

Governor's Data Center Advisory Committee

Meeting 4 – Friday, May 29, 2026

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RUpnI5SfRBuFlpp7LG6STw

Topic: Data Centers and Energy

Purpose of this Process: the Governor has asked “the Data Center Advisory Committee (DCAC) to identify ways to better balance the need for new economic opportunities with smart policy choices that will support our clean energy goals and ensure affordable and reliable electricity for all Oregonians. The Committee will conduct an open and public process to understand challenges and opportunities in key policy areas related to the siting of data centers in our state and then recommend actions that the State of Oregon can take” (*from Committee Charge*). As such, the DCAC’s goal is to use these public sessions to gather and share credible information from subject matter experts, based on firsthand experiences, real-world data, and diverse perspectives regarding Data Centers in Oregon.

To respond to the Governor’s charge, today’s session will focus on issues and ideas to:

- Understand how the development of data centers affects and can help Oregon meet its climate, clean energy, and natural resource management goals;
- Ensure data centers have reliable energy without burdening Oregon’s ratepayers; and,
- Identify key issue areas needing to be addressed to develop a policy framework that will help guide the state in the responsible siting of data centers moving forward.

AGENDA

9:00 am Welcome and Introduction to the Process and the People

Co-Chairs **Margaret Hoffmann** and **Michael Jung**, Committee Members: **Dan Dorrان**, **Greg Dotson**, **Bill Edmonds**, **Tim Miller**, **Jean Wilson**; and Facilitator **Donna Silverberg**

- Committee Introductions - All
- What is this committee? What is it NOT? – Co-Chairs
- Agenda review, protocols, and ways for the public to engage – Facilitator

9:15 am Data Centers and Energy: Overview and Trends (*Note: this committee is addressing issues related to NEW, not existing, data centers*).

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The DCAC has asked **Edith Bayer**, Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and **Elaine Hart**, Sylvan Energy, to provide an overview of the current status and trends regarding energy in Oregon with insights into at least the following questions:

- Oregon has specific renewable and greenhouse gas goals for the state: how do data centers fit into them? What is the current data center energy usage in Oregon (e.g., trends, processes)? How does ODOE interact with data centers regarding energy decisions? What else should the DCAC know?
- Discussion with DCAC members

10:45 am – 11:45 am What Oregon Can Learn from Other Examples: Case Study

The State of Minnesota recently passed bipartisan legislation that addresses data centers, establishing a framework for clean energy goals, regulation, and incentives. Google worked together with its local utility and has a proposal being reviewed by the State. The DCAC will be joined by **Pete Wyckoff**, Minnesota's Deputy Commissioner of Energy and **Elizabeth Zuckerman** of Google to share lessons learned and then engage in discussion with DCAC members:

- What are the components of this project? What worked well? What could work better or differently? What should Oregon take-away from this experience? What role do they see for state government in the future?
- Discussion with DCAC members

11:45 am -12:00 pm Brief Break to get food for a working lunch

12:00 pm – 2:20 pm Local Voices and Future Visions

DCAC will hear from local energy experts, non-governmental organizations, and Tribal governments about issues and ideas they have about Data Centers and energy in Oregon. Three separate panels include:

- 1) **Hamody Hindi**, BPA's Transmission Planning Manager, **John McFarland**, Chief Customer Officer, PGE, and **Humaira Falkenberg**, Northern Wasco County People's Utility District;
- 2) **Natalie Hathaway**, Energy Trust, **Joshua Basofin**, Climate Solutions, and **Gabe Tabak**, Verrus Data/Utilize Coalition; and
- 3) **Christine Golightly**, CRITFC, **Kate Valdez**, Yakama Nation, **Trustee Lisa Ganuealas**, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and **Ed Sheets**, consultant.

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These panels will respond to the following questions:

- What are the challenges and opportunities you see/foresee? How could the state assist with these challenges and opportunities? Are there examples from other projects or states that might be illustrative for the DCAC to consider? What recommendations do you have for the DCAC to consider?
- Discussion with DCAC members

2:20 pm -2:30 pm Break, back and settled BY 2:30 pm

2:30 pm Public Comment/Committee Listening (2-minute limit per speaker focused on ENERGY and Data Centers. 15 people will be allowed to speak; Please register within 24 hours of the meeting and see the note below about Public Comments).

3:00 - 3:45 pm DCAC Roundtable: Connecting the Dots

- This period will allow the DCAC to discuss with each other what they are seeing and hearing through this process thus far. It will also allow them to address any lingering questions raised by presenters today or in past meetings.
- The DCAC will be joined by **Bob Jenks**, from the Citizens' Utility Board to help bridge from today's discussion to the next session on Affordability.

3:45 pm Wrap-up and Reminders: next session is Friday, June 26; where the public may provide written comments (datacenter.ac@oregon.gov); and future public engagement opportunities (General Listening Session: Tuesday, June 2 from 4 - 7 pm).

4:00 pm Adjourn Public Meeting

Public Comments:

- The Committee will continue to dedicate 30 minutes at the end of each meeting for public comment.
- The Committee Co-Chairs have scheduled 2 listening sessions dedicated entirely to general public comments (note: the second session will be 4 pm – 7 pm, June 2nd).
- Comments for today should be **specific to the topic area** and on the State's interests related to the topic of the meeting. Non- or multi-topical comments are welcome at the general listening sessions.

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- **Individuals wishing to participate in topical public comments must request a 2-minute time slot 24-hours in advance via email to datacenter.ac@oregon.gov.**
 - Please include:
 - Name,
 - Meeting Date and Topic, and
 - A Brief Summary of Comments (that focuses on the STATE interests in the topic).
- 15 slots will be booked on a first-come-first-served basis and a balance of comments received. The facilitator will announce the list at the start of the meeting and again at 2:30 pm. Priority may be given to those who have not spoken at prior meetings to assure the committee hears many voices.