



Community Based Renewable Energy Special Session

March 2025 Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 1:30 -3:00 pm Pacific Time

These notes were synthesized and summarized by E Source, PacifiCorp's meeting facilitation partner.

Executive Summary

There were 42 people in attendance, including members of the public and PacifiCorp representatives, at the Special Session of Community Based Renewable Energy meeting. The virtual meeting, which was hosted via the Zoom platform, aims to provide an integrated lens on clean energy planning with expanded learning opportunities to foster a deeper understanding of Community Based Renewable Energy programs and outreach while gathering public input.

To maximize accessibility, the meeting was recorded for those who could not attend.

The following is a summary of the content and feedback received during the 90-minute public meeting.

Opening

E Source facilitator, Morgan Westberry, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and thanking the public for continued participation. Public perspectives are essential to achieving meaningful impacts on communities. Ms. Westberry reviewed meeting experience items and introduced the presenter, Ryan Harvey, Customer Innovations Program Manager.

Community-Based Renewable Energy Overview

Ryan Harvey, Customer Innovations Program Manager, defined CBREs in Oregon as energy systems that interconnect to a utility distribution or transmission asset and that may be combined with microgrids, storage systems, demand response measures, or energy-related infrastructure that promotes climate resiliency and directly benefit particular communities either through community-benefit agreements or that are directly owned by a local government, nonprofit entity, or federally recognized Indian Tribe or increase resiliency or community stability, local jobs, economic developments, or direct energy cost savings to families and small businesses. CBREs were born out of the same legislation as clean energy plans, which called for utilities to largely decarbonize the Oregon grid by 2040. This legislation also directed the Oregon Department of Energy to create a CBRE project grant program and generate a study on CBRE projects, which was published in 2022.

It is important to note that while CBREs are similar to small scale renewable (SSR) projects, there are differences. For example, a small-scale renewable can include large solar array or wind farms on acres of land with a contract selling power to the utility. In contrast, CBRE projects are centered around community benefits in cooperation with organizations such as the Energy Trust of Oregon. It is more likely for small-scale renewable projects to get a label of CBRE than a CBRE project to get a label of small-scale renewable. Currently, Pacific Power's CBRE efforts are specifically focused on resilience hubs that communities are seeking out to minimize the effects of outages.

Pacific Power has several CBRE pathways, including:

- Community Solar
 - The goal of the Oregon Community Solar Program is to expand access to solar energy for customers as an alternative to traditional solar rooftop systems, including but not limited to renters, people who live in multifamily buildings, low-income customers, and small businesses in rented or leased space. Participants purchase energy from a community solar project—such as a large solar system on a business, school or church—and receive a credit on their monthly utility bill for the electricity from their portion of the project.
- Irrigation Canal Hydropower Projects
- [Blue Sky Renewable Energy Grant Program](#)
 - Covers the capital costs to install qualifying, new renewable energy and battery storage systems for non-residential sites
 - Eligible renewable energy technologies: wind, solar PV, geothermal, low-impact hydro, pipeline or irrigation canal hydropower, wave energy or tidal action, and low-emissions biomass
 - Project requirements:
 - New or a new addition to existing project using new equipment
 - Grid-connected following interconnection guidelines as established by Pacific Power
 - Locally owned
 - Capacity less than 10 MW
 - Completed within one year of notice of award
 - Equipped with electronic monitoring system to collect inverter energy production data for a period of at least five years
 - Applicants are expected to enroll as a Blue-Sky business partner as of the date the funding award agreement is signed
 - Project examples:
 - Perry Technical Institute, 15.68 kW solar array
 - Whitman College, 21 kW solar project
 - Wellness House of Yakima, 38.4 kW solar project
 - Greenway Foundation Visitor's Center, 15.33 kW solar array
- Community Resilience Hubs
 - Focuses on solar and storage for critical emergency facilities identified by communities to increase resilience during outage events
 - Solar + battery storage system
 - [Supports community services](#)
 - Police stations; fire stations; emergency response providers as defined in D.19 05 042;

- Emergency operations centers; 911 call centers, also referred to as Public Safety Answering Points;
- Medical facilities including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, blood banks, health care facilities, dialysis centers and hospice facilities;
- Public and private gas, electric, water, wastewater or flood control facilities;
- Jails and prisons;
- Locations designated by the IOUs to provide assistance during PSPS events; cooling centers designated by state or local governments;
- Homeless shelters supported by federal, state, or local governments;
- Grocery stores, corner stores, markets and supermarkets that have average annual gross receipts of \$15 million or less as calculated at a single location, over the last three tax years;
- Independent living centers;
- Food banks

Meeting Discussion:

- Angela Crowley-Koch asked if resilience hubs are similar to microgrids as the description sounds the same.
 - Mr. Harvey explained that resilience hubs can be thought of as in between micro grids and community micro grids. An example of a resilience hub would be a community center behind a single meter. The biggest difference is that a resilience hub would be a single building powered by a single meter as opposed to an entire campus of buildings.
 - Ms. Crowley-Koch questioned why Pacific Power would limit projects to a single meter? The perfect resilience hub would be a cluster of buildings that are adjacent to one another.
 - Mr. Harvey explained that the community has not expressed interest in these larger projects yet over the course of the application windows. Thus far, about 39 projects have received planning or construction funding for modest projects. This could be a result of the funding cap as well, which may be unable to accommodate larger projects from start to finish.
- Pat Delaquil suggested the utility consider community sized microgrids to improve customer service and mitigate connectivity issues.
 - Mr. Harvey would like to see the utility community sized microgrid projects in the future, currently the CBRE-RH is a pilot program which will continue to evolve with experience
- Angela Crowley-Koch asked how much progress has PacifiCorp made in meeting CBRE and SSR goals? It would be easier to meet those goals more quickly through big, multi-meter projects.
 - Mr. Harvey shared that there is some overlap between the two and other workgroups within the Company are working to move the goals forward. However, there are no articulated goals set for CBRE acquisition. CBRE projects advance solely based on community interest, not the utilities goals.
- Ms. Crowley-Koch questioned the annual cap on grocery stores and markets.
 - Mr. Harvey explained that the cap is in place because the target audience for these resilience hubs are small community players, not large corporations.

- Ms. Crowley-Koch suggested that if a large grocery store is the community's only option, it should not be excluded but instead evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Harvey detailed a small-scale community renewable project [study](#) by the Oregon Department of Energy which calls out the goals, barriers, and benefits of CBRE projects.

Goals	Barriers	Benefits
Offers opportunities to address energy inequities	Lack of local resources in community	Reduced solar energy costs
Encourage the development of community-based renewable energy projects	Local involvement	Reduced customer energy costs through net-metered systems
Economic development	Financing	Job creation
Local energy resilience	Planning, development, maintenance	Greenhouse gas reduction
Support clean energy targets in Oregon	Little to no experience with projects that involve multiple ownership parties or atypical organizations	Support/provide power to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooling/warming centers • Critical infrastructure • Vehicle chargers

Pacific Power's CBRE-RH Pilot Program

Mr. Harvey detailed the three components that make up the CBRE-RH pilot.

1. **TECHNICAL ASSESSMENTS:** Continued provision of feasibility studies (begun in 2020) to communities interested in better understanding the costs and requirements of solar and battery energy storage systems at critical community facilities
 - Provide a pathway of support for communities that have yet to begin formal CBRE project development
 - Level 1 feasibility study: high level, such as Google mapping
 - Level 2: inclusive, CREP grant, PSF grant funding opportunities
 - Progress so far: 26 meetings held with leaders of communities and project managers interested in advancing community resilience
2. **ONGOING PROJECT SUPPORT:** Leverage expertise and provide supplemental funding to support the planning for, and installation of, the battery storage component of planned and existing resilience projects to provide grid-enabled system-wide benefits and learning outcomes
 - Aid in the interconnection of funded, in-flight resilience projects with grid-enabled storage to capture takeaways & learnings with:
 - 2a) Design Review

2b) Incentive Offering

2c) Ongoing Data Collection

- Progress so far: Correspondence with 17 of 19 ODOE C-REP construction grant awardees, correspondence with 9 of 20 ODOE C-REP planning grant awardees

3. **GRANT MATCHING:** A mechanism to provide matching funds for communities seeking external grant awards for resilience projects at critical facilities

- Assist communities as they take advantage of existing outside funding opportunities
- Progress so far: 2 letters of commitment have been provided to the Coquille Tribe for available IJJA Formula Grant funding

Please note that while Pacific Power has opted to offer ongoing project support instead of initial application support, there are organizations that can assist with the application process such as Energy Trust of Oregon.

