



Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series with Tribal Nations Public Notes

Friday, March 17, 2023, 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.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 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 first meeting focused on getting to know each other, gather feedback on how to structure the engagement series based on participant preferences, and follow up on immediate interest expressed in transportation electrification grants and support.

This two-hour meeting occurred online, although PacifiCorp inquired about the preference for American Sign Language support, the openness to in-person meetings, and opportunity to adjust meeting cadence to shorter duration and increased frequency per the group's direction.

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

Exploring Engagement

Clean Energy Plan

Break

Transportation Electrification

Pathfinding

Next Steps

Participants

Tribal Nation	
Margarite Becenti	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Mason Murphy	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Bruce Zimmerman	Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation
Lisa Stubke	Indigenous Resilience
Ellsworth Lang	Klamath Tribes (Klamath-Modoc-Yahooskin)
Dave Tovey	Nixyaawii Community Financial Services
JR Wegehaupt	Oregon Native American Chamber
Cathy Ehli	Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises
Mike Lofting	Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises

PacifiCorp	
Kimberly Alejandro	Energy Equity Analyst
Lee Elder	Load Forecasting Manager
Christina Medina	Stakeholder Policy & Engagement Manager
Amy Kort	Sr Communications Representative
Stephanie Meeks	Regulatory Manager
Kate Hawley	Senior Electric Vehicle Product Manager
John Rush	CBRE Consultant
Tag Galvin-Darnieder	E Source
Lisa Markus	E Source
Morgan Westberry	E Source

Meeting Notes

Introductions

- **Christina Medina (PacifiCorp, Stakeholder Policy & Engagement Manager)** – Role is as an interpreter/connector, working to connect different systems and break down rigidity. Christina has a Mesoamerican family lineage and has learned to adapt family practices with daily life, including continual work to connect and learn.
- **Mason Murphy (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Energy and Environmental Sciences Manager)** – Works to identify and resolve environmental threats to food sources and scientific excellence.
- **Mike Lofting (Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises, Financial Controller)** – Manages the tribe's interests in power, as well as the tribe's ownership of the generating facility that was placed 1981.

- **Cathy Ehli (Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises, General Manager)** – Furthers the electric mission for the tribes, which is important to the tribe, but also efforts for renewable development.
- **Margarite Becenti (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Director of Office of Information Technology)**
- **Bruce Zimmerman (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Tax Administrator)** – *Microphone wasn't working.*
- **Dave Tovey (Nixyaawii, Executive Director of Financial Services)**
- **Kimberly Alejandro (PacifiCorp, Energy Equity Analyst)** – Grew up on the Yakima Reservation, is the middle child and the oldest daughter of a family who farms the land. Kimberly has done work for Community Action Agency in Yakima and has a very strong ties to the environment, working in this space has been meaningful.
- **J.R. Wegehaupt (Oregon Native American Chamber, Green Energy Project Specialist)** – Enrolled members – Has a strong interest in the green energy space and excited to learn about this group and efforts.
- **Lisa Markus (E Source, Managing Director)** – Facilitator for stakeholder engagement, with deep expertise in delivering equity clean energy futures, including community resiliency through food/energy security, education, economic empowerment, health, energy and resiliency hubs.
- **Stephanie Meeks (PacifiCorp, Regulatory Manager)** – Works on collaboration and regulatory efforts to ensure compliance. Stephanie comes from New Mexico and has a strong passion for the environment.
- **Amy Kort (PacifiCorp, Sr. Communications Representative)** – Works on the communication team with the clean energy plan, community engagement and energy efficiency. New to PNW from Iowa, farmer's daughter, which lead to her interest in this space.
- **Lee Elder (PacifiCorp, Load Forecasting Manager)** – Helping facilitate measuring the outcomes in efforts PAC participates in.
- **Morgan Westberry (E Source, Senior Consultant)** – Works on the facilitation team, comes with a background in water rights and energy policy.
- **Tag Galvin-Darnieder (E Source, Technical Support)** – Technical support to stakeholder engagement and excited to be part of the process.

