

## Joint Advisory Council Meeting Notes

October 10, 2024

---

### Attending from the Conservation Advisory Council:

Laney Ralph, NW Natural  
Jonathon Belmont, Bonneville Power Administration  
Andy Cameron, Oregon Department of Energy  
Peter Kernan, Oregon Public Utility Commission  
Becky Walker, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
Noemi Ortiz, Cascade Natural Gas  
Lisa McGarity, Avista  
Charity Fain, Community Energy Project  
Kari Greer, Pacific Power  
Kerry Meade, Building Potential (formerly NEEC)  
Amanda Welch, Oregon Department of Energy  
Jake Wise, Portland General Electric

### Attending from the Renewable Energy Advisory Council:

Ryan Harvey, Pacific Power  
Rob Del Mar, Oregon Department of Energy  
Josh Peterson, Solar Monitoring Lab, University of Oregon  
April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Joe Abraham, Oregon Public Utility Commission

### Attending from the Diversity Advisory Council:

Terrance Harris, Drexel University  
Indika Sugathadasa, PDX HIVE  
Dolores Martinez, EUVALCREE  
Benedikt Springer, Oregon Public Utility Commission

### Attending from Energy Trust:

Elizabeth Fox	Kyle Petrocine
Robin Brown	Elaine Prause
Michael Colgrove	Alex Novie
Chris Dunning	Amber Cole
Melanie Bissonnette	Alicia Moore
Tom Beverly	Abi Sloan
Alanna Hoyman-Browe	Eduardo Beltran
Akanksha Rawal	Kate Wellington
Julie McMorine	Sue Fletcher
Chip Polito	Spencer Moersfelder
Alicia Moore	Megan Greenauer
Amanda Thompson	Themba Mutepfa
Jackie Goss	Amanda Zuniga
Jess Siegel	Jeni Hall
Dave Moldal	Maddy Otto
Sarah Rhodig	Amanda Potter
Angela Clayton-Schmidt	Thad Roth
Julianne Thacher	
Marshall Johnson	
Cory Hertog	

**Others attending:**

Jessica Dover, Alma Luna (interpreter)

Ivonne Saed, Saed Graphic (interpreter)

**1. Welcome and announcements**

Robin Brown convened the meeting at 1:02 p.m. via Zoom. Robin presented the agenda and made introductions.

**2. Energy Trust draft 2025 budget presentation and feedback***Topic summary*

Michael Colgrove, Energy Trust executive director, presented Energy Trust's draft 2025 budget and organizational goals. The draft budget and presentation are posted online at [www.energytrust.org/budget](http://www.energytrust.org/budget). The 2025 budget is a one-year plan that will allow Energy Trust to transition to longer-term budget planning that aligns with its strategic planning cycles.

The energy savings we acquire remain some of the lowest cost energy. In 2025, we will invest \$342.1 million to save 59.1 aMW, save 6.7 million therms of gas, and generate 5.6 aMW of electricity. The electric savings goal is a 23% increase over the 2024 budget. Data center projects in both PGE and Pacific Power services areas will drive high savings in the New Buildings program. Our electric levelized costs will decrease by 18% from 2024. On the gas side, the goal is down 4% from 2024. Levelized costs are expected to increase about 14% from 2024. The greatest drivers of gas savings will be in Existing Buildings and multifamily. On the renewables side, we plan to shift away from market rate solar incentives to support income-qualified and priority customers.

The increase in spending from 2024 to 2025 is mostly driven by additional incentives. Higher incentives are needed to compel more homeowners and businesses to move forward with projects; they will also help us remove barriers for priority customers. Staff positions will focus on program design, outreach and support to keep programs on track. We are also planning expansion of our Trade Ally Network through training, outreach, the Contractor Development Pathway, and new offers and resources.

On the revenue side, contracts and grants (referred to as complementary funding) represents a growing source of revenue in 2025. Complementary funding will help us increase savings and generation results while also enhancing equitable access for customers, including offering more no-cost offers. (We will add funding for three no-cost offers in 2025; this will be a change in the final draft budget.)

Energy Trust now use the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles definition of administrative costs, which means its performance can now be compared to other nonprofits. At 5.8%, our administrative costs are below the OPUC performance measure and below 15% that is considered to be the healthy ceiling for nonprofits.

*Discussion*

The councils said the budget captures the dynamics of the market (Jonathan Belmont). Staff noted we are considering the state of the economy and if it improves next year, we need to consider additional demand that might create. Rate impacts and affordability might also create more of a motivator for customers to participate. The councils noted the possibility of semiconductor shortages and related impacts due to recent hurricanes (Lisa McGarity).

On planned solar and resilience activity, the councils noted commercial solar uses the grid, so if the grid goes down, their power goes out. Some of these systems are close to neighborhoods. They'll still be generating in these situations, and it could be used for nearby homes or neighborhoods (Josh Peterson). Staff said it has looked at this for communities looking to build a resilience hub. We're seeing good growth in commercial solar, but there are restrictions and constraints on sending that

power to other customers. Some of the community resilience projects are quite complicated; we will get there, but there are some impediments. In the meantime, we do provide residential and commercial battery storage incentives.

The councils said a map showing activity across the state would be helpful, along with breakouts by county, region or city. There's an assumption that a lot of spending happens in Portland, but a map would illustrate where spending really happens (Josh Peterson). Staff noted annual reports do include location-specific information but we can look at better ways to show spending.

The councils asked to learn more about how and when workforce development activities will roll out and when they will reach rural areas (Lisa McGarity). Staff offered to follow up with more specifics.

The councils noted there are several new factors – including an increased number of goals and targets, cost effectiveness challenges, economic factors and new funding opportunities – and that a multiyear budget will allow for some flexibility to address this (Jonathon Belmont). Staff said we're in the process of transitioning to multiyear budgeting; next year we will do our first five-year budget. We will engage the advisory councils as we develop it. What we're starting to see is a greater ability to comprehensively address the factors mentioned: The longer time horizon lets us look out across more dimensions and plan the resources needed for new work that won't be in full operation until further along.

#### *Next steps*

The draft budget will be available for comment until October 16. Comments may be sent to [info@energytrust.org](mailto:info@energytrust.org). Energy Trust staff will present the draft budget to the Oregon Public Utility Commission on Nov. 5 and to the Energy Trust Board of Directors for approval on Dec. 13.

### **3. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.