



## Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series with Tribal Nations Public Notes

Friday, September 22, 2023, 9:00 –11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

*E Source, PacifiCorp’s meeting facilitation partner, synthesized and summarized these notes.*

### Background

The Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series for Oregon Tribal Nations is to build an inclusive and accessible process for consultation and collaboration with the goal of an equitable [clean energy future](#) per Oregon House Bill 2021. This is part of a broader stakeholder engagement strategy to increase participation from communities that have not traditionally been present in a utility planning process so that there is:

- Better understanding of community needs and perspectives
- Identification and removal of barriers to participation and input
- Exchange of information and ideas

This fifth meeting consisted of a robust conversation reviewing a spotlight from the Oregon Department of Energy, a review on elevating engagement, and community-based renewable energy.

This two-hour meeting occurred online through the Zoom platform.

AGENDA
Check In & Closing the Loop
Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE)
BREAK (5 mins)
Elevating Engagement
Community-Based Renewable Energy
Small Scale Renewables Primer
Next Steps

## Participants

Tribal Nation Participants	
Ellsworth Lang	Klamayo Casino
Cathy Ehli	Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises
Sahalee McFarland	Northwest Native Chamber

Presenters	
Christina Medina	Stakeholder Policy & Engagement Manager
Ryan Harvey	Community Renewables Program Manager
Ruchi Sadhir	Associate Director, Strategic Engagement at Oregon Department of Energy
Thomas Burns	PacifiCorp Vice President of Resource Planning & Acquisitions
Morgan Westberry	E Source

Pacific Power Participants	
Kimberly Alejandro	Energy Equity Analyst
Stephanie Meeks	Regulatory Manager

Pacific Power Partner Participants	
Tag Galvin-Darnieder	E Source
Sue Fletcher	Energy Trust of Oregon
Jamie Rosen	E Source

## Meeting Notes

### Opening

Pacific Power's Christina Medina opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees to the September session of the Tribal Nations Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series. The purpose of the series is to provide an open forum for shared learning and input gathering. Pacific Power reaffirmed the commitment of providing individualized engagement and presentations on any of the information provided, should that be requested.

E Source's Morgan Westberry shared meeting objectives, housekeeping items, the agenda, and introduced the speakers.

### Check In

E Source's Morgan Westberry facilitated the check in question: *"What is your favorite fall season activity?"*

- Klamayo Casino connects with the changing season as a hunter and gatherer, catching food for the upcoming season.
- Pacific Power's Christina Medina shared how she prepares for the fall season and shows appreciation for the earth.

## Closing the Loop

E Source's Morgan Westberry recapped the last meeting, including the theme of focusing on action. Discussion highlights from the last iteration of the Tribal Nations Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series included:

- Engagement opportunities for the Clean Energy Engagement series, scheduled every other month through 2023
- A call for Oregon Community feedback on Community-Based Renewable Energy, continued development of a survey plan, and continued development of materials to support community engagement
- An update to Distribute System Planning and continued community engagement

## Oregon Department of Energy

The Oregon Department of Energy's Ruchi Sadhir provided a compelling overview of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and resource list for tribes.

The ODOE's mission is to help Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. ODOE advances solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and further generations.

The Oregon Department of Energy achieves its mission by providing:

- A central repository of energy data, information, and analysis
- A venue for problem-solving Oregon's energy challenges
- Energy education and technical assistance
- Regulation and oversight
- Energy programs and activities

Upon review of the 2021-2024 strategic plan, the goal is to be able to look back at the end of 2024 and say confidently that these imperatives have been completed. When looking at this slide, the select objectives are how the imperative is being measured.

# 2021-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

## IMPERATIVES

**Expand and Improve Stakeholder Engagement**

**Build Practices and Processes to Achieve More Inclusive and Equitable Outcomes**

**Assess and Enhance Organizational Data Capabilities**

**Assess and Modernize Agency Programs and Activities**

**Optimize Organizational Efficiency and Impact**

## SELECT OBJECTIVES

Year-over-year increase in agency engagement with organizations representing historically and currently underserved populations and communities

Year-over-year increase in the percent of agency job applicants identifying as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Year-over-year increase in the percent of historically and currently underserved populations and communities participating in ODOE programs and services

100% of ODOE programs and activities align with ODOE mission and position statements

