

ACCOUNTABLE

Ensuring wise use of utility customer funds to help people and businesses save energy and generate renewable power.

We keep program and administrative support costs low—putting more money toward direct customer benefit.

Building on the Pacific Northwest's commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy, Oregon advocated in 1999 for transforming utility-led conservation programs into programs with dedicated funding and consistent investment. A new independent, nonprofit organization—Energy Trust of Oregon—was created to lead the way with comprehensive energy solutions.

Transparent investments

As stewards of utility customer dollars, we hold ourselves accountable to our board of directors, the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC), utilities and utility customers, and the Oregon Legislature.

- **Every dollar received and invested is accounted for** in monthly, quarterly and annual financial statements and independently audited.
- **Each kilowatt hour and therm acquired is reported** quarterly and annually to the board and the OPUC, and a third party evaluates a percentage of projects to ensure savings and generation occurred.
- **Public board meetings** include staff presentations, discussion and approval on annual budgets, action plans, program strategies and contract reviews.
- Development of annual budgets and two-year action plans, and five-year strategic plans, are conducted in an open, **transparent process that encourages public input**.

All budgets, action plans, reports, financial statements, evaluations, and public meeting notes, materials and agendas are online at www.energytrust.org/about.

Oversight by Oregonians

We are overseen by a volunteer, independent board of directors, drawn from communities across the state and from a variety of industries and professions.

The board oversees Energy Trust operations, provides strategic direction and approves annual budgets and major expenditures. The board conducts its work with input from a Conservation Advisory Council, a Diversity Advisory Council and a Renewable Energy Advisory Council comprised of industry groups, stakeholders and partners.

Measured by the OPUC

The OPUC regulates the state's investor-owned utilities and oversees Energy Trust. In addition to quarterly and annual reports, each spring, we report on progress made to annual OPUC minimum performance measures.

Performance measures range from savings achieved and at what cost to customer satisfaction and percent of revenue spent on program and administrative support costs.

We keep our program and administrative support costs low, well below the OPUC cap of 8% of annual revenues. In 2021, our administrative expenses totaled only 6.5%.

The OPUC also requires an independent management review and evaluation of Energy Trust every five years. The evaluation analyzes the efficiency and effectiveness of program administration, reviews cost allocations between administration, management and programs, and provides suggestions for appropriate changes.

Delivering on legislative intent

Third-party reports on Energy Trust electric public purpose spending are submitted to the Oregon Legislature every two years by the OPUC. In 1999, the legislature dedicated a 3% public purpose charge to fund conservation and renewable energy. Energy Trust, the Oregon Department of Energy and Oregon Housing and Community Services administer the fund. The report includes a detailed examination of all administrators' electric public purpose charge expenditures and results.

Evaluating for effectiveness and efficiency

Making sure that our programs are delivering the greatest energy savings and generation possible in the most efficient manner is important. We contract with third parties to regularly evaluate our programs and program offerings. Evaluations allow us to validate the savings we deliver and utilities rely on those validated savings to help meet energy demand.

Evaluations also support continuous improvement by providing information and feedback that guide program refinements. Our commitment to rigorous, third-party evaluation makes us one of the nation's most respected energy efficiency organizations, gives us credibility with the utilities we support and ensures effective investment of utility customer money.



Energy Trust operates with tremendous oversight and accountability. Ratepayers get great bang for their buck with an entity that is mission-driven and consumer-focused.

Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon

