

Diversity Advisory Council Meeting Notes

June 11, 2024

Attending from the council:

Indika Sugathadasa, PDX HIVE
Dolores Martinez, EUVALCREE
Susan Badger-Jones, special projects consultant
Christopher Banks, Urban League of Portland
Martin Campos-Davis, Oregon Human Development Corporation
Terrace Harris, Drexel University
Rebecca Descombes

Attending from Energy Trust:

Michael Colgrove	Cody Kleinsmith
Alicia Moore	Kate Wellington
Emily Findley	Alyson McKay
Greg Stokes	Lidia Garcia
Debbie Menashe	Hannah Cruz
Melanie Bissonnette	Laura Schaefer
Tracy Scott	Jeni Hall
Leila Shokat	Patrick Urain
Tammy Bailey-Probasco	Michael Hoch
Akanksha Rawal	Andi Nix
Spencer Moersfelder	Kirstin Pinit
Kenji Spielman	Taylor Ford
Betsy Kauffman	Maddy Otto
Abi Sloan	Maddie Norman
Natalia Ojeda	Amber Cole
Lindsey Diercksen	

Others attending:

Ezell Watson, Oregon Public Utility Commission	Monica Paradise, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Benedikt Springer, Oregon Public Utility Commission	Jessica Dover, AlmaLuna LLC
Lauren Rosenstein, Oregon Department of Energy	Ciera Milkewicz, CLEARResult
	EJ Jordan
	Ryan Robison, Skill Demand
	Ivonne Saed, Saedgraphic

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mike Colgrove, executive director, convened the meeting at 9:06 a.m. The agenda, notes and presentation materials are available on Energy Trust's website at <https://www.energytrust.org/about/public-meetings/diversity-advisory-council-meetings/>.

Mike Colgrove introduced Alicia Moore, Energy Trust's new director of DEI services, who is taking over leadership and facilitation of the Diversity Advisory Council for future meetings. Alicia Moore spoke about her 14 years of experience advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in large hospital systems and most recently at Columbia Sportswear, where she led its global DEI strategy.

2. Review of 2023 annual report public comment

Topic summary

Mike Colgrove reminded the council that per a request this year from Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC), Energy Trust is inviting feedback on its 2023 annual report through a public comment process until June 15. The goal is to understand if the information included in the annual report—which includes program highlights, program and DEI results and financials—is meaningful and helpful to all stakeholders, and whether it could be presented in a more helpful way.

Discussion

The council asked how the level of public input is being measured and for more context about Energy Trust's methodology in seeking input from stakeholders and the public (Martin Campos-Davis). Staff explained this is the first time Energy Trust has asked for input on an annual report, that over the years, there have been many requests to add information to reports, which have grown longer and detailed. Stakeholders are now interested in streamlining reports while ensuring they still contain the information needed to understand the value of Energy Trust investments. Staff promoted the public comment opportunity with advisory councils, at board meetings, at a presentation to the OPUC and in public communications. Energy Trust is open to adapting this process in future years.

Next steps

None.

3. Overview of OPUC funding agreement

Topic summary

Director of People Services Debbie Menashe gave an update on the process to update Energy Trust's grant agreement in coordination with the OPUC, which was last amended in 2005. The grant agreement documents the decision of the OPUC to direct funds to Energy Trust for energy-efficiency services and renewable energy project support, as articulated in Oregon statutes. Those statutes were extensively revised in 2021 with the passage of HB 3141, which modernized the way the state and utilities support clean energy by eliminating the sunset on funding for energy efficiency support, directing utilities to build the cost of energy-efficiency into their rates and revising the role of renewable energy support to include distribution systems technology and a minimum percentage of funding required to benefit customers with low and moderate incomes.

Energy Trust and OPUC have been in discussions on how to update the agreement, and there is now a draft agreement in OPUC docket UM1158—the same docket where Energy Trust's performance measures are discussed and approved each year. This document is now referred to as the "agreement to direct funding to a non-governmental entity" because the funds are not "granted" in the typical sense; OPUC directs utilities to provide funds to Energy Trust. The draft agreement has been posted publicly since May 14; on May 21, OPUC held a public workshop to invite input; public comment is due at the end of May.

The draft agreement has a termination date of 2035, with opportunities for renewal built in during that time. It also contains equity objectives, which are a comprehensive list of equity concepts that OPUC is requiring Energy Trust to incorporate into all its operations and programs. Equity concepts are holistic and differ from existing equity metrics, which are based on outcomes.

Public comments received so far have focused on the equity objectives, the sunset date and whether Energy Trust should remain the only non-governmental entity to receive funding through this agreement. All comments will be reviewed by OPUC staff, in coordination with Energy Trust, over the next few weeks. The end results will be a staff memo for OPUC commissioners to review at a public meeting in July.

Discussion

The council asked Alicia Moore to share her thoughts on the equity concepts (Susan Badger-Jones). Alicia Moore answered that one thing that stood out was the request for a third-party assessment on work Energy Trust is doing in communities, and she is focused on identifying opportunities to add more information and assess more data to support results. Mike Colgrove added that the request to add third-party evaluation is not a new one; that work was built into the director of DEI services position description for that reason.

The council asked how the level of public input is being measured through this process (Lauren Rosenstein). Staff replied this is an OPUC-led process and it is soliciting input through stakeholder workshops. Energy Trust is supporting this process but is not in the lead.

Next steps

Diversity Advisory Council members are invited to provide comment on the docket until the OPUC meeting in July, which will be virtual and open to the public. Members can also email Debbie Menashe or Alicia Moore with any questions, or to discuss anything further.

4. Strategic planning update*Topic summary*

Members of Energy Trust's internal strategic planning team provided an update on the board of directors' ongoing work to develop Energy Trust's 2025-2030 strategic plan. The board is close to finalizing the strategic plan building blocks it has been developing this year, which will be used to create a draft strategic plan by mid-August. The board has used input from advisory council members in shaping many elements of the strategic plan, including the unique role of value, strengths and capabilities and focus areas. Staff reviewed draft versions of Energy Trust's new vision, purpose and unique role of value statements. These statements are similar to past versions but have more emphasis on community-centered benefits.

Discussion

No discussion.

Next steps

At the September 10 council meeting, staff will provide an opportunity for council members to review and give input on the draft strategic plan. Staff will also provide the presentation slides for members to review in more detail, as well as a list of the stakeholder groups Energy Trust plans to reach out to for input through the public comment period.

5. Multiyear planning transition update*Topic summary*

Staff provided an update on Energy Trust's ongoing transition from yearly to multiyear budgeting and planning and reviewed context on the reasons behind the multiyear plan transition, including what benefits it will provide. Activity in 2024 is focused on designing a process to create the longer-term plan. The first multiyear plan will be developed in 2025, and it will guide the organization for a five-year period from 2026-2030. The multiyear plan's objectives and activities will closely align with the focus areas from the 2025-2030 strategic plan.

Each element of the multiyear plan—including the business plan, financial plan, human resource plan and complementary funding strategy—will have an associated management mechanism to track progress toward goals and targets. For example, the financial plan will be managed by transitioning to a six-quarter rolling forecast, which will also provide flexibility for plan management to align better with heating and cooling seasons.

There will be an eight-week public comment period over in July or August, and targeted stakeholder engagement will also occur during this time. Advisory councils will also have opportunities to advise on plan development throughout the process, including in workshops to discuss activities in each focus area.

Discussion

No discussion.

Next steps

Energy Trust staff will return to Diversity Advisory Council later in the year to review the final process and provide more detail about what opportunities the council will have to help shape the first multiyear plan in 2025.

6. Adjournment

Mike Colgrove invited council members to provide general updates from their own organizations and activities.

Christopher Banks shared that Urban League of Portland just received state approval to deliver its first electrical pre-apprenticeship program. It will also soon open a homeless housing project, in coordination with City of Portland, on Fairfield Avenue that will have 216 units.

Dolores Martinez reported that EUVALCREE is currently focused on enrolling community members in the Oregon Health Plan, with a focus on those without migratory status. It also recently opened a food bank at its Eastern Oregon office and is working to open another one in its Hermiston office. EUVALCREE continues to support delivery for Energy Trust customers through performing home energy assessments and promoting incentives and energy education. This summer is bringing leadership camps for youth and many community events, up to 10 each month. EUVALCREE has been hearing many community members are struggling with increased electric costs, especially with children home from school for the summer.

Lauren Rosenstein share that Oregon Department of Energy is preparing to kick off its energy strategy, which has a robust process in place including consultants to help with community engagement and outreach. They will soon release an interest form for people looking to join advisory bodies and working groups associated with the effort. In another recent effort, ODOE collected input throughout the state to inform an energy security plan; participation mostly came from industry people. ODOE launched a grid resilience program, which is gaining interest from utilities. It is also launching a county energy resilience program that will offer grants of up to \$50,000 for counties to develop resilience plans, with an option for counties to team up.

Mike Colgrove said that Energy Trust will be creating a one-year annual budget for 2025, and there will be opportunities for council members to provide input on it in the second half of 2024. The biggest opportunity is at a joint advisory council meeting on October 10, where members can hear an overview of the 2025 draft budget and share comments. There may also be an opportunity to schedule an in-person lunch that week with Energy Trust's board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next Diversity Advisory Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 19 2024 and [details will be posted on Energy Trust's website](#).