attendees		
EAWG Members	ODOE Staff	Guests
Alessandra de la Torre, NW Energy Coalition Angela Crowley-Koch, OSEIA (alternate for Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest) Bryan Adams, CoEnergy Propane Annette Price, Pacific Power Bridget Callahan, Sustainable Northwest Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council Jennifer Hill-Hart, Oregon Citizens Utility Board (alternate for Bob Jenks) Kerry Meade, Building Potential Kyle Roadman, Emerald People's Utility District Lisa Gaines, Oregon State University Mary Moerlins, NW Natural Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest Sarah Buchwalter, PGE (alternate for Greg Alderson) Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Tashiana Wangler, Avangrid Power Tony Schacher, Salem Electric Wade Carey, Monmouth Power & Light	Janine Benner, Director Alan Zelenka, Asst Director Planning & Innovation Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator Jenny Kalez, Communications Director Danae Hammitt, Finance and Operations Manager Ruchi Sadhir, Assoc Director, Strategic Engagement Stacey Heuberger, Office Operations Analyst Linda Bures, Chief Operations & People Officer	Alec Shebiel Bridger Lanning Danelle Romain Jennifer Joly Jennifer Sulcer Lauren Kolojejchick-Kotch Mike Freese Patrick Rochon Sophie Babka Todd Simmons Tucker Billman

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

- Janine introduced Linda Bures, ODOE's Chief Operations and People Officer. Linda will oversee ODOE's budget development process and will attend EAWG meetings to help answer any related questions members may have.
- ODOE published the [draft Energy Strategy](#) on August 14 and received 119 public comments in response. ODOE staff are reviewing the comments, which can be found [online](#), and will produce a summary of how and where comments were considered in the Strategy.
- Janine will testify today on impacts of recent federal actions and their effects on ODOE. The US EPA canceled the \$87 million Solar for All grant that was already obligated with a contract in place, and ODOE is hoping this isn't a sign of other grant cancellations. Due to the uncertainty of federal funds, and direction from the Governor to reduce spending, ODOE will hold vacancies longer and cancel future out of state travel plans, while also reducing in-state travel. ODOE will not be able to visit as many communities across the state.
- After the roundtable, EAWG members will meet separately with ODOE's strategic planning consultant to discuss ODOE's new strategic plan.

EAWG Roundtable

Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council

- OEC remains focused on issues related to water, transportation, and climate.
- While traveling and talking to members, OEC heard that more vulnerable communities are feeling the effects of wildfire, water scarcity, and climate impacts more deeply.
- Would like to see continued build-out of renewables, as well as more work around transmission.
- Jessie Kochaver is OEC's new Clean Grid Campaign Director.

Bryan Adams, CoEnergy Propane

- This is Bryan's first EAWG meeting. He represents the propane industry and sits on the Pacific Propane Gas Association Board.

Sarah Buchwalter, PGE

- Focused on bill implementation, specifically HB 3179 and HB 3546 which were major bills for PGE.
- Wildfire will remain a big focus.

Annette Price, Pacific Power

- Engaged in wildfire liability issues, including watching punitive legislation against Pacific Power.
- Pacific Power has kicked off their effort to site the Blueprint South transmission line that would run from Central to Southern Oregon.

Jennifer Hill-Hart, CUB

- Monitoring the process of implementing HB 3179, SB 688, and HB 3546.
- Will be speaking to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on wildfire issues tomorrow.

Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability

- Main focus of the session was the expansion of the Oregon Energy Assistance Program, where \$20 million was secured to support that.
- Released draft of Climate Justice Plan and will seek feedback before becoming finalized and adopted by the Board.
- Working on rules around customers dealing with disconnection.

Tony Schacher, Salem Electric

- Wildfire remains the biggest item on his plate.

Wade Carey, Monmouth Power & Light

- Monitoring everything that has to do with power supply and transmission issues.
- Main concern is anything that could potentially impact rates and supply.

Mary Moerlins, NW Natural

- Active session watching bills on energy affordability.
- Hopes to see more conversations on the role of clean hydrogen in the future.

Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest

- Wildfire continues to be an area of focus and concern.
- Worked against anti-renewable legislation.

Kerry Meade, Building Potential

- Advocated for HB 3653, which was a technical fix bill for the Energy Performance Contracting statute, and it passed with bipartisan support.

Kyle Rodeman, Emerald People's Utility District

- Wildfire reform and impacts remain a focus, as well as affordability.

Lisa Gaines, Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources

- While they did not track specific legislation, INR continues to be involved in wildfire and water work.

Alessandra de la Torre, NW Energy Coalition

- Did not lead on any legislation during session but was supportive of the energy justice package.
- Intends to be involved in some bill implementations, such as the performance-based rate making, FAIR Act, and grid enhancing technologies.

Bridget Callahan, Sustainable Northwest

- Most active in HB 2065 and HB 2066 which addressed microgrids and energy resilient solutions for communities.
- Actively working with several communities to help them develop their energy resilience projects. This will bolster SNW's ability to weigh in with the Public Utility Commission and ensure energy resilience and microgrid framework are rooted in real world projects.

Tashiana Wangler, Avangrid Power

- This session, Avangrid was focused on any policy changes that could impact their existing facilities or anything that could impact their ability to develop new resources.
- Policies around siting, wildfire, transmission, and tax are always of interest.
- Trying to complete projects while federal tax credits are still available.

Angela Crowley-Koch, OSEIA (*alternate for Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest*)

- Working with PUC on microgrid implementation.
- The residential solar tax credit is ending at the end of the year, so the solar industry is staffing up to meet the demand before the end date. Come January 1st, they expect to have far less work.
- Hopeful that next session there will be a consumer protection bill for residential solar installations.

Closing Comments/Q&A

- None.

Strategic Planning Discussion

- EAWG members will stay and meet with ODOE's strategic planning consultant in a separate meeting to provide input on the development of the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan.