

Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting Summary

December 2, 2021, 3:00 - 5:00 PM



Attendees: Anthony Martin, Audrey O’Brien, Fawn Bergen, Hannah Cruz, Jeff Pazdalski, Kieren Sikdar, Mac Martin, Mia Hocking, Nina Carlson, Randy Olsen, Simon Christensen, Tasha Johnson, Tina Chang, Tony Varela, Troy Gagliano, Vinod Singh, Tina Bailey, Allison Puch Cahuich

Absent: Justin Green, Laura Trunk, Makena Krause, Matthew Barnett, Steve Callaway, Tom Arnold

Guests: Tess Jordan, Debby Garman

Project Team: Peter Brandom, Dacia Bakkum, Jason Robertson

Welcome + Council Updates

Councilor Martin welcomed everyone and led the group in a round of introductions and an icebreaker. He noted a few recent City updates, including:

- October 5 Council work session to update City Council on their priorities
- The City’s purchase of land in North Hillsboro
- Approval of zoning for the Nueva Esperanza affordable housing development
- Retention of current City Council districting likely until after the next Council election, with community outreach planned for next year

Councilor Martin also reiterated the importance of environmental stewardship in City decision-making processes and encouraged ESC members and all to reach out to him and Council with opportunities or questions.

Member Spotlight: Portland General Electric (PGE)

Tess Jordan and Troy Gagliano with PGE provided an update on Oregon House Bill 2021 (HB 2021) and a new proposed community-wide clean energy program. HB2021 requires retail electricity providers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity sold to Oregon consumers to 80 percent below baseline emissions levels by 2030, 90 percent below baseline emissions levels by 2035 and 100 percent below baseline emissions levels by 2040.

Highlights of the proposed program include:

- Available to residential and small business customers
- If enacted by local government, customers are automatically enrolled in the program and given an opportunity to opt out
- Allows local governments to establish resource criteria that includes non-energy benefits like resiliency, water savings, species protection, or local economic development
- Protects low-income customers in participating communities
- Minimizes cost shifts to non-participating customers and communities – the increase is expected to be less than the 7% Green Future Choice adds to rates
- Participation agreements are unique to each local government

- Preliminary opinion testing has been conducted through customer surveys and underrepresented population focus groups

The program is a 'bridge' for customers to purchase renewable electricity before more actual renewables are built and available to deliver power directly to customers. It will be designed to be cost-comparable to the existing renewable energy credit (REC) products at <7% above the cost of electricity. It will be an 'unbundled' rather than 'bundles' REC product, meaning the power purchased comes directly from renewable energy facilities built for the program.

Process per HB2021

- Collaboration: Utility and local government collaborate on program design in line with climate action goals
- Community Outreach: Local government outreach to community with support from the utility if desired
- Policy: Local government Council or Commission votes to adopt the program per local policy
- OPUC Filing: Utility makes the filing at the Oregon Public Utility Commission in alignment with the local policy
- Implementation: Dependent upon each municipality's interest and ability
- Ultimate goal: bring new renewable energy sources to the existing grid vs purchasing credits in a far-away project

Indicator Review

Peter Brandom continued walking committee members through the existing and proposed new indicators (half of the indicators were previously reviewed with the group during the October ESC meeting). Initially, nine new indicators were proposed but after further consideration of the amount of time and level of effort to manage the data collection and tracking for 29 total indicators, a decision was made to eliminate a few of the indicators and to have no more than 25. Please note, there were no comments or discussion for indicators 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, or 28. The Committee approved removal of indicators 3 (from last meeting), 15, 28 and 29. All other indicators were approved with minor adjustments or requests and considerations as noted below.

Indicator 14: # of homes with home energy scores (HES)

- Nina – Consider tracking the number of homeowners who make energy efficiency upgrades due to energy score result.
- Anthony – If a home has multiple scores (for example if upgrades were made and a new score is produced) would both be counted towards the number of HES completed?
- Tina B. – Should be able to track HES in GIS files by tax lot.

Indicator 17: # of zero tailpipe emission vehicles per capita

- Mac – What is the value of this data? Most EVs are expensive and are mostly purchased by those who are more affluent. Do not like this indicator.
- Tasha and Hannah – Are there efforts to get EV chargers in multifamily or low-income housing?

- Peter – The City partnered with PGE on the Electric Avenue located at the Sunset Esplanade shopping center and have installed public chargers at City facilities.
- Troy – There may be federal infrastructure dollars available soon.

Indicator 19: Community greenhouse gas emissions

- Peter – State is shooting for 80% reduction by 2030, so we can align our target with that or choose a different option. We already have most of the data needed to complete a community greenhouse gas inventory.
- Nina – Disaggregate data so we know where to focus our efforts and make targeted actions.
- Anthony – 40% of emissions come from transportation.
- Mia – HSD has been focused on using less to save money but would like to get more involved in carbon tracking.
- Tasha – Replacing cars before their end of life is not the best environmental approach. Take consequences to action and “steps” into consideration.
- Audrey – consider looking at similar cities and their approaches for comparison.

Indicator 20: # of miles of missing bike lanes on arterial and collector streets

- Tasha – what is the definition of ‘bike lane?’ A: Dedicated lanes or cycletracks.

Indicator 22: % of housing units located within ¼-mile of frequent public transit line

- Hannah – Is the focus on all housing or low-income housing? Would you consider focusing (or creating a sub focus) on low-income housing? Should probably track “all” housing and “affordable housing” separately.
- Tina B. – Low-income housing needs to be accessible to employment; transit needs to be easy, convenient, time efficient to shift people away from cars. Consider tracking something like “% of employment centers located near transit stations.”
- Jason – Olympia, Washington switched to a zero-fare model for public transit to increase ridership.

Indicator 25: Total solid waste collected by franchised waste collectors

- Nina – Create a metric to track food waste used to create renewable natural gas. Consider adding new target when recycling modernization happens.

Indicator 27: Vitality of reuse and repair activities

- Tasha – Promote the Library of Things.
- Jason – The Hillsboro Library will be providing a presentation to the Oversight Committee on February 24 if ESC members would like to attend. Dacia will forward the meeting invitation.

Indicator 29: Actions that decrease material consumption and increase reuse or switch to lower impact materials

- Tasha – Measure consumption from coffee shops, restaurants, etc. that use reusable cups and containers.

Member Announcements/Public Comment

- Portland General Electric is helping the Hillsboro School District get an electric school bus.
- Northwest Natural Gas will have almost 3% renewable natural gas in the pipelines by the end of the year and have contracts for up to 10% in the works.
- Energy Trust of Oregon board seeking 2 board members, including someone with industrial and manufacturing experience. If you would be willing to share with your network - especially given the manufacturing base in Hillsboro - we would greatly appreciate it. Applications accepted until Dec. 10. More information is here <https://www.energytrust.org/about/leadership/>. And I'm happy to answer questions, too, hannah.cruz@energytrust.org.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 2021, 3-5pm