

4.45.000-P Policy for Use of Complementary Clean Energy Funding

Action	Originator	Date
Recommended for Approval	Nominating and Governance Committee	September 9, 2024
Board Decision	Board of Directors	December 13, 2024

Background

Energy Trust has increased its focus on leveraging ratepayer funding with other complementary funding sources to enable deeper retrofits, increase savings, reach more customers, and deliver overall greater value for ratepayers. This policy identifies Energy Trust’s goals and objectives for Complementary Funding in order to guide Energy Trust staff in pursuit of Complementary Funding.

Definitions

Foundational Ratepayer Funding

The phrase Foundational Ratepayer Funding is used to describe funding that is directed to Energy Trust as a non-governmental entity by the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) for the purposes as described in ORS ch. 757 and in accordance with the Energy Trust and OPUC Agreement to Direct Funding to Nongovernmental Entity dated August 19, 2024.

Complementary Funding

The phrase Complementary Funding is used to describe funding Energy Trust receives from contracts and grants for work that supports our mission and complements and enhances the impact of our Foundational Ratepayer Funding.

Leveraging

The term “leveraging” is used to cover a broad range of strategies that bring Complementary Funding to support Energy Trust projects, programs, and activities.

Policy

1. Goals and Objectives

Energy Trust’s goals and objectives for Complementary Funding are to achieve, and then document, additional benefits for ratepayers, including:

- Increased savings and generation, by serving more participants or supporting projects that deliver more energy and related benefits
- Improved equitable access to program services by overcoming barriers to participation for communities of color, customers experiencing low or moderate incomes and/or rural communities
- Reduced costs for ratepayers by serving more customers or acquiring more savings, generation or other benefits for the same or lower ratepayer cost than would otherwise be required
- Increased participation by addressing gaps and unmet needs that prevent participation

2. Evaluation of Complementary Funding Opportunities

In evaluating whether to pursue Complementary Funding, Energy Trust will consider the following criteria:

- Consistency with Energy Trust Vision, Purpose, and Strategic Focus Areas
- Amount of net benefit to ratepayers
- Feasibility, organizational capacity and level of effort of implementation

- Risks and mitigation strategies

3. Maintenance of Guidelines for Leveraging Complementary Clean Energy Funding

Energy Trust staff will maintain internal guidelines that document internal processes and procedures for evaluating Complementary Funding. Energy Trust staff will review these internal guidelines with the board's Nominating & Governance Committee at least every three years.