

Board Meeting Minutes—231st Meeting

December 13, 2024

Board members present: Janine Benner (ODOE special advisor), Thelma Fleming, Eric Hayes, Henry Lorenzen, Jane Peters, Roland Risser, Anne Root, Silvia Tanner, Letha Tawney (OPUC ex officio), Peter Therkelsen, Ellen Zuckerman

Board members absent: Susan Brodahl, Melissa Cribbins, Ellsworth Lang, Bill Tovey

Staff attending: Alicia Burr, Justin Buttles, Shelly Carlton, Sarah Castor, Angela Clayton Schmidt, Scott Clark, Amber Cole, Tara Crookshank, Hannah Cruz, Elaine Dado, Chris Dunning, Michael Colgrove, Matt Getchell, Ernie Guerrero, Jeni Hall, Alanna Hoyman-Browe, Betsy Kauffman, Oliver Kesting, Cody Kleinsmith, Devin Liebman, Chris Lyons, Julie McMorine, Debbie Menashe, Spencer Moersfelder, Dave Moldal, Alicia Moore, Kyle Morrill, Alex Novie, Dan Peterson, Elaine Prause, Danielle Rhodes, Thad Roth Lizzie Rubado, Amanda Sales, Tracy Scott, Laura Schaefer, Sloan Schang, Abby Spegman, Greg Stokes, Julianne Thacher

Others attending: Kiran Ayub (OPUC), Stephanie Berkland (TRC Companies), Randy Hastings (DThree), Kari Greer (Pacific Corp), Sarah Hall (OPUC), Peter Kernan (OPUC), Brooke Landon (CLEAResult), Lisa McGarity (Avista Corp), Laney Ralph (NW Natural), Chris Smith (Energy350), Mark Warnke, Josh Weissert (Energy350), Holly Valkama (1961 Consulting), Becca Yates (NEEA)

Board Meeting Call to Order

Henry Lorenzen called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., reminded the board and attendees about procedures for the hybrid meeting. Henry also asked board members if any consent agenda items were requested to be changed to regular agenda items. No requests for any such changes were made by board members.

General Public Comments

There were no public comments.

President's Report and Consent Agenda

The consent agenda may be approved by a single motion, second and vote of the board. Any item on the consent agenda will be moved to the regular agenda upon the request from any member of the board.

MOTION: Approve consent agenda (R1051)

Consent agenda includes:

1. October 9, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
2. R1052: C&C Contract Extension for PR Services

Moved by: Roland Risser Seconded by: Jane Peters

Vote: In favor: 7 Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

NEEA Annual Report

Becca Yates, executive director of NEEA, presented information on NEEA's annual work. She thanked Mike for his service as board chair of NEEA and expressed appreciation for how well and closely Energy Trust and NEEA work together.

Becca started her presentation by noting that in 2025, NEEA begins its next five-year business plan, guided by NEEA's Mission and Purpose. The power of the NEEA alliance is to create regional scale to accomplish market transformation. Market transformation delivers long term savings by removing barriers to the way energy efficiency is adopted. In NEEA's new business plan, there is increased focus on improving access to energy efficiency. This comes with emerging technology, supporting business codes, and training a workforce.

Looking ahead, NEEA's work will be guided by four strategic goals:

1. Transform Markets for Energy Efficiency-the foundational one.
2. Accelerate adoption of grid-enabled end-use technologies
3. Advance strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Enhance equitable distribution of benefits and access to energy efficiency.

In addition, NEEA offers opportunities for funders to choose to participate in "special projects" over the course of the business plan period. One example of a special project will be considered for approval by the board in the meeting: the Whole Buildings Special Project, focusing on implementation of building performance standards in Washington and Oregon.

Becca explained that NEEA's core funding is \$247.1 million over 5 years and highlighted Energy Trust's contribution of \$55 million in both gas and electric work. Metrics have been developed for NEEA's work and with respect to each of NEEA's funders around the region.

Becca then discussed emerging technology developments such as motor systems, integrated controls, advance heat pump technology, data centers, dual-fuel heating systems. Board members asked questions, particularly around data centers and how emerging technologies can help ensure efficient energy usage in data centers. Upon questions from the board, there was further discussion about NEEA's work in rural markets, where NEEA's focus for equitable delivery of benefits. Among these is collaboration with other regional entities to work on a rural codes collaborative.

Shelley Carlton then provided information to the board on the Whole Buildings Special Project. Board members asked question about the scope and the uptake in the project by building owners.

Thelma noted that the Finance and Audit Committee discussed this program and is in full support. The board then considered Resolution 1056 and approved the resolution as follows:

R1056: Approve NEEA 2025-2026 Whole Building Special Project Funding Agreement

**RESOLUTION 1056
 AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH NORTHWEST ENERGY
 EFFICIENCY ALLIANCE FOR COMMERCIAL WHOLE BUILDING SPECIAL PROJECT**

WHEREAS:

1. Energy Trust staff coordinated with NEEA and other funding utilities to develop the project scope for an examination of Whole Building-Building Performance Standards Special Project;
2. Staff provided input on the scope and established a budget limit with NEEA that will provide sufficient funding;
3. The project is also funded by Bonneville Power Administration, Clark Public Utilities, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Light, Snohomish PUD, and Tacoma Power;
4. Staff has included a budget of up to \$350,000 in 2025 for this project and will include a budget of up to \$461,804 for the multi-year budget beginning 2026; and
5. Staff presented its recommendation for the Whole Building-Building Performance Standards Special Project to the board’s Finance & Audit Committee on November 21, 2024, and the committee recommends that the full board approve a contract with NEEA for this work.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED:

1. The executive director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and to enter into a contract with Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance for a Whole Building-Building Performance Standards Special Project for a term of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026, with a total contract budget of up to \$811,804.
2. Contract costs are or will be consistent with the board-approved 2025 annual budget and 2026 financial plan that is part of the board-approved multiyear plan.
3. The agreement will contain all appropriate terms to manage Energy Trust’s risk, including but not limited to, a provision permitting early termination.

Moved by:	Jane Peters	Seconded by:	Silvia Tanner
Vote:	In favor: 8	Abstained:	0
	Opposed: 0		

Strategic Plan Retrospective: Review

Energy Trust Organizational Development Manager Greg Stokes gave a retrospective on the last five years and how it provides the context for the development of a new strategic plan.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the presentation and thanked Greg.

Strategic Planning: Overview of Revised Strategic Plan

Mike introduced Jane Peters, Strategic Planning Committee chair, Amber Cole and Holly Valkama of 1961 Consulting also joined the meeting to help present.

Holly Valkama then confirmed that the work leading up today built consensus around the plan. This will help the board support and advocate and guide by the plan going forward. Today is an opportunity for continued discussion.

Amber then refreshed the board on the stakeholder engagement. This was our greatest amount of feedback on any plan and for anything we have done. Amber then provided a thorough overview of the final proposed strategic plan, including overall metrics, pointing out the larger changes from the draft plan to the final proposed plan. We elevated what was focus area 1 and merged it with our organizational purpose and is our core work: Maximizing clean, affordable energy acquisition.

Board members discussed the revisions. The move of the previous “Focus area 1” is now something core, and then the focus/action areas are where things are happening in the strategic plan period. The graphic did a lot to help the board members see how this works. The formula will always include affordable savings, but how we get there is focus. Board members supported the change.

Break

The board broke until 11:05 to return to discussion on the changes.

Strategic Planning: Revisions to “Our Role”

After the break, Amber continued to discuss the changed areas between the draft and the final proposed. The board discussed the revised focus area on empowering customers to navigate more choices. Mike described how multiyear planning will be the place where specific pathways to achieving the Strategic Plan's focus areas like this. So, for instance, with the helping customers navigate focus area does not itself specifically talk about trade allies, but all the delivery instruments will be covered in the multiyear planning logic models and theory of change documents. The logic models staff is working on refer to “activities,” rather than “strategies,” to be sure to differentiate between the Strategic Plan and the Multiyear Plans.