Year-over-year increase of collection, review, and analysis of data

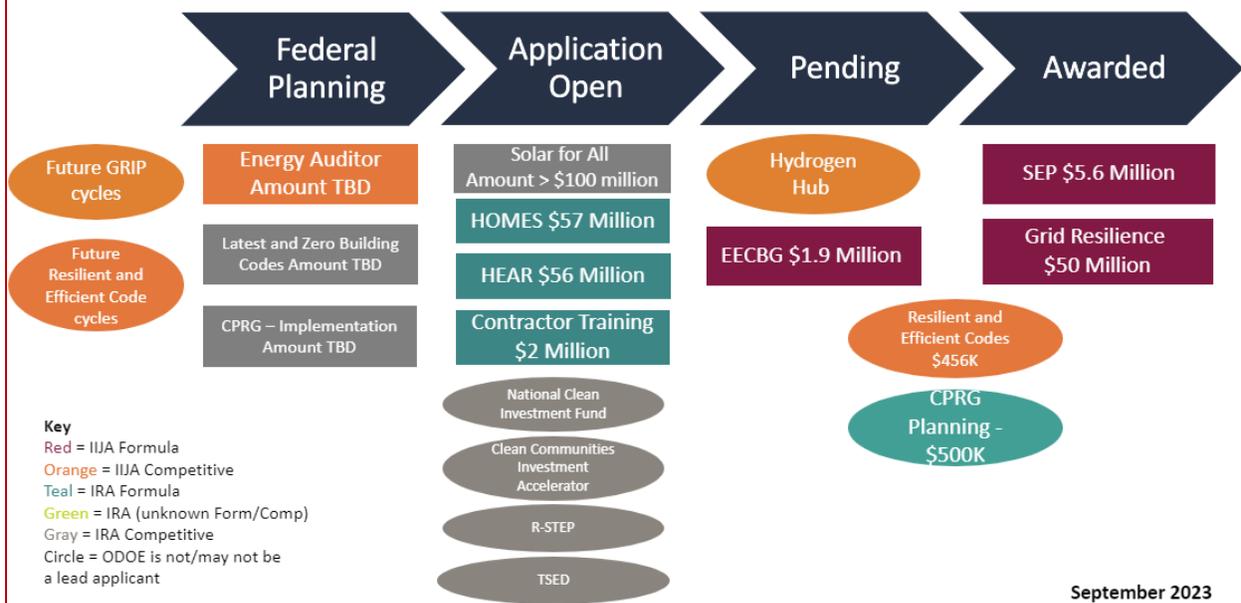
Year-over-year increase in data sharing relationships



[www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Pages/Strategic-Plan.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Pages/Strategic-Plan.aspx)

Oregon Department of Energy provided a look into the Federal grant opportunities ODOE is closely watching. Note the color key at the bottom-left of the slide. In addition to the color key, there is meaning in the shapes. Grant opportunities listed in a rectangle are opportunities ODOE expects to be a lead applicant on. Opportunities listed in an oval, ODOE does not expect to be a lead applicant on but may be partnering with another organization.

## FEDERAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES ODOE IS CLOSELY FOLLOWING



### ***Chat Questions and Comments:***

- Northwest Native Chamber asked, “Can you say again what Formula Funding means?”
  - ODOE responded that there is a formula allocation compared to competitive. The folks in Washington, DC (Congress, Federal Agency, etc.), formula means they have determined ahead of time that ODOE would get a certain amount, meaning ODOE doesn’t have to compete for it. If ODOE raises their hand showing interest and how funds will be used, ODOE will get it. Competitive can be more work because you have to build coalitions. A lot of work is put in and may not receive that grant.
- Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises asked, “Can you speak to the status of the criteria ODOE was developing to use as guidance for disturbing grants?”
  - ODOE responded that the understanding from staff is that 20 million of the 50 million has been awarded. It has been evaluated, but not finalized. The program will launch in 2024. ODOE is working hard on finalizing the criteria and do intend to send it out to all utility stakeholder for review.

Whenever Federal Funds are awarded, that comes with Federal rules. It is not just money; it is money and requirements that come together. There are requirements within the request for application, financial assistance requirements and Justice40. Additionally, there is Federal law, State law, State policies and procedures, grant terms and conditions to abide by.

Solar for All is an exciting opportunity that ODOE is working closely with Warm Springs Power & Water on. The notice of intent was submitted on July 28, 2023. The deadline has been extended to October 12, 2023. The EPA anticipates awards agreements with successful applicants will be in place by July 1, 2024. Once passed, there will be a five-year performance period, with up to one year of the performance period can be used for planning purposes.

The basic concept is to utilize federal funds to bring the benefits of solar installations to low-income and other disadvantaged communities in Oregon. To achieve this goal, ODOE will work with community partners to reach disadvantaged communities. There will be increased incentives for single family, multifamily, and community solar projects that provide benefits to low-income participants. ODOE will develop long-term strategies to support low-income participation in solar programs and support workforce development in disadvantaged communities.

Looking forward to the Home Energy Efficiency contractor training grant, which will prepare a workforce for new home-energy efficiency technologies. This is a Justice40-covered program, meaning 40% of the funding is flowing to environmental justice and disadvantaged communities. The application is due by January 31, 2024, the goals of the program are as follows:

- Reduce the cost of training contractor employees
- Provide access to workforce development tools for contractors including, but not limited to, testing and certification
- Partner with non-profit organizations to develop and implement an equitable state program

### ***Questions and Comments:***

- Pacific Power asked how to keep the feedback loop open for ODOE in this space?

- ODOE responded that sometimes ODOE sets up a comment portal for people to share feedback. The application period for Solar for All is currently wrapping, though there will still be a planning period where feedback will be very welcome.

The Grid Resilience Grant Program, which has been awarded to ODOE and allocates around \$10 million per year for five years from the US Department of Energy to the State of Oregon. 95% of those funds will be subcontracted to Oregon electric utilities, 40% of funds to small utilities, 20% of funds to disadvantaged communities, with the intention of maximizing community benefits. The purpose of the Grid Resilience Grant Program being:

- Improve the all-hazards resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events
- Generate the greatest community benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events
- Advance Department of Energy's equity, environmental and energy justice priorities, including the Justice40 Initiative
- Invest in America's workforce

Oregon Department of Energy announced the first round of \$12 million in grants in late 2022. The round one awardees include:

- Burns Paiute Tribe, awarded \$89,718 - Planning to connect a local community cooperative biomass district heating system to the Tribal community center in Burns
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians, awarded \$1 million - Net-metered solar and battery storage with microgrid systems to power tribal buildings during grid outage
- Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, awarded \$1 million - Net-meter solar system to be installed to serve a Tribal housing project

The second round of grant applications were due on February 15, 2023. Of the 52 applicants received, 39 were selected. Round three is still to be determined but will likely be later this year.

The Community Heat Pump Deployment Program was funded \$10 million by the Legislature. The program is focused on owner-occupied homes. This includes a contract with one eligible entity for each region and one eligible entity for each federally recognized Tribe in Oregon to administer the allocations. Eligible entities include:

- Local government
- Local housing authority
- Nonprofit organization
- Federally recognized Tribe in Oregon
- Coordinated care organization
- Community action agency
- Manufactured dwelling park nonprofit cooperative
- Electric utility

The Rental Heat Pump Program offers financial assistance for the purchase and installation of heat pumps and related upgrades. \$15 million has been allocated for program administration and incentives. Assistance is available to owners of rental units and manufactured dwellings or recreational vehicles that

rent a space in a manufactured dwelling or RV park. Eligible contractors apply to ODOE online to reserve and request funds. The full rebate amount is passed on to the customer.

In wrapping up the robust and informational presentation, ODOE wanted to share the resources that are available for tribes.



The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians **make informed decisions** and **maintain a resilient and affordable energy system**. We advance solutions to shape an **equitable clean energy transition**, protect the **environment and public health**, and **responsibly balance energy needs and impacts** for current and future generations.

