



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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Energy Advisory Work Group

DATE: June 17, 2026

TIME: 1:30 – 3:30PM

Oregon Department of Energy – via MS Teams

Meeting Attendees		
EAWG Members	ODOE Staff	Guests
Alessandra de la Torre, NW Energy Coalition Annette Price, Pacific Power Ben Brint, Oregon Environmental Council Britton Rife, Building Potential (alternate for Kerry Meade) Bryan Adams, CoEnergy Propane Greg Alderson, Portland General Electric Lauren Kolojejchick-Kotch, Community Action Partnership of Oregon Mary Moerlins, NW Natural Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Wade Carey, Monmouth Power & Light	Janine Benner, Director Alan Zelenka, Asst Director Planning & Innovation Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator Danae Hammitt, Finance & Operations Manager Edith Bayer, Energy Systems Sr. Policy Analyst Jenny Kalez, Communications Director Jessica Reichers, Energy Technology & Policy Manager Joni Sliger, Sr. Clean Electricity & Markets Analyst Lauren Rosenstein, Community Equity & Inclusion Analyst Linda Bures, Chief Operations & People Officer Melody Charpentier, Budget Services Manager Rob DeMar, Senior Energy Policy Analyst Ruchi Sadhir, Assoc Director, Strategic Engagement Stacey Heuberger, Office Operations Analyst	Alec Shebiel Angela Crowley-Koch Antonio Machado Ben Beckman C Patel Chris Lyons Chris Patel Claire Prihoda Clark Brockman Daegan Palermo Danelle Romain Destiny Sargent Fatima Falcon Gina Gargano-Amari Greg Miller Gustavo Dominguez Haley Ellett Jason Heuser Jennifer Sulcer John W Kellen Bank Lisa McGarity Marcus Mittasch Michael Burke Mike Freese Paul Hawkins Sarah Buchwalter Sarah Gledhill Tucker Billman

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

- Janine highlighted an upcoming joint letter from state energy offices and public utility commissions (OR, WA, ID, MT). The letter to Congress will support legislation granting BPA authority to offer competitive compensation for its administrator, emphasizing the need to modernize hiring and compensation tools to attract strong leadership.
- The Oregon Electricity Resource Mix, which tracks the types of electricity used by Oregonians, has been updated with 2024 data and is available on [ODOE's website](#).
- The US DOE released new guidance for Home Energy Rebate programs (HOMES/HEAR). While this signals progress toward state program launches, ODOE now needs to revise

documents and planning to align with the updated requirements. ODOE is awaiting further federal guidance but is moving closer to approval and launch.

- The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program reopened on June 15 with \$1.1 million available. Demand was extremely high, and all funds were fully reserved within seven minutes.

Questions and feedback:

Bryan Adams asked if ODOE has a position or guidance on the Federal Columbia River Power System lawsuit. Janine said that ODOE is tracking it closely and has been serving as sort of a technical advisor to the Governor's Office on some of the energy implications. Ruchi included that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife also provides technical advice to the Governor's office on the topic.

Silvia Tanner asked if ODOE was aware of any lawsuits or efforts to address the new guidance on the HEAR program, specifically the fuel switching language. Janine answered that congress explicitly referenced prohibiting fuel switching and she has heard that others are looking at legal action though ODOE is not currently considering that at this time.

EAWG Roundtable

Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability

- The Climate Justice Plan is nearing completion and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners soon.
- The plan was developed through an extensive community-driven process with multiple community-based organizations and intends to go beyond traditional climate action plans by addressing broader community needs.
- Ongoing work with energy justice partners to improve protections for utility customer data.

Bryan Adams, CoEnergy Propane

- Working on balancing Oregon's emissions reductions with affordability, reliability, and fast deployment.
- Collaborating with consumer owned utilities on hard to reach EV charging infrastructure and using propane/renewable propane where electric transmission or infrastructure is limited or too costly.
- Evaluating propane-powered solutions for temporary/seasonal EV charging needs, like special events, recreational areas, emergency response, and other high-demand situations.
- Particularly interested in understanding how propane and renewable propane can fit into Oregon's low carbon fuels pathway.

Mary Moerlins, NW Natural

- Attending the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance Annual Conference and feeling optimistic about regional energy innovation despite federal policy shifts.
- NW Natural's Oregon Low Income Energy Efficiency (OLIE) program was nationally recognized by the National Energy and Affordability Coalition.

Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest

- Involved in four lawsuits against federal executive orders and federal actions that have blocked renewable energy project permitting.
- *Renewable Northwest v. Pete Hegseth* hearing on August 4 in Portland.
- Department of Defense “No Hazard” determinations are impacting wind projects and at least six Oregon wind projects currently stalled due to this action.
- Working on updating Renewable Northwest’s strategic plan, targeted for completion in September.
- Preparing for upcoming legislative sessions across the four states they cover.
- Katie Chamberlain promoted to Oregon Policy and Regulatory Director.

Lauren Kolojejchick-Kotch, Community Action Partnership of Oregon

- Working with the Public Utility Commission on issues affecting low-income customers, such as affordability and arrearage management.
- Participating in the Distributed Equity Work Group tied to the Governor’s Executive Order 25-29.
- Recently took part in an informational legislative hearing on cooling needs.
- Monitoring related legislative concepts for the 2027 session, especially those impacting low-income households.
- CAPO’s Oregon Training Institute launched a new workforce development cohort for weatherization.

Annette Price, Pacific Power

- Heavily engaged in wildfire-related activities as wildfire season has officially begun. The Governor has also issued an executive order declaring a statewide emergency due to low water levels and increased drought conditions.

Alessandra de la Torre, NW Energy Coalition

- Coordinating with local community-based organizations on community preparedness for wildfire season.
- The PUC decision on wildfire mitigation plan approvals expected next week, concluding six months of review and comment.
- Washington has begun its own wildfire mitigation rulemaking.
- The Energy Justice Leadership Program will start next week and includes 20 bilingual participants from across the state.
- Continuing energy advocacy and implementation of HB 2021, including monitoring cost cap regulatory actions and reviewing clean energy plans and integrated resource plans with energy advocates.

Britton Rife, Building Potential

- Team is focused on supporting technical assistance help desks for both the Oregon and Washington Building Performance Standards.
- Seeing increased outreach from stakeholders seeking guidance on compliance, requirements, and available resources.
- Supporting the City of Seattle’s benchmarking help desk.

Ben Brint, Oregon Environmental Council

- OEC, alongside NRDC and other states, won a lawsuit challenging federal restrictions on safe harbor projects eligible for wind and solar tax credits. This outcome will allow more clean energy projects in Oregon and beyond to move forward and access tax incentives.
- Continuing to promote messaging around clean, affordable energy solutions.
- For 2027, OEC focus areas include increased transmission capacity, more clean energy projects, and expanding solutions that support affordable clean energy delivery.

Sarah Buchwalter, Portland General Electric

- PGE held multiple Wildfire Ready open houses across its service territory over the past month.
- 2025 RFP shortlist for PGE was formally acknowledged.
- Work related to UM 2377 is ongoing, with recent updates provided by PUC during legislative days.
- PGE is reviewing and preparing comments on draft reports released by ODOE for Executive Order 25-29 implementation.

Budget/Policy Option Packages (*Janine Benner, Director*)

- Janine introduced ODOE's newly hired Budget Services Manager, Melody Charpentier.
- Janine reviewed the state's [budget cycles](#) and announced that ODOE will be holding a public budget meeting with final numbers on July 15.
- ODOE has submitted its Current Service Level (CSL) budget, which reflects the cost to continue all currently authorized programs into the 2027–29 biennium.
- CSL removes programs that have ended, such as ODOE's prior incentive programs, and adds staffing and expenditures for ongoing work, such as a new Building Performance Standard program and compliance position.
- CSL also includes COLAs, merit increases, inflation (4.9%), statewide service charges from DAS (HR, procurement, IT, rent), and DOJ service rates, which increased by 7.95%.
- ODOE is now incorporating two budget neutral Policy Option Packages (POPs) to create the Agency Request Budget (ARB).
- The ARB will also include detailed program narratives, Key Performance Measures, and required 5% and 10% reduction options.
- The budget process is still in early stages. ODOE's budget may evolve through the Governor's Recommended Budget and will not be final until the Legislatively Approved Budget at the end of the next legislative session.
- Janine provided a high-level view of the CSL budget across divisions:
 - Energy Development Services = \$49.9 million
 - Planning and Innovation = \$29.2 million
 - Administrative Services = \$23.8
 - Energy Facility Siting = \$8.3 million
 - Nuclear Safety & Energy Security = \$4.4 million
- The 2027–29 CSL budget is much smaller than the 2025–27 Legislatively Adopted Budget, reflecting the removal of incentive programs that haven't received additional funding from the legislature. ODOE's total budget is now approximately \$115.6 million
- The ESA number is not yet available but is expected to increase by less than 10%, potentially significantly less.