Amber also highlighted that focus areas had numbers removed to avoid impressing that a single focus area took priority over another, and this was a response to stakeholder feedback.

Amber then turned to the overarching metrics that are in the plan so far. There are six, but the board focused in on “financial benefits for customers from avoiding utility system costs resulting from Energy Trust's energy efficiency investments.”

Commissioner Letha Tawney Exit

The board then spent a few moments recognizing Commissioner Letha Tawney. Mike noted that she has been a powerful, sympathetic, and reasonable member of this board. She has set a fantastic bar for how regulators show up for our board. Letha has set a remarkably high standard. As a new ED, new organization, new region, Mike said that he learned so much from her and has been a mentor to him. Her calm guidance in a lot of storms has been so helpful and so amazing. Mike expressed his great, great appreciation for her time spent with the board and with Mike. Energy Trust cannot thank you enough. “We are really going to miss you.” Mike hopes that he will continue to have that time with her. Mike wishes her well in her continued participation on the commission.

Other board members expressed their appreciation. Roland said Letha always know more than he ever expects. Everything she engages on she improves! Silvia said with grace and humility. It is a fantastic example of how to be a great leader. Janine said she will miss most saying yes, I agree with Letha. Henry expressed how Letha has helped him understand that a broader approach, and not just the “most” cost effective savings to a much broader attitude of what is beneficial. Jane expressed her appreciation. Eric expressed such appreciation for her wisdom in a calm but direct way.

Letha thanked her board colleagues for their work together. She called out especially the DEI journey that the board has been on together. She expressed such appreciation for the board's focus on reaching folks we have not yet. Letha also expressed her appreciation for the OPUC staff who support her as well as Energy Trust staff. She also said that she is leaving us in really good hands. She will always have time for connection. Her calendar will always be open to Energy Trust. She is especially proud of this work as part of her work at the OPUC.

Lunch

The board recessed for lunch at 12:05.

Board Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called back to order at 12:53.

General Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Strategic Planning: "Focus Area Metrics"

Holly Valkama then took the board through the 10 metrics, by focus area, in the plan thus far.

Reducing cost of decarb

1. Carbon saved as a result of implementing clean energy.
2. number of decarb policies supported.

Creating greater impact for priority customers

1. number of projects completed for priority groups.
2. refine priority customer groups by building analytical capability to gather and report data.

Motivating next level customer participation

1. number of customers participating
2. number of customers with repeat participation

Supporting community resilience

1. Number of orgs contacted to promote Energy Trust services and resources that support community resilience.
2. number of resilience projects Energy Trust is directly involved in.

Empowering customers to navigate choices.

1. Do market assessment and gap analysis, with focus on DEI.
2. have an initiative plan that identifies key activities and budget.

Next part of this is informing the board that the organizational values are included in the final proposed version.

Strategic Planning: The Path to Closure in 2025

Holly then summarized the final steps to bring the plan to closure:

Signposts and plan management will be discussed in early 2025. Then in May/June of 2025, there will be board updates to the strategic plan by adding targets and associated metrics.

The board then voted to approve the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

RESOLUTION R1053

APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ENERGY TRUST STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

WHEREAS:

