



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Public Utility Commission

201 High St SE Suite 100

Salem, OR 97301-3398

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 1088

Salem, OR 97308-1088

503-373-7394

May 7, 2021

### Stakeholder Follow-up

#### *Community-wide Green Energy Product Development Workshops*



Community-wide Green Energy Product Stakeholders,

Thank you for your participation in the first stakeholder workshop to discuss the development of community-wide green energy products. Materials from the first workshop can be viewed at the links below:

- PUC Staff Presentation - <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/utilities/Documents/EO-CGEP-ws1-PUC-presentation.pdf>
- PGE Presentation - <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/utilities/Documents/EO-CGEP-ws1-PGE-presentation.pdf>
- Video - [https://oregonpuc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=713](https://oregonpuc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=713)

Due to a robust legislative session in this subject area, we are planning to convene a second workshop in the third quarter of this year.

Until our second workshop, Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) Staff is available to you as a resource as you continue to develop your community's approach to your clean energy goals. We heard concerns in the first workshop regarding the need for expertise and support in this development and want to make sure you have that resource in between workshops. Please feel free to contact me with questions related to product development.

Additionally, we have developed a document, enclosed below, that summarizes takeaways from the first workshop. We will use this document to guide the agenda for the second workshop. Please contact me with any additional issues that you want to include in the second workshop anytime between now and the third quarter of this year.

Thank you for your engagement in this process. We look forward to continuing to work together.

Thank you,

Nick Sayen  
Senior Utility Analyst, Energy Resources and Planning  
[nick.sayen@puc.oregon.gov](mailto:nick.sayen@puc.oregon.gov) or 503-510-4355

Read more about Executive Order 20-04 and the PUC work plan here:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/puc/utilities/Pages/ExecutiveOrder20-04.aspx>.

New to the PUC? Learn more by visiting our About Us page:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/puc/about-us/Pages/default.aspx>



# Community-wide Green Energy Product Development

---

May 7, 2021

## Key Comments from Workshop One

Stakeholders participated in a workshop on March 1, 2021, to discuss the development of community-wide green energy products. Below is a summary of key comments Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) Staff heard during the workshop. We will use these to guide the agenda for a second workshop, to be convened in the third quarter of this year.

Communities would like macro-level change:

- Across the state there has been a lot of activity, action, and success at the 'project-level' but as the grid still includes carbon emitting sources, communities would like to be able to affect systemic change on the grid; stakeholders would like communities to be able to access clean energy with economies of scale, e.g. on a community-wide basis.

Goals:

- Local governments have climate change-related goals that range in scope and timing, but which focus on reducing the climate impacts of energy consumption (for example, being net-zero, 100% renewable energy, carbon neutrality) and these local governments believe a community-wide clean energy option is necessary to meet these goals. Some governments' goals include a process component while others do not.

Unrecognized benefits; cost impacts:

- Smaller, local projects provide a range of ancillary benefits that are difficult to quantify, or go unrecognized by current practices (such as least-cost / least-risk planning) and these projects' ancillary benefits should be recognized in a community-wide clean energy option. At the same time, there is concern that such projects may increase costs of a community-wide clean energy option, which would potentially decrease the participation rate.

### Concept of community:

- Discussing 'community' in this context requires clarity about what and who is being referenced. Thought also needs to be given to who is speaking for that community, how that community might identify itself, and how that community might choose to be in a community-wide clean energy option.

### Tension between urgent action and impact on communities:

- There is tension between taking urgent action on ambitious goals and making sure that the action does not overtake those most impacted by the urgency in the first place. Care must be taken to balance timeliness and bold action, with accessibility to all of the community. When consulting with those most impacted, prepare to be challenged with new ideas and approaches that might seem expensive.

### Questions from Stakeholders for the PUC:

- Stakeholders look to the PUC to be an advocate to achieve local government goals and assist in relationships with utilities; stakeholders need resources to understand what they can and cannot do, especially in emerging regulatory areas that are new to utilities, localities, and regulators, for example transportation electrification.
  - Based on what the PUC has heard, and based on the EO, has the PUC or DOJ identified boundaries or authority within this framework? Or where the authority is lacking? What kind of products can PUC support communities in creating? Or wouldn't be able to support?
  - If a community can work with a utility to develop a general plan for a voluntary option, can the PUC then evaluate it under existing processes?
  - Is an opt-out program voluntary? If you feel that you have the authority for such a tariff today, is there any visibility into procurement of projects for that tariff under existing procedures?
-