- Lower ESA pressure this biennium is due to reduced cost drivers and savings carried forward from prior cost reduction efforts.
- ESA number will be available by the July 15 public budget meeting.
- ODOE previously shared multiple POP ideas with EAWG, but after coordination with the Chief Financial Office and Governor's Office, the list has been narrowed to two POPs, both budget neutral.
- POP 1 – Incentive Programs Remaining Funds Rollover
 - Addresses unspent federal and state incentive program funds expected at the end of the current biennium and ensures ODOE will have spending authority in the next biennium.
- POP 2 – Energy Facility Compliance Officer
 - Adds a compliance officer to the Siting Division.
 - This will be budget neutral as it shifts funding from paying consultants to an in-house staff position.
 - Intended to improve efficiency and reduce long-term costs for energy developers.
 - While this POP is budget neutral, it may involve a small initial cost offset by future savings.
- Janine highlighted that while it is not a POP, there is an additional funding need for the Grid Resilience Program. This program requires a 15% state match. Some match funding is secured, but additional funds will be needed. The state has already contractually committed to the match and, after conversations with the Legislative Fiscal Office and DAS's Chief Financial Office, ODOE is confident funding will be provided, possibly via an Emergency Board request in Fall 2026 or during the 2027 session.
- Janine summarized the remaining timeline in the budget process:
 - ODOE is drafting its Agency Request Budget (ARB) to submit to the Governor by the end of next month.
 - The Governor's Recommended Budget is released in December 2026, unless a new governor is elected, which may delay it to early 2027.
 - The Legislature will finalize all state budgets during the 2027 session.
 - ESA numbers shared before that point will be estimates and the final ESA is only issued after legislative approval.

Questions and feedback:

None.

2027 Legislative Concepts (*Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator*)

- Since ODOE's legislative concepts were covered in the previous EAWG meeting and provided in the meeting packet, Christy offered members time for questions rather than re-presenting each item.
- She highlighted that ODOE is considering handing the [Appliance Standards Backstop](#) concept to a legislator to carry and asked members if they had any suggestions on who might be interested in sponsoring.
- Christy reported that ODOE had a busy week presenting at multiple hearings during legislative days. Highlights from these appearances include:

- Christy and Stephanie Kruse presented on Oregon's cooling needs and provided an update on state heat pump programs, which continue to experience strong demand.
- ODOE briefed legislators on the energy impacts of data center growth in Oregon.
- Provided a status update on ODOE's Building Performance Standard, which is being built out over multiple years and will begin full implementation for some buildings in 2028.
- Presented to the House Emergency Management and Veterans Committee on efforts to diversify fuel storage in the state.
- Provided an update on natural climate solutions work conducted jointly with the Oregon Climate Action Commission.

Questions and feedback:

Silvia Tanner asked how ODOE will prioritize projects under the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program given limited remaining funds, and what types of projects might still be supported. Christy explained that funding is nearly exhausted, so ODOE must focus on sustaining existing commitments and using remaining dollars efficiently, perhaps through smaller planning grants rather than full projects.

Silvia also asked about shifting the Rental Home Heat Pump Program report from even to odd years. Christy imagined that ODOE would likely issue annual reports at first to avoid gaps and if no funding is available, the report would be short but still published.

Christy clarified for Lauren Kolojejchick-Kotch that the Cooling Needs Study was a one time report released in 2023. She noted, however, that updating it periodically could be valuable, especially as a legislative work group, announced by Rep. Marsh, is expected to discuss cooling needs. Future updates could occur every decade or more frequently, depending on interest.

Energy Strategy & Executive Order 25-29 Implementation *(Edith Bayer, Energy Policy Team Lead)*

- The Energy Strategy includes 42 actions, many involving ODOE or partner agencies, and nearly half of these actions are actively being advanced.
- ODOE maintains a [public implementation page](#) showing major projects, public comment materials, and smaller milestones that ODOE is aiming to update monthly.
- Issued shortly after the energy strategy release, EO 25-29 directs state agencies to further the five pathways: energy efficiency, clean electricity, electrification, low-carbon fuels, and resilience.
- ODOE is advancing several [EO specific actions](#) in coordination with DLCD, PUC, and others, related to building clean energy projects and a resilient clean energy economy.
- ODOE submitted the first quarterly report on public-private partnership opportunities in March and the next is expected in July.
- ODOE secured support from the National Governors Association to support EO implementation on transmission. ODOE participated in an NGA retreat on transmission planning, permitting, participation, and paying, with broad stakeholder involvement.

