



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

Meeting Summary

ODOE Oregon Energy Strategy Advisory Group Meeting #8; March 20, 2025

Attendees

Present Advisory Group members: Aaron Orłowski, Andrea Kreiner, Bryan Adams, Christine Golightly, Cory Scott, Diane Brandt, Elaine Prause, Erin Childs, Fred Heutte, Ivy Quatch, Jeff Hammarlund, Jennifer Joly [for Tucker Billman and Scott Simms], Joshua Basofin, Juan Barraza, Mary Kyle McCurdy, Mary Moerlins, Rakesh Aneja, Rebecca Smith, Shannon Souza, Timothy L. McMahan.

Oregon Department of Energy staff: Alan Zelenka, Anne Thrall-Nash, Edith Bayer, Jessica Reichers, Jillian DiMedio, Joni Slinger, Josh Price, Mary Kopriva, Lauren Rosenstein, Michael Freels, Rob Del Mar, Ruchi Sadhir.

Consultant team: Ben Duncan (Kearns & West), María Verano (Kearns & West)

Members of the Public in Attendance: 1

Welcome and Agenda Review

Ben Duncan (Kearns & West) opened the meeting and presented on ODOE's mission. Ben reviewed the WebEx meeting functions and reminded attendees of the virtual meeting protocols. Ben also reviewed the group agreements and noted that the goal of the Advisory Group (AG) is to promote candid and constructive conversations. Edith Bayer, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), shared the following meeting objectives:

- Present an overview of key challenges/barriers emerging from Policy Working Group (PWG) meetings;
- Answer questions and collect reactions and feedback on key barriers; and
- Describe the purpose of the next meeting and the focus of engagement between now and then.

Edith shared that ODOE has completed a set of PWG meetings on modeling key findings and barriers to following pathways to meeting Oregon's energy objectives. Edith stated that this meeting will be used to review the PWG work thus far and added that ODOE is interested in holding the next Advisory Group (AG) meeting in-person to support deeper collaboration on the work produced via the PWGs. Ben reviewed the meeting agenda, which included housekeeping, meeting summary approval, reviewing barriers identified in PWG conversations, and providing for discussion on those barriers. Ben then led the AG through rollcall for attendance.

February Meeting Summary Approval

Ben Duncan reiterated the process for formally approving meeting summaries, noting that the process will be a standing agenda item at future Advisory Group meetings. Participants were invited to share any requested edits to the February Meeting Summary. AG members raised no concerns, and the February 20 AG Meeting Summary was approved.

Policy Working Groups Results

Coverage and Process of PWGs

Edith Bayer presented the coverage of the PWGs¹ and explained that each PWG has at least once and noted that the PWGs will meet for a total of three individual breakout meetings. She stated that the final plenary PWG meeting will be held on May 21. Edith described the overall process for the three breakout meetings for each PWG as focused on identifying barriers, discussing strategies to overcome those barriers, and then raising policy actions for consideration. She explained that the PWGs have been using a virtual whiteboard to facilitate brainstorming activities and discussions. Edith informed the group that the PWGs will meet again on April 30 for the final break-out meeting to discuss policy actions.

Building Electrification, Energy Efficiency, and Distributed Energy Resources

Rob Del Mar (ODOE) presented key modeling results for the Building Electrification, Energy Efficiency, and Distributed Energy Resources (BE, EE, and DERs) PWG. Rob also presented a summary and synthesis of the PWG's identified barriers, including a bar visualization of the types of barriers identified.² For small residential BE and EE, as well as DERs, Rob noted that costs were the most-cited barrier, while feasibility was presented as a concern for electrifying large industrial processes. Rob added that, in addition to solar, EVs can be considered DERs through technologies like Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G). Rob stated that, for Demand Response technology adoption, many PWG members identified customer buy-in as a barrier. Rob added that utility program availability is also an important barrier.

Members of the Advisory Group shared the following questions and comments:

Question: Does the statement "no feasible alternative to fossil fuels" reflect that end users experience challenges accessing clean fuels, or that clean fuels are unable to meet the end use applications currently served by fossil fuels?