## Resources for Tribes

**Funding:**

- State programs available to support resilience, renewable energy, and energy efficiency for Tribal Communities and members. <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/default.aspx>
- Information on federal funding opportunities for Oregon communities, including Tribes: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/IJA.aspx>

**Technical Assistance:**

- ODOE's new Community Navigator is here to support Oregon Tribes in realizing their energy goals: [Community.Navigator@Energy.Oregon.gov](mailto:Community.Navigator@Energy.Oregon.gov)
- Connection to energy programs, funding, and technical expertise

**Policy and Program Development:**

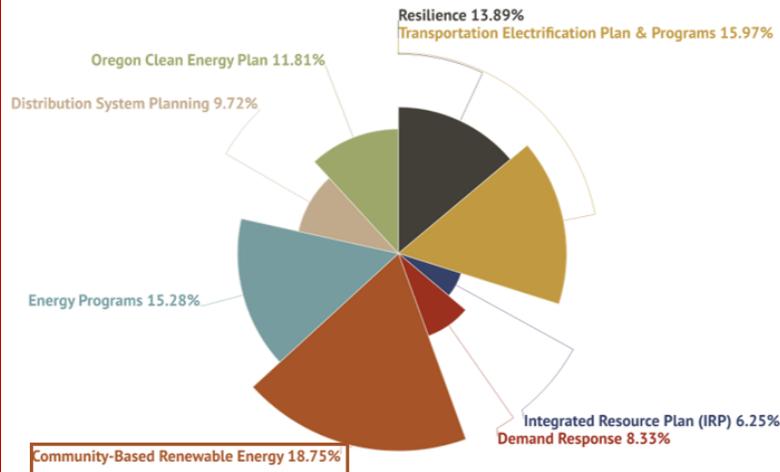
- ODOE wants to collaborate with Tribes on an equitable clean energy transition – designing policies that reflect Tribal perspectives, take into account Tribal priorities, and build on Tribal knowledge and experience.

Break

## Elevating Engagement

E Source's Morgan Westberry kicked off the discussion on how Pacific Power and the Tribal Nations series will elevate engagement. An analysis was conducted, and the next topic item will be Community-Based Renewable Energy with the highest ranked score of topics to explore. The purpose of the analysis is to ensure this series provides a space that is beneficial and useful to everyone.

## What we heard:



### Other Topic Items Elevated:

1. Tax Credits
2. IRA Tribal Tax Payments
3. Partnership Opportunities for grant and project management

### Improving Opportunities for Engagement:

1. Dialogue on the siting of energy projects and resources that impact tribes
2. Finding Opportunities align with DCFS mission
3. Partnerships for projects

Pacific Power's Christina Medina provided some additional context. There were several polling exercises to get these results. For folks who were not able to make today's engagement, Pacific Power will make sure to send the full package that includes the presentation material and the full analysis of what was heard.

### Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE)

Pacific Power's Ryan Harvey led the discussion on advancing Community-Based Renewable Energy (CBRE). CBREs is a new term for something that has been going on for quite a while, these are projects that are focused and led largely by communities. Most of what will be discussed is how Pacific Power is considering the role in advancing CBRE projects.

A series of surveys were conducted trying to answer the question of how Pacific Power can best reach out to communities throughout Oregon. The slide today is just a sampling of the feedback that was received. The answers were broken out into three categories:

1. Current Actions, which Pacific Power is already working on
2. Actions in Development, which Pacific Power is working on elevating but haven't operationalized yet
3. Possible Future Actions, which are brand new ideas from the survey that Pacific Power hasn't yet thought about, but are excited by the feedback

## A Sample of Survey Responses

Current Actions	Actions in Development	Possible Future Actions
Surveys/Questionnaires, Interviews	Utilize Online Platforms, Social Media Channels	Media outreach: raise program awareness, stimulate interest
Feedback tracking	Outreach to applicants of other funding opportunities	Partnerships with schools, universities
Language and Cultural Sensitivity	Socialize the outcomes of CBRE project development	Energy Fairs, Cultural Events and Festivals
Transparent Communication	Generate post-engagement infographics and summaries	Online Engagement Platforms and Gamification
Online workshops and opportunities	Focus on organizations that “could realistically put together a project/proposal”	Motivate engagement through a “sense of value”

There are four core commitments in relation to CBREs, though today’s conversation will focus largely number 2, and will briefly touch on how number 3 folds into number 2.

