

Renewable Energy Advisory Council Meeting Notes

June 17, 2020

Attending from the council:

Andria Jacob, City of Portland
Anna Kim, Oregon Public Utility
Commission
April Snell, Oregon Water Resources
Congress
Dick Wanderscheid, Bonneville
Environmental Foundation
Erik Anderson, Pacific Power
Jaimes Valdez, Portland Clean Energy
Benefits Fund

Josh Halley, Portland General Electric
Kendra Hubbard, Oregon Solar Energy
Industries Association
Les Perkins, Farmers Irrigation District
Oriana Magnera, Verde
Rebecca Smith, Oregon Department of
Energy
Suzanne Leta, SunPower

Attending from Energy Trust:

Betsy Kauffman
Dave McClelland
Lizzie Rubado
Ryan Cook
Matt Getchell
Joshua Reed
Dave Moldal
Hannah Cruz
Gayle Roughton
Grace Diller
Alina Lambert

Kyle Petrocine
Samuel G. Birru
Jeni Hall
Julianne Thacher
Mike Colegrove
Shelly Carlton
Wendy Gibson
Debbie Menashe
Tyrone Henry
Peter West
Amber Cole

Others attending:

Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Solar Energy
Industries Association
Frank Vignola, Oregon Solar Radiation
Monitoring Lab
John Cornwell, Oregon Department of
Energy

Mathew Mills, TRC
Susan Badger-Jones, Energy Trust
Diversity Advisory Council member
Susan Brodahl, Energy Trust board member
Tess Jordan, Portland General Electric

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Betsy Kauffman, sector lead for Renewables, convened the meeting at 9:32 a.m. on Zoom. The agenda, notes and presentation materials are available on Energy Trust's website at <https://www.energytrust.org/about/public-meetings/renewable-energy-advisory-council-meetings/>.

Topic summary

Susan Brodahl, an Energy Trust board member, read Energy Trust's Board of Directors' statement condemning racism and recognizing Energy Trust of Oregon's role in perpetuation systems of inequity as a public service institution. The statement acknowledges the organization's pledge to learn, take responsibility and do better.

Discussion

Council members asked to keep in mind the police shooting of Patrick Kimmons in 2018 near Energy Trust's office (Oriana Magnera). Members mentioned the importance of standing up against racist behavior and examining the roots of the solar industry that are predominantly white and male.

Council members also noted Energy Trust meetings are a predominately white space that benefit from a long history of white supremacy in the U.S. They encouraged Energy Trust to include discussions of diversity, equity and inclusion work into all meetings, ensuring this meeting's discussion is not a "one and done." Members also noted the importance of looking at their own interactions and recognizing how they are contributing to the problem. In addition, as solar costs are lowered over time, they need to be aware of the barriers that prevent solar from reaching a wider and more inclusive customer base (Oriana Magnera, Frank Vignola).

2. Energy Trust Goals for 2021*Topic summary*

Betsy Kauffman presents Energy Trust's final draft organizational goals for 2021. They are meeting savings and generation targets; investing in relationships and collaborations with other entities to achieve common objectives; and enhancing operating processes and internal culture to respond to change.

Specific focus areas for the goals include a variety of things such as adapting programs to respond to the economic and social recovery, achieving OPUC metrics, providing value to the grid, resolving funding uncertainties, resilience and improving staff intercultural awareness and inclusion.

Discussion

The top priorities selected via a survey of members and guests were economic and social recovery, staff intercultural awareness and inclusion, and diversity within the Trade Ally Network. Other priorities selected were value to the grid and resolving funding uncertainties.

Members suggested adding racial justice to the priority list (Oriana Magnera). They emphasized that addressing the economic recovery is linked to racial inequities. Black and brown people are the most affected by COVID-19 related economic and health struggles. Members emphasized the importance of intercultural awareness by staff and direct action and resources on racial inequality within the workplace. Members acknowledge Energy Trust's scope is limited and re-prioritization is needed (Jaimes Valdez). Because racial inequities existed for a long time before this moment, members said they want to see continuous focus on addressing gaps at council meetings and in policies and programs (Oriana Magnera).

On funding, members said funding sources are imperative because communities that need it the most can't be served without the proper funding to support them. They stressed the importance of extending Energy Trust's funding and suggested staff provide information on what could be done with additional funding. Members suggest that current funding be targeted toward BIPOC

communities for heat pumps as an example of prioritizing racial inequity (Suzanne Leta, Andria Jacob).

Developing programs in collaboration with community organizations could assist in addressing the needs of the community better than seeking feedback (Angela Crowley-Koch). And while resilience emerged as a low priority in the survey, members discussed its importance in dealing with natural disasters, public safety power shutoffs and emergency situations.

3. Hydropower Project in Hillsboro

Topic summary

Staff presented an overview of the Other Renewables focus on biopower and hydropower projects. The City of Salem's Willow Lake water resource recovery facility just reached commercial operation. Kyle Petrocine, senior project manager on the Renewables team, summarized a City of Hillsboro 30 kW hydropower project that will receive an \$85,000 incentive from Energy Trust. This hydro project will harness energy in the form of excess water pressure at the site of a pressure reduction valve in the city's potable water system, installing a pump-as-turbine system and generating net-metered renewable electricity for the city year-round. It is expected to produce an average of 171 MWh per year. The project will start construction in July or August with commercial operation expected in September.

Discussion

Members asked if this is the first type of conveyance hydropower system that Energy Trust has funded. Staff said there was one similar project in Astoria, although the City of Portland has several projects using this technology. Similar projects have been difficult to construct because there is often no electrical load or space at the site of the pressure reduction valves. These types of projects remain interesting and staff looks for these opportunities.

Staff noted the facility will not be accessible to the public, although there will be public outreach and communications. Energy Trust will coordinate with the City of Hillsboro and Portland General Electric (Josh Halley).

Staff asked if there is an opportunity to bring a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Lens into the renewable project evaluation process. Regarding solar, there are higher incentives for low- and moderate-income projects and community solar projects. The municipal hydropower and biopower projects serve all ratepayers, but there are no metrics specific to diversity, equity and inclusion.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.