Response: ODOE deliberately used the term "feasible" to include both economic factors in addition to technical limitations. While ODOE did not develop this further, for some uses, such as agriculture drying of crops and canning, there are not yet economical alternatives to using natural gas.

Comment: A market barrier issue is getting real-estate agents and home loans to account for energy efficient (EE) features of the home and costs of maintaining a building. Education should be directed at building appraisers and inspectors. Additionally, it would be beneficial for the Strategy to include

¹ Refer to slide 10 of [2025-03-20-OES-AG-Mtg-Presentation.pdf](#) for a description of the topics covered by the five PWGs.

² Refer to slides 13-17 of [2025-03-20-OES-AG-Mtg-Presentation.pdf](#) for these takeaways.

discussion around efficient buildings and demand response (DR) programs to promote responsible grid use.

Response: ODOE appreciates the comment. At the March 19 BE, EE, and DERs PWG meeting home sales and financing as a consumer education opportunity for better incorporating BE and EE factors were discussed. ODOE will incorporate discussions on how BE and EE can support communities in the next PWG meeting.

Transportation Electrification

Jillian DiMedio (ODOE) shared that the scope of the PWG covers battery-electric and fuel-cell electric vehicles (BEVs and FCEVs), as well as charging and fueling infrastructure, vehicle-grid integration and management, and reducing vehicle miles traveled. Jillian highlighted input from the March 4 PWG meeting, including common interest in cost issues around electric vehicles as well as consumer and dealer awareness. In addition to vehicle fleet operational adjustments and technical limitations for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, charging access, charger reliability, and maintenance, were raised as barriers. The PWG also identified insufficient development and awareness of load-management technologies and programs for vehicles, security and access concerns around vehicle-grid integration technologies, and high interconnection costs for EV charging site development. Regarding VMT reductions, the PWG raised barriers related to transportation infrastructure planning, barriers to transit access in rural areas, cultural preferences and safety concerns.

Members of the Advisory Group shared the following questions and comments:

Comment: I am not sure I agree with a broad observation that Consumer-Owned Utilities (COUs) have limited transportation electrification (TE) resources and expertise. That would be an overstatement. Many COUs, such as Ashland, have extensive programs and benefits that are being fueled by the clean fuel credit program. Clean fuel credit dollars have supported some such programs. I hope that ODOE will be judicious in editing input received when drafting the final Report. Additionally, alternative means to collect public feedback beyond Miro would be valuable.

Response: ODOE appreciates this perspective and invites more details by sharing feedback at any time through the public comment portal at <https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/en-US/energy-strategy/>. The feedback shared today reflects PWG input and ODOE appreciates AG member opinions on the comments heard thus far.

Comment: While working with the City of Beaverton, the AG member worked on a rule to direct metropolitan areas to rethink zoning codes to support multi-modal transportation in place of single-occupancy vehicle travel. More work of this kind can be done and should be reflected in the Energy Strategy.

Comment: I want to highlight the cost-of-ownership and infrastructure-readiness as issues for low-carbon transition for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in particular. ODOE should note developments on the adoption of California's Advanced Clean Trucks rule.

Developing Clean Electricity Generation and Transmission

Joni Sliger (ODOE) presented key modeling findings and PWG-identified barriers for developing clean electricity generation and transmission. Barriers identified by the PWG included marketplace concerns,

like cost and supply chain issues, workforce capacity concerns both for infrastructure development and at different levels of government, difficulties in siting development, a need for education and technical assistance to support DERs and microgrids, and barriers in regulatory uncertainty and in some existing policies.³

Members of the Advisory Group did not share any questions or comments.

Low-Carbon Fuels

Michael Freels (ODOE) presented key modeling findings and PWG-identified barriers for low-carbon fuels. Barriers identified by the PWG pertained to low-carbon fuel development, use of low-carbon fuels as dispatchable resources for the electrical grid, electrification of end-uses, and managing demand decline of fossil fuels.⁴

Members of the Advisory Group did not share any questions or comments.