Currently, there are not any firm goals for the CBRE-RH pilot program but the team is hoping for 10-15 Level 1 feasibility assessment, 3-6 Level 2 feasibility assessments, a cohort of 6-10 CBRE-RH projects, and a final report inclusive of pilot learnings and outcomes including: various use cases and associated benefits, life-cycle costs, consideration of future ownership models, best practices for implementation/scheduling of DERs, and barriers, solutions, and other key learnings.

The CBRE-RH pilot program also provides an opportunity to enroll customers into the Wattsmart Battery demand response program, which would allow customers to receive financial incentives for enrolling their battery as Pacific Power autonomously dispatches the fleet of batteries to address grid need and irregularities. While the program would be new to Oregon, the company has successfully implemented Wattsmart in other states since 2019. Wattsmart Battery Program has both initial enrollment and annual incentives.

- Enrollment incentive:
 - \$150 per kW upfront during commitment period (4 years)
 - Early program termination will require prorated repayment of upfront incentive
- Annual incentive:
 - \$15 per kW during commitment period years 2 – 4
 - \$50 per kW after year 4

Meeting Discussion:

- Ms. Crowley-Koch asked for an explanation on what low, medium, and high scenarios mean as related to resilience?
 - Mr. Harvey explained that definitions can vary based on the type of facility, but typically low resilience refers to a system that has 1-2 days of energy independence based on solar and battery storage, medium resilience is about of week, and high is about 2 weeks.
- Ms. Crowley-Koch asked if there has been any outreach to PacifiCorp CBIAG members?
 - Mr. Harvey shared that this content has been shared with the CBIAG multiple times about the CBRE pilot program and will present it before the group again next week.

The CBIAG meetings are open to the public so please extend the invitation to any interested parties.

- Ms. Crowley-Koch asked if PacifiCorp is giving support to match federal dollars? Is there a limit or cap on that?
 - Mr. Harvey reiterated that the Company is matching federal dollars and while there is no specific cap, the approved spend is up to \$4M for the entire pilot including the cost of the three components noted earlier.

CBREs in the Clean Energy Plan

Mr. Harvey shared a preview of CBREs in the upcoming Clean Energy Plan (CEP) noting that the previous information shared today will also support the CEP as context for the CBRE. The team has identified potential CBRE projects coming online through the end of the decade which are displayed on the left side of the table below while the right side of the table represents project capacity.

Upcoming Projects	Project Capacity
17 communities with some sort of climate/energy/resilience plan	No newly identified CBRE projects as a result of these plans
ETO-identified projects	~22MW
Community Solar Program	~65MW
Blue Sky Grant awards	~4MW
Utility distribution system planning	.5-1MW
CBRE-RH Pilot project support	~3MW
ODOE C-REP Grant Program	~14MW

Meeting Discussion:

- Ms. Crowley-Koch questioned how the upcoming projects align with CBRE requirements?
 - Mr. Harvey explained that there is no set requirements for CBRE projects, only small-scale renewables.

Next Steps

Proposed CBRE Action Plan Items:

- Possible Blue-Sky Grant “Go-Back” strategy
- “Stacking” of additional means of project support
- Continued partnership/collaboration with the Energy Trust of Oregon

CBRE-RH Pilot:

- Ongoing outreach to communities and support for potential as well as developing projects

Clean Energy Plan Engagement Series #2

When: May 28, 2025

Time: 9:00am – 12:00 pm PST

Online: <https://esource.zoom.us/meeting/register/hVCKPqpGTZKO2FHho3R2Aw>

Clean Energy Plan Engagement Series #3

When: August 20, 2025

Time: 9:00am – 12:00 pm PST

Online: <https://esource.zoom.us/meeting/register/IB8B2LQOTI2shz4BupgeTQ>

Community Benefits and Impacts Advisory Group Meeting

When: March 20, 2025,

Time: 1:00-4:00 pm PST

Online: <https://esource.zoom.us/j/84006919819?pwd=8ld9T3biy02qrParQVI6b33gV5WdKd.1>

Tribal Nations Community Benefits and Impacts Advisory Group Meeting

When: March 28, 2025

Time: 9:00-11:00 am PST

Online: <https://esource.zoom.us/j/88352912102?pwd=VSZldfnxV9mMh8RvLTRh3RMReAN4ov.1>