1. Energy Trust is required by its original agreement with the Oregon Public Utility Commission to develop and adopt a strategic plan at least every five years. The current plan, which covers the period 2020-2024, expires at the end of 2024.
2. Energy Trust’s current agreement with the Oregon Public Utility Commission, the Agreement to Direct Funding to a Nongovernmental Entity (the OPUC Agreement), also requires that Energy Trust develop and adopt strategic plans at least every five years, except for the period beginning in 2025. For the period beginning in 2025, the OPUC Agreement permits a longer strategic plan period to align the end date with Energy Trust’s first five-year multiyear plan process.
3. Let by the board’s Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), Energy Trust has developed a proposed six-year strategic plan for the period beginning in 2025, as described more fully below.
4. Beginning in October 2023, Energy Trust carried out board interviews and an extensive stakeholder engagement process to inform the development of a 2025-2030 strategic plan.
5. The board crafted key elements of the plan in a series of workshops and meetings from January through June, 2024. SPC refined plan language and developed strategies and metrics with input from staff.
6. A draft plan was discussed at the August 2024 board strategic planning workshop and released for comment on August 19, 2024, and public comments were collected until September 20, 2024.
7. Public comment themes were discussed by the full board at a meeting on October 9, 2024, and SPC continued working with staff to revise the plan based on a thorough review of stakeholder comments. The full board received a revised draft on November 15.
8. Staff and board members engaged the Oregon Public Utility Commission, Portland General Electric, Avista, Pacific Power, NW Natural, Cascade Natural Gas, members of our Conservation, Diversity and Renewable Advisory Councils, and many stakeholders through presentations and meetings throughout the state to invite and collect comments on the draft plan. The staff and board have carefully considered these comments and made changes incorporating stakeholder feedback.

It is therefore **RESOLVED** that the board of directors of Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., adopts and approves the Energy Trust 2025-2030 Strategic Plan in the form attached to this resolution.

Moved by:	Jane Peters	Seconded by:	Thelma Fleming
Vote:	In favor: 8	Abstained:	0
	Opposed: 0		

Without objection, the motion carries.

Henry congratulated and thanked the staff for this tremendous project, noting that there was a huge amount of work internally and among board members. He has incredible appreciation for what staff has been doing.

Mike echoed that, noting that it was a resolute and involved team producing this vision. And Mike thanked the entire board. Mike thanked Jane as chair of the SPC, and the entire committee. Mike also thanked Holly.

Final Proposed Budget

Executive Director Michael Colgrove presented the 2025 budget. Mike recalled that he provided the draft budget at the last meeting in October and noted that the Finance & Audit Comm has been updated regularly at their monthly meetings.

Mike talked about
2024-year end forecast
2025 organizational goals
final proposed budget summary
feedback

In all cases, we are forecasting to exceed all energy goals:

124% electric
109% natural gas
120% generation

Revenues are 5% under budget.
Expenditures forecast at 2% below.

We will finally results next year to show exactly where we ended. Things are looking good in 2024.

Big picture for 2025 is setting a strong foundation for future years, both energy and others. We think these are needed to achieve our goals and reach out to customers we have not served. We are also continuing to invest in the trade ally network and looking at complementary funding.

Mike showed the 2025 org goals, which are the same as 2024, which makes sense since we considered that a 2-year plan.

We are expecting to invest \$344.9 million, with 82.9 MW of reduced demand during summer and 89.3 during winter. For gas 7300 therms reduced during peak, and 97,0000 therms during peak day.

4.7cents kWh levelized
70.6 cents therms levelized in OR, \$1.31 /term levelized WA

This continues to be least coast resource.

Generating 5.6 aMW

Distributing \$184. million in incentives, which is 53% total expenditures.

Mike then walked through the changes between final proposed and draft.

Board members asked about the impact of lighting savings. Roland noted that if savings from data servers materialize, it will dwarf lighting savings. Board members discussed the goals being exceeded, and staff noted that there was a bigger pipeline of lighting than we thought and that is why we have drawn down on reserves. Mike explained the reasons behind the changes and explained the funding plans.

Board members discussed federal funding situation and considered how it impacts our projections. Mike also discussed our trade ally work and workforce development investment.

Mike noted that new staff is proposed, with 13 of them funded by new grant money. All metrics on staffing and admin cost are met.

Mike then described public comments on the budget.

**RESOLUTION 1054
ADOPT 2025 BUDGET AND ACTION PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED that Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc. Board of Directors approves the Energy Trust Final Proposed 2025 Budget and Action Plan as presented to the board at its meeting on December 13, 2024.

Moved by:	Roland Risser	Seconded by:	Jane Peters
Vote: In favor:	8	Abstained:	0
Opposed:	0		

Committee Reports

Compensation and Human Resources Committee (Eric Hayes)

Eric referred the board to the minutes provided in the board packet.

