

Report on Reducing Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment

The Oregon Department of Energy is developing a report directed by [Executive Order 25-29](#) that examines barriers to the development of large-scale renewable energy projects in Oregon. This report will examine why some projects have not moved forward despite receiving site certificates and seek to recommend solutions for similar projects. ODOE is preparing to solicit public comments on a draft version of the report. This summary provides further information to support greater understanding of and engagement for this project.

Background

To comply with Governor Kotek’s [Executive Order 25-29](#) section 1(2)(a), the Oregon Department of Energy, in coordination with the Public Utility Commission and the Department of Land Conservation and Development, is developing a report on reducing barriers to permitting, construction, and interconnection affecting wind, solar, and battery projects that have received site certificates from the Energy Facility Siting Council but are not built or under construction. This is one of several activities underway furthering implementation of the Oregon Energy Strategy.

The [Oregon Energy Strategy](#) identified five pathways that together represent the direction Oregon needs to take to meet its energy policy objectives – including an energy transition that will deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy to all Oregonians. The five pathways are: (1) Energy Efficiency, (2) Clean Electricity, (3) Electrification, (4) Low-Carbon Fuels, and (5) Resilience. The second pathway, Clean Electricity, highlights the need to increase transmission capacity to access out-of-state generation resources as well as the potential benefits – from energy resilience to local economic development – of deploying more clean energy generation within the state. The Energy Strategy calls for the state to facilitate energy infrastructure enhancement and expansion while avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating negative impacts on Tribal cultural resources, energy burden, natural and working lands, and communities ([Policy 2a](#)). As one near-term policy action ([Electricity Action 5](#)), the Energy Strategy recommended investigating why some clean energy facilities have received approved site certificates from the Energy Facility Siting Council only to wait months or years before beginning construction or simply abandoning their project. The forthcoming report implements this near-term policy action.

EO 25-29 I.2.a. Reduce Barriers to Clean Energy Development:

“The Oregon Department of Energy, in coordination with the Public Utility Commission and the Department of Land Conservation and Development, shall inventory, assess, and analyze barriers to the permitting, construction and interconnection of clean energy projects and associated infrastructure. ODOE will recommend actions to overcome those barriers while balancing opportunities for public participation with the state’s interest in accelerating deployment of clean energy infrastructure that benefits Oregon ratepayers. Recommended actions will be brought for discussion by ODOE to the Energy Facility Siting Council. ODOE will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than September 1, 2026.”

Input Received So Far

ODOE's initial open comment period during February and March 2026 was a combined public engagement process for this report and the [Report on Siting and Permitting Large-Scale Electricity Infrastructure](#). ODOE will provide both reports to the Governor's Office on September 1, 2026, as directed in Executive Order 25-29.

In an online comment portal, ODOE posed 19 questions to commenters about their professional or lived experiences of developing a clean energy facility or participating in a development process, and the barriers they experienced. ODOE also asked commenters for input on potential solutions. In response, ODOE received 12 written public comment submissions from a range of different interested parties. ODOE also held two listening sessions to receive oral comments, which were attended by approximately 19 interested persons. A compilation of comments received is [posted on ODOE's website](#).

As a draft report is being prepared for additional public comments, ODOE is assessing the input received in the context of ODOE's ongoing research into barriers. Below are some barriers identified so far (the order is not indicative of the magnitude of the barrier):

- Cost
- Unexpected delays, including federal permitting delays and interconnection delays
- Limited cross-jurisdictional coordination
- Limited availability of equipment and supplies
- Limited staffing capacity at permitting entities
- Specific workforce needs
- Limited grid capacity

ODOE expects to solicit further input on experiences in Oregon with these and other barriers.

The draft report will highlight relevant policy actions from the Oregon Energy Strategy that may help address barriers to clean energy deployment. ODOE is also considering recommending additional actions. As required by Executive Order 25-29, ODOE plans to bring all draft recommendations in the draft report to the Energy Facility Siting Council for discussion at a public meeting during the next public comment period, which will open on June 1, 2026.

Next Steps

- Sign up to [receive email notices](#) about future comment opportunities.
- Questions about this project? Email Joni.Sliger@energy.oregon.gov
- Questions about the implementation of the Oregon Energy Strategy? Email energy.strategy@energy.oregon.gov



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