

Renewable Energy Advisory Council Meeting Notes

February 16, 2022

Attending from the council:

Angela Crowley-Koch, Oregon Solar +
Storage Industries Association
Anna Kim, Oregon Public Utility
Commission
Jaimes Valdez, Portland Clean Energy
Fund

Josh Peterson, University of Oregon
Les Perkins, Farmers Irrigation District
Max Greene, Renewable NW
Tess Jordan, Portland General Electric

Attending from Energy Trust:

Alexis Bright
Alina Lambert
Amanda Thompson
Amanda Zuniga
Amber Cole
Bayo Ware
Betsy Kauffman
Cameron Starr
Cheryle Easton
Dave McClelland
Dave Moldal
Debbie Menashe
Elaine Dado
Elizabeth Fox
Emily Estrada
Emma Clark
Gayle Roughton
Hannah Cruz

Hannah Levy
Ivy Draughon
Jay Ward
Jeni Hall
Josh Reed
Julianne Thacher
Kesean Coleman
Laura Schaefer
Lizzie Rubado
Matt Getchell
Robert Wyllie
Ryan Cook
Steve Lacey
Tracy Scott
Tyrone Henry

Others attending:

Alexia Kelly, Energy Trust Board
Andi Rex, Small Business Utility Advocates
Elee Jen, Energy Trust Board
Jake Wise, Portland General Electric
Kacia Brockman, Oregon Public Utility
Commission

Ryan Harvey, Pacific Power
Sheila Sahu, City of Beaverton
Susan Brodahl, Energy Trust Board

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

Bayo Ware, project manager on the Renewables team, convened the meeting at 9:30 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/>.

Bayo Ware welcomed Kesian Coleman to the renewables team, who will be working on various tasks related to implementing House Bill 3141 changes. Ryan Cook, program manager on the Renewables team, announced that the second offering of the Oregon Community Solar Program has been released. Energy Trust is a subcontractor to the program administrator for the Community Solar Program.

2. 2021 Annual Report Preliminary Results

Topic summary

Tracy Scott, energy programs director, provided an overview of the preliminary sector-level annual highlights from 2021, including progress to achieving energy generation goals. Renewables achieved 150% of the goal by utility and expects the residential market to continue to be strong in 2022 with equity offerings. In Solar Within Reach offerings, there were five times as many installations in 2021 compared to 2020. Commercial operation of the 600-kW cogeneration project at the Tri-City wastewater recovery facility was achieved in 2021, along with a significant amount of project development assistance incentives distributed in the Other Renewables program.

Discussion

Members asked for more information on Solar Within Reach projects, including the number of projects, and demographic and geographic information of customers (Tess Jordan, Jaimes Valdez). Understanding barriers to participation in Solar Within Reach may be informative for future low- and moderate-income program design in the future (Jake Wise).

Next steps

Staff will be providing additional information on Solar Within Reach projects at an upcoming Renewable Energy Advisory Council meeting. The official 2021 Annual Report will be posted online April 15 and submitted to the Oregon Public Utility Commission and Energy Trust's Board of Directors.

3. Program Guidelines for Meeting 25% Low- and Moderate-income Requirement

Topic summary

Betsy Kauffman, sector lead for renewables, presented planned guidelines for the new requirement that the sector spend 25% of renewable public purpose funds to serve low- and moderate-income customers. Items that would count toward the 25% metric include Solar Within Reach projects, direct costs for low- and moderate-income programs, and allocated staff time. Items that are undecided include affordable multifamily buildings, low-income-focused community solar projects and projects for governments that serve low-income citizens.

Discussion

Members suggested that multifamily buildings be included, as there are many federal barriers to putting solar on housing that Energy Trust could assist with mitigating (Angela Crowley-Koch). Members support community Solar project assistance, especially for those projects that provide more than the 40% discount for low-income subscribers that are mandated in the second offering of the Community Solar program (Angela Crowley-Koch). There is a legal obligation to set money aside for low-income offerings, but Energy Trust will still fund other projects (Anna Kim). Attendees asked for clarification on the demographic information where most of the low-income residents live who participate in Community Solar (Elee Jen). Staff clarified that projects are built in Pacific Power, Portland General Electric or Idaho Power territory and that all projects have a 10% minimum low-income requirement. The 25% requirement is the floor - not a ceiling,

and staff seeks to find ways to serve low-income customers to ensure that this is not exclusively a moderate-income program.

Next steps

Staff will have additional conversations regarding the offerings that count toward the 25% minimum.

4. City of Beaverton Sexton Mountain PRV Hydro Project

Topic summary

Josh Reed, project manager for Other Renewables program, presented a review of a net-metered pressure reduction valve hydropower project proposed by the City of Beaverton at the city-owned Sexton Mountain Pump Station. This distributed renewable energy generation project is estimated to produce about 346 MWh per year and is designed to offset a portion of the pump station's electrical load. The renewables sector is proposing an incentive of \$450,000 to be paid in two installments, one at commercial operation and the second payment 12 months later with a required generation threshold. The incentive offer would be conditioned in a 20-year funding agreement between the City of Beaverton and Energy Trust. In alignment with Energy Trust's renewable energy certificate (REC) policy, all environmental attributes (i.e., RECs) from the project would remain with the City of Beaverton. The 90-kW pump-as-turbine, which would be constructed in the city's municipal water delivery system, would assist the city in achieving its climate goals.

Next steps

Other Renewables staff will coordinate with Energy Trust's legal department and the City of Beaverton to draft a funding agreement.

5. State Legislative Updates

Topic summary

Hannah Cruz, senior stakeholder relations and policy manager, presented a group of bills that staff are monitoring in the short state legislative session. Staff are focused on monitoring bills that impact Energy Trust's funding, are related to efficiency and renewable energy programs, impact the customers we serve or apply to the organization's annual goals and strategic objectives. Bills of interest include Senate Bill 1518 that would allow local governments the ability to set minimum construction codes at the level of the Oregon Reach Code, a statewide optional energy construction standard approved by the Building Codes Division. This bill has since been modified and now establishes a resilient, efficient building task force. House Bill 4058 and Senate Bill 1536 relate to supporting Oregonians during extreme weather events. House Bill 4059 and Senate Bill 1519 relate to renewable energy, including modifying contractor labor standards and establishing a property tax exemption for certain Oregon Community Solar projects, respectively. House Bill 4077 renames the Environmental Justice Task Force and Senate Bill 1579 would provide funding to award Economic Equity Investment grants.

Discussion

None.

Next steps

Staff will continue to monitor proposed legislation. The state legislative session must conclude by March 7.

6. Renewable Energy Advisory Council Recruitment

Topic summary

Betsy Kauffman presented a modified recruitment approach and is seeking feedback from council members. The new approach would identify existing skillsets on the council and seek to fill gaps in desired skillsets with an open solicitation for new members. The proposed changes would align with the current recruitment process of the Diversity Advisory Council and would lead to a more credible and inclusive recruiting process. Council seats could have terms moving forward, as well as membership reserved for certain organizations and potential stipends. These broader questions are not addressed in the current recruitment process, but staff are interested in hearing the council's thoughts on them.

Discussion

Staff noted that currently, the council is missing a rural community perspective. Members agreed that a more formal recruiting process would be beneficial and would help with diversifying the council, including having perspectives present from more rural communities (Alexia Kelly, Jaimes Valdez, Josh Peterson). Members commented that stipends should be confidential and requested but not necessary for all members (Alexia Kelly, Jaimes Valdez, Max Greene) and tribal members should be prioritized (Jaimes Valdez). A skills matrix tool has been created and will be available for Renewable Energy Advisory Council and Conservation Advisory Council members to complete. An attendee noted the skills matrix may be augmented to include distribution system-connected technology with the passage of House Bill 3141 (Jake Wise). An attendee also noted that the Board of Directors relies on the advisory committees as subject matter experts, so it is also important to keep in mind that they should have deep knowledge in the subjects pertaining to their committees (Susan Brodahl). Members suggested keeping meetings virtual, with occasional in-person meetings in various parts of the state to encourage wider participation (Josh Peterson).

Next steps

Staff will distribute the skills matrix for Renewable Energy Advisory Council members to complete in the next few weeks.

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.