Finance and Audit Committee (Thelma Fleming)

Thelma referred the board to the notes provided in the board packet and introduced Sloan Schang to discuss a proposed contract for creative marketing and advertising services. The board chose not to adjourn to executive session to discuss and vote on the contract.

**RESOLUTION 1055
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH
BORDERS, PERRIN & NORRANDER, INC., INC. FOR CREATIVE MARKETING AND
ADVERTISING PURCHASES SERVICES**

WHEREAS:

1. **Creative marketing services and advertising/media buying at Energy Trust allows programs to reach all customers in the service territory across a diverse set of media, including print, radio, TV, outdoor and online, creating awareness, and promoting services and programs.**
2. **There is a clear connection between creative marketing and advertising to reach and support customer awareness and engagement, leading to savings and generation;**

Nominating and Governance Committee

Roland introduced a resolution for a new policy on Complementary Funding and provided a brief overview.

RESOLUTION 1057

ADOPT POLICY FOR USE OF COMPLEMENTARY CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING 4.45.000-P

WHEREAS:

- 9. Energy Trust is the recipient of core ratepayer funding and other grantor funding to accomplish its vision and purpose.
- 10. With increasing sources of clean energy grant funding, Energy Trust has increased its focus on leveraging its core ratepayer funding with other complementary funding to deliver overall greater value for ratepayers.
- 11. In 2024, the Energy Trust board of directors Nominating & Governance Committee, together with Energy Trust’s Director of Innovation and Development, developed and reviewed proposed provisions for a new board policy to identify goals and objectives for complementary funding in order to guide Energy Trust staff in pursuit of such funding.
- 12. The proposed new policy, the Policy for Use of Complementary Funding, is attached to this resolution as *Attachment 1*.
- 13. The Nominating & Governance Committee reviewed the proposed policy in several discussions through October 2024. Based on this review process, the Nominating & Governance Committee recommends approval and adoption of the Complementary Funding Policy by the full board.

It is therefore **RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc. adopts the Policy for Use of Complementary Clean Energy Funding as shown in *Attachment 1*.

Moved by:	Roland Risser	Seconded by:	Jane Peters
Vote:	In favor: 8	Abstained:	
	Opposed: 0		

Ad hoc DEI Committee (Alicia Moore)

Alicia Moore reported in Chair Melissa Cribbins' absence. Alicia reported that work with Ashnie has wound up, and there is a survey in BoardEffect to help plan for 2025 activities for the committee.

Ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee (Jane Peters)

Jane referred to the committee notes in the packet and noted that the committee will keep meeting as described in the previous reports. Jane thanked the board for approving their product.

Conservation Advisory Council (Alex Novie)

Alex Novie, CANI sector lead, referred to the notes in the packet. CAC discussed the draft strategic plan and changes. The CAC also was updated on multiyear planning. There was an update on program designs for residential ductless heat pumps. CAC also looked at work with CBOs. Measure exceptions were also previewed. It was a full agenda.

Diversity Advisory Council (Alicia Moore)

Alicia Moore reported on the DAC, referencing notes in the packet. Alicia noted that Quinn Parker of Encolor did a literature review to consider our DEI plan. Encolor will be conducting a full assessment and report regarding Energy Trust's equity plan and the future work to meet the OPUC required equity objectives.

Renewable Energy Advisory Council (Betsy Kauffman)

Betsy thanked the board for approving the new strategic plan. The entire RE staff is excited about it. Betsy referred to the RAC notes in the packet, mentioning the discussion of the IPC contract, work on batteries, the 2025 budget and multiyear plan, and questions about the federal situation.

Adjourn

Henry reminded the board of the plans for the Holiday Party at the Eastlund Hotel, and then adjourned the meeting 3:50.

The next regular meeting of the Energy Trust of Oregon Board of Directors will be held January 29, 2025, hybrid on Zoom and at 421 SW Oak St., Suite 300, Portland, OR 97204.

Signed by:

Eric Hayes

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Signed: Eric Hayes, Secretary

1/30/2025 /

Date