Environmental Justice and Equity

Lauren Rosenstein (ODOE) described the mission of the Environmental Justice and Equity PWG and explained that, during the first PWG meeting, the group reviewed the key modeling findings from the other PWGs. Lauren stated that the PWG work raised a few important issues to examine going forward, including a need for incentive programs and resources dedicated to environmental justice communities; a lack of understanding and means to alleviate barriers faced by low-income communities; a need for community education to address mis-information and under-information regarding low-carbon and energy efficient technologies; and workforce needs in training and development, especially in Eastern and rural Oregon.

Discussion

Edith Bayer requested AG feedback on the barriers identified by the PWGs. Edith added that ODOE is focused on synthesizing material received and that, in the Final Report, ODOE will aim to present material relevant to the Strategy accurately. Edith stated that the purpose of these meetings, as well as the overall Strategy development process, is to collect additional context and information from the public, in order to inform the Energy Strategy.

Members of the Advisory Group shared the following questions and comments:

Comment: Regarding affordability, how do policies balance utility and ratepayer affordability against other Oregon energy objectives?

Comment: Also, regarding affordability; affordability is currently a big issue and will increasingly become so. Among contributing factors is wildfires, and, based on 3666 hearings, wildfires appear to pose an issue for all utilities. Additionally, grid modernization and load growth are other challenges; affordability must remain front of mind in the Strategy.

Comment: Regarding heat pumps, that data is available to support directional inclusions of where technologies should go. This is also true of demand response programs and virtual power plants across

³ Barrier themes identified for the Clean Electricity Generation and Transmission PWG are available at slide 25 of [2025-03-20-OES-AG-Mtg-Presentation.pdf](#).

⁴ Barriers themes identified for the Low-Carbon Fuels PWG are available at slides 27-31 of [2025-03-20-OES-AG-Mtg-Presentation.pdf](#).

categories. The value of these types of programs is larger than perceived but, based on PGE's efforts, the challenge is in integrating DR programs. Oregon needs to support utilities in promoting VPPs and DR programs.

Comment: Geothermal energy is moving fast, even beyond Newberry Crater. Lower temperature geothermal energy in Utah and Colorado are laying groundwork for geothermal energy available within five years. The Strategy is a good place to investigate this potential.

Comment: One thing that stands out is the prioritization of "no regrets" near term actions. The preparation for longer arc transitions, such as those needed for low-carbon fuels development, needs to be planned for in order to meet long-term climate goals. This thread should not be lost in bigger strategic discussions to allow industries to make longer-term strategic decisions. We do not want to get in the way of near-term actions, but instead we want to retain space for longer-arc policy discussion.

Comment: I am unsure if Oregon needs new natural gas to provide for data centers for fuel needs. I would like the report to specify that gas expansion must be safe, reliable, and have high-quality construction. When reading DC Express energy pipeline reports on leaks, cracks, and flaws in pipes that often investigators who identify these pipelines are fired. Additionally, liability insurance for natural gas developers needs to be required.

Comment: Looking at the big picture and transmission, and in recognition of IOU/COU distinction as well as the bifurcation of transmission system; how do we reconcile differing structures in the state? This is potentially a multilayer policy piece, and we should try to understand the implication of federal ownership of 75 percent of the transmission in the state.

Comment: When considering near- and long-term goals and priorities, it will be worthwhile to discuss a framework of how to prioritize recommendations.

Comment: I would like to see the policy discussion address how to incentivize the use of rooftop solar in western Oregon, particularly on the large number of commercial rooftops, large distribution centers, and other large buildings in northern, central, and northeastern Oregon. This is a large amount of acreage that could reduce the pressure on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Meeting closing and next steps.

Edith Bayer reviewed the upcoming PWG meetings, emphasizing their focus on identifying policy actions. Edith explained that the Energy Wallet and complementary analyses presentation has been rescheduled for April 9 and that the next AG meeting will be held on April 23. This meeting will be used to better understand policy options.

Edith requested that the next AG meeting be held in person and that, based on polling feedback, an April 23 meeting in Portland would be viable. There was general support for the April 23 in-person Portland meeting from AG members. Edith expressed appreciation for the AG's input and encouraged AG members to submit any comments or concerns they have through ODOE's Energy Strategy Comment Portal.

Ben Duncan thanked members for participating and adjourned the meeting.