1. Continued assessment of needs and opportunities (expand the CBRE potential study)
2. **Develop straw proposal for expansion of the Community Resilience Battery Storage Pilot focused on community resilience hubs**
3. Explore opportunities to leverage public funding to advance CBRE opportunities
4. Build tools and awareness to assist communities and stakeholders in connecting to CBRE processes, initiatives, and programs as they develop

## Straw Proposal Recommendations

1. Pursue opportunities to elevate the battery storage component of planned and existing projects to provide grid-enabled system-wide benefits and learning outcomes



Advancing projects with grid-enabled storage “across the finish line” as soon as possible so takeaways & learnings can be shared with other communities

2. Support additional communities to better understand costs and technical requirements of increased resilience by providing feasibility studies to critical facilities



Providing a mechanism of support for communities that have yet to get started on CBRE development

3. Establish a mechanism to provide matching funds for communities seeking external grant awards for resilience at critical facilities



Assisting communities as they take advantage of existing funding opportunities

4. Consider direct grant funding after the first annual Pilot Program review (resilience and locational benefit selection criteria yet to be finalized)

The Straw Proposal recommendations offer systemwide or grid-wide benefits. Number one works with the managers of projects that are already up and running. Number two offers a way to reach out to communities interested in dipping their toe in the water. Number three provides an opportunity for Pacific Power to match funds for communities seeking external grant awards for resilience at critical facilities. The goal today is to share Pacific Power’s thinking, current state, and where Pacific Power wants to advance further.

Pacific Power has a recommended CBRE Pilot Program Design. The intended pilot outcomes are to achieve articulated learning goals outlined in the original Grant Pilot, to support communities as they pursue grant funding opportunities for CBRE projects, offer alignment with other efforts underway to advance community resilience projects, and focus on grid-connected storage for demand response/grid support and case study learnings. There is approximately \$1 million still available from the current grant pilot. There are potential additional requests of \$1-\$2 million for project advancement, system additions, upgrades, grant matching, and possible future direct awards.

There is a continual request for feedback. Please submit comments to [OregonCEP@pacificopr.com](mailto:OregonCEP@pacificopr.com).

## Discussion Topics

1. Are there any initial responses to this conceptual framework?
2. Guardrails will be reconsidered for the provision of feasibility studies and grant-match funding. Recognizing the time-sensitive nature of many of these requests, how might we consider these strategies?
  - Prioritized community need, using localized resilience metrics
  - Relative grid benefits of the project
  - Unique aspects of the project
  - “First come, first served”
  - Others?

Please submit comments to: [OregonCEP@PacifiCorp.com](mailto:OregonCEP@PacifiCorp.com)

The next opportunity for updates will be the October CEP Engagement Meeting (planned for 10/27)

### ***Comments and Questions:***

- Pacific Power raised a hand to ask if it is possible to send out an interactive poll for folks who were unable to make this meeting or had to drop out before this section?
  - Pacific Power responded that that this is a great suggestion and will work on producing this interactive poll.

### Next Steps

Pacific Power’s Christina Medina closed the meeting by sharing proposed upcoming Clean Energy Series topics and meetings.

## 2023 Clean Energy Tribal Nations Engagement Series Topics and Meetings

AUG	SEPT	NOV	JAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Presenter Cluster Group: Intro to Community Based Renewable Energy Pilot + Engagement topics and updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oregon Department of Energy</li> <li>• Elevated Engagement: Topics</li> <li>• Community Based Renewable Energy Pilot Update</li> <li>• Small Scale Renewable Resource Procurement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean Energy Plan Update</li> <li>• Planning 2024</li> <li>• 2023 in Review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Benefits + Impacts Metrics</li> <li>• Transportation Electrification</li> </ul>

In addition to the Clean Energy Tribal Nations Engagement Series Topics, Pacific Power wanted to ensure that the November engagement date works for folks. Additionally, provided a reminder that this engagement will be taking a break in December and will reconvene in January to kick off the new year.

The meeting notes and other follow-up items will be shared. Upcoming events are below.



### Oregon Tribal Nations Engagement Series

November 17<sup>th</sup> (Online) 11am-1pm

[Tribal Nations Zoom Registration](#)

Link: <https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/tribal-relations.html>

### PacifiCorp Stakeholder Engagement

October 19<sup>th</sup> (Hybrid) 1pm-4pm

Location: Lloyd Center Tower - 825 NE

Multnomah

Portland, OR 97232 (20th Floor)

[CBIAG Zoom Registration](#)

October 27<sup>th</sup> (Online) 1pm-4pm

[CEP Zoom Registration](#)

For more information, please visit the [Oregon Clean Energy Plan Updated Engagement Strategy](#)

Please email any comments or questions to [TribalRelations@PacifiCorp.com](mailto:TribalRelations@PacifiCorp.com)