- Workforce needs assessment is underway with the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement to deepen understanding of energy workforce requirements. Report is expected this fall.
- PUC study on utility wildfire liability and accountability is in progress and results are expected this fall.
- ODOE joined the Cascadia Sustainable Aviation Accelerator to help advance sustainable aviation fuel development and ensure Oregon's perspective is included.

Questions and feedback:

None.

Reducing Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment Report (*Joni Sliger, Senior Clean Energy Policy Analyst*)

- Executive Order 25-29 includes a section focused on "get clean energy projects built."
- This report inventories, assesses, and analyzes barriers to the permitting, construction and interconnection of clean energy projects and associated infrastructure and proposes solutions to overcome those barriers, with a focus on wind, solar, and battery projects over 20 megawatts with EFSC or county approval but are not yet under construction.
- The draft report was published June 1.
- Seven initial barriers affecting permitting, construction, and/or interconnection include cost, unexpected delays, limited cross-jurisdictional coordination, equipment and supplies availability, staffing capacity, workforce needs, and grid capacity.
- The draft report highlights relevant policy actions from the Energy Strategy and also proposes [four additional recommendations](#) that are up for public comment.
- The draft report will be presented to EFSC next week with the final report due to the Governor September 1.
- Public listening session will be held on Monday.
- Written comments due July 2 by 5 p.m.

Questions and feedback:

Nicole Hughes expressed concern that the report focuses only on a current snapshot in time and asked if it will also look back to past permitting barriers. Joni shared that while past permitting experiences are relevant, this report has a defined scope to avoid duplicating work already happening in other reports. Janine suggested that this report, along with the siting and permitting report from EFSC and the land use report from DLCD will provide the comprehensive review that Nicole may be after.

Lauren Kolojejchick-Kotch asked how the new workforce needs assessment connects with other ongoing workforce assessments in Oregon's energy sector. Christy Splitt helped to answer and said that much of this coordination is happening through the Oregon Clean Energy Workforce Coalition and explained that organizations have been reporting their workforce related activities to the coalition for several years. ODOE is coordinating with the coalition to do work that is additive to avoid duplication.

Angela Crowley-Koch asked in the chat why projects under 20 megawatts are not in the scope of the report. Joni said that the short answer is timing concerns. The report is due to

the Governor by September 1 and that was not something she felt could be done well in the timeline that was given.

Emerging Technologies Study (*Rob Del Mar, Senior Policy Analyst*)

- Rob provided an update on ODOE's Emerging Technologies Report, which is required under EO 25-29. The report focuses on assessing opportunities for advanced and emerging carbon-free energy technologies that could play a role in Oregon's energy future.
- The report derived from the Oregon Energy Strategy (Electricity Action 6), which lists emerging technologies such as enhanced geothermal, advanced nuclear, floating offshore wind, marine energy, and long-duration storage. That list formed the focus of the report.
- ODOE also reviewed hundreds of emerging technologies but narrowed the scope for this year's report due to bandwidth and because the report will recur every two years as part of the Biennial Energy Report and can be included later.
- ODOE is coordinating with other state agencies and has heard interesting work that is going on such as hydrogen mining, battery minerals mining, carbon capture and sequestration at DOGAMI, and other innovations like fuel cells, improved solar technologies, virtual power plants, and conservation technologies. However, for this year's report, the focus will remain primarily on the electricity sector and the key technologies identified in the energy strategy.

Questions and feedback:

Bryan Adams shared that his team is working on active projects involving carbon sequestration and fuel cells, and he offered to provide real-world data from those projects to support the emerging technologies report. Rob said he would love that information and will connect after the meeting.

Nicole Hughes asked whether the report is simply a descriptive study of emerging energy resources or whether it will also examine barriers to getting those technologies built. Rob explained that each technology will get a concise write up covering projected costs, key barriers, Oregon-specific opportunities, and potential community and economic impacts. The report will also include a broader comparison across technologies.

Nicole suggested including a chapter on the challenges of long lead procurement under the existing regulatory structure.

Greg Alderson wanted to note that the long lead development challenges Nicole described are issues his team also sees with emerging energy resources.

Lauren Kolojejchick-Kotch asked in the chat if the write ups will include community impacts and if community perspectives are being considered. Rob confirmed that where there are specific examples, community effects, positive and negative, are included.

Closing Comments/Q&A

- The next EAWG will be in early fall. Members can share potential agenda topics with [Ruchi Sadhir](#) or [Stacey Heuberger](#).