# Renewable Energy Advisory Council Meeting Notes
## July 29, 2020

### Attending from the council:
- Anna Kim, Oregon Public Utility Commission
- April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress
- Erik Anderson, Pacific Power
- Jaimes Valdez, Portland Clean Energy Benefits Fund
- John Cornwell, Oregon Department of Energy
- Josh Halley, Portland General Electric
- Max Greene, Renewable NW
- Oriana Magnera, Verde
- Kendra Hubbard, Solar Energy Industries Association

### Attending from Energy Trust:
- Betsy Kauffman
- Michael Colgrove
- Dave McClelland
- Lizzie Rubado
- Matt Getchell
- Joshua Reed
- Hannah Cruz
- Grace Diller
- Alina Lambert
- Kyle Petrocine
- Jeni Hall
- Amber Cole
- Julianne Thacher
- Shelly Carlton
- Peter West
- Robert Wylie
- Hawai Boiryo
- Fred Gordon
- Sue Fletcher
- Jay Ward
- Ryan Crews
- Cheryl Easton
- Caryn Appler
- Tyrone Henry
- Tara Crookshank
- Thad Roth

### Others attending:
- Alexia Kelly, Energy Trust board member
- Susan Brodahl, Energy Trust board member
- Susan Badger-Jones, Energy Trust
- Diversity Advisory Council member
- Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association
- Frank Vignola, Oregon Solar Radiation Monitoring Lab
- Mathew Vignola, TRC
- Tess Jordan, Portland General Electric
- Robert Del Mar, Oregon Department of Energy
- Melanie McKinnon, Douglas County Smart Energy
- Peter Greenberg, Energy Wise Lighting
- Jonath Colon, Centro Cultural
- Eric Richardson, NAACP
- Emily Dougan, NeighborImpact
- Suzanne Veaudry Casaus, Portland Community Reinvestment Inc.
- Marissa Johnson, Twende
- Josh Peterson, University of Oregon
- Raphaella Hsu-Flanders, Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Thomas Endicott, Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Dan Janosec, Portland General Electric
- Brikky King, All Pacific Mortgage
- Shelly Beaulieu, TRC
- Heather Moline, NW Energy Coalition
- Andrea Estrada, ICF
- Erin Fish, Sunbridge Solar
- Ryan Sheehy, Fleet Development
- Tim Lynch, Multnomah County
- Nate Larson, PacifiCorp
- Pat Daniels, Constructing Hope
1. **Welcome, Introductions and Announcements**

Betsy Kauffman, sector lead for Renewables, convened the meeting at 9:31 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/](https://www.energytrust.org/about/public-meetings/renewable-energy-advisory-council-meetings/).

2. **Community Engagement Guidelines Development**

*Topic summary*

Staff presented work to date on establishing guidelines to be used by staff to determine how Energy Trust can support working with communities on their energy goals. This work came from customers requesting more engagement and Energy Trust learning how to enhance work with communities by being more transparent. An example of this work in the past is the use of census data overlaid with energy access data and sharing this information with various agencies. This led to the development of an LED bulb giveaway program in 2020.

*Discussion*

Members asked what resources are available to nonprofits, as these are generally who is applying for Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund grants (Jaimes Valdez). Staff said Energy Trust can provide information on incentives, technical guidelines and help with the grant process. Members and meeting attendees said the need for education and making it available in response to COVID-19 is an important role for multiple organizations, as well conversations on equity and access to solar (Rob Del Mar, Jaimes Valdez). Attendees asked how resources are utilized in poorer communities or to benefit renters, since resources previously predominately targeted homeowners (Brikky King). Staff responded there are special rental incentives, regional programs, staff training and referrals to other agencies. Members and attendees suggested working with agricultural research centers in rural Oregon, using real estate professionals as an avenue for outreach and formatting solar workshops to be for people of color (Frank Vignola, Brikky King, Suzanne Veaudry Casaus).

Staff asked members if energy issues are currently seen as a priority within their communities. Communities are interested in climate change and emergency funds as a result of resilience (Suzanne Veaudry Casaus). Building trust with the community, employing the community and having them assist in outreach and putting money back into the community to advocate for resources were all suggested approaches (Oriana Magnera).

3. **Energy Trust’s Role in PGE Smart Battery Pilot**

*Topic summary*

Jeni Hall, a project manager for Renewables, presented on Energy Trust’s role in the residential Smart Battery Pilot with Portland General Electric, part of the organization’s focus on energy resilience. The effort stems from a state storage mandate and the Oregon Public Utility Commission pushing to stack benefits and place batteries at homes and critical facilities. The program will launch this fall, limited to 525 units providing 2 to 4 MW of dispatchable battery storage to the grid. Incentives for the program break down to monthly credits plus additional upfront incentives for income-qualified customers. Energy Trust will be an implementation partner, leveraging existing solar program infrastructure including the Trade Ally Network and program staff. Staff will do customer outreach, quality management and application processing.
4. **Solar for Service Providers Proposal**  
*Topic summary*  
Staff proposed an increased solar incentive offer for organizations, tribes and businesses that house, feed or provide other services to Oregon’s communities of color, or that are considered low-income and own their building or have a long-term lease. Staff recognizes there are often higher costs associated with these projects due to more work needed in project development and financing. Current incentive rates only cover 15 to 20% of above-market costs.

*Discussion*  
Members asked if the proposed incentive offering would be subject to the same declining tiers of incentives as the standard offering. Staff said the incentives would be similar to other incentives, starting at a higher rate and decreasing over time. Members and attendees asked about tax breaks and the impact on costs (Erik Anderson, Suzanne Veaudry Casaus). Staff said tax credits are not included because not all customers can utilize them.

Members suggest using plain language to make the incentives easy to understand and providing concrete numbers on savings for customers. Attendees suggested reaching out to Community Action Partnership of Oregon and Oregon Energy Coordinators Association to assist with outreach (Suzanne Veaudry Casaus, Raphaela Hsu-Flanders).

5. **Public Comment**  
There was no public comment.

6. **Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.