Pacific Power Overview

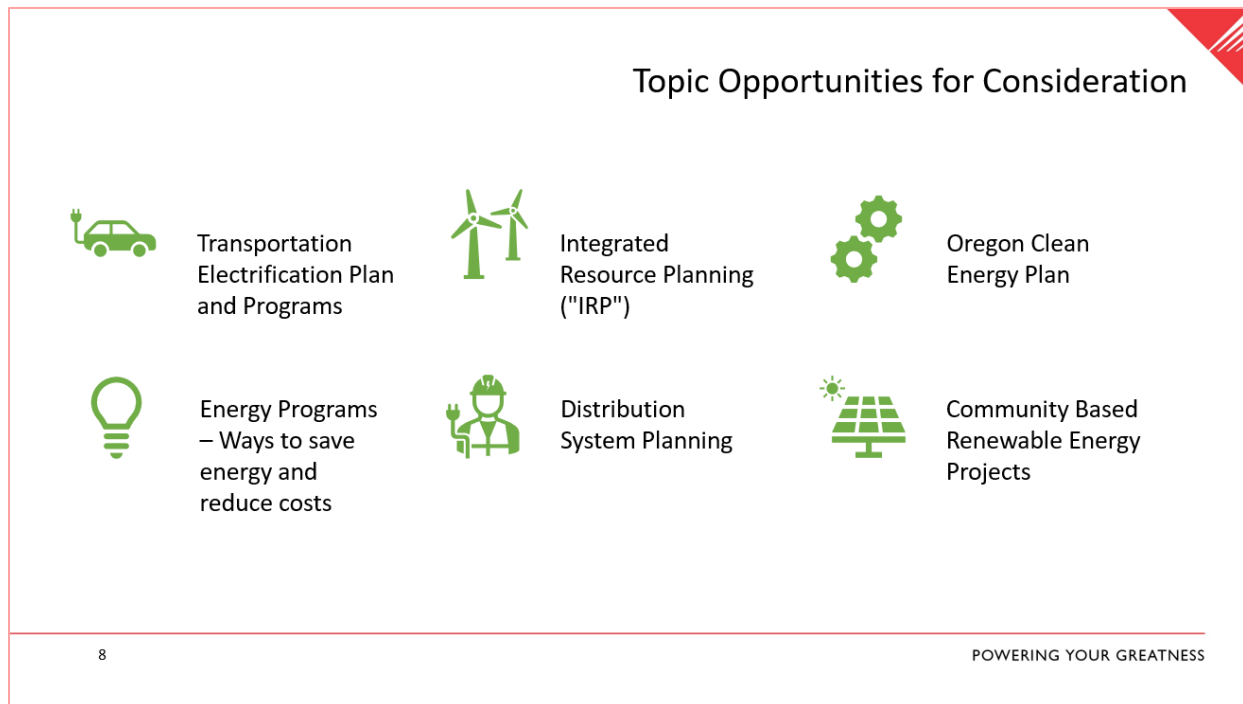
PacifiCorp's Christina Medina provided an overview of Pacific Power.

Pacific Power provides services in six states. In Oregon, Pacific Power is the largest rural electric services provider and serves two of Oregon's largest metropolitan areas: Medford and portions of Portland.

Part of today's goal is transforming a rigid system and adapting to include the voices and better serve the communities. Pacific Power, specifically, wants to ensure to amplify the voices of the Tribal Nations and not limit to a geographic area (i.e., tribal members reside everywhere), and wants to be mindful to these spaces to create openness and safety in sharing feedback, including on programs and policies.

Exploring Engagement

PacifiCorp's Christina Medina touched on the complexity of the work and shared several opportunities that are currently underway that Tribal Nations are encouraged to provide input on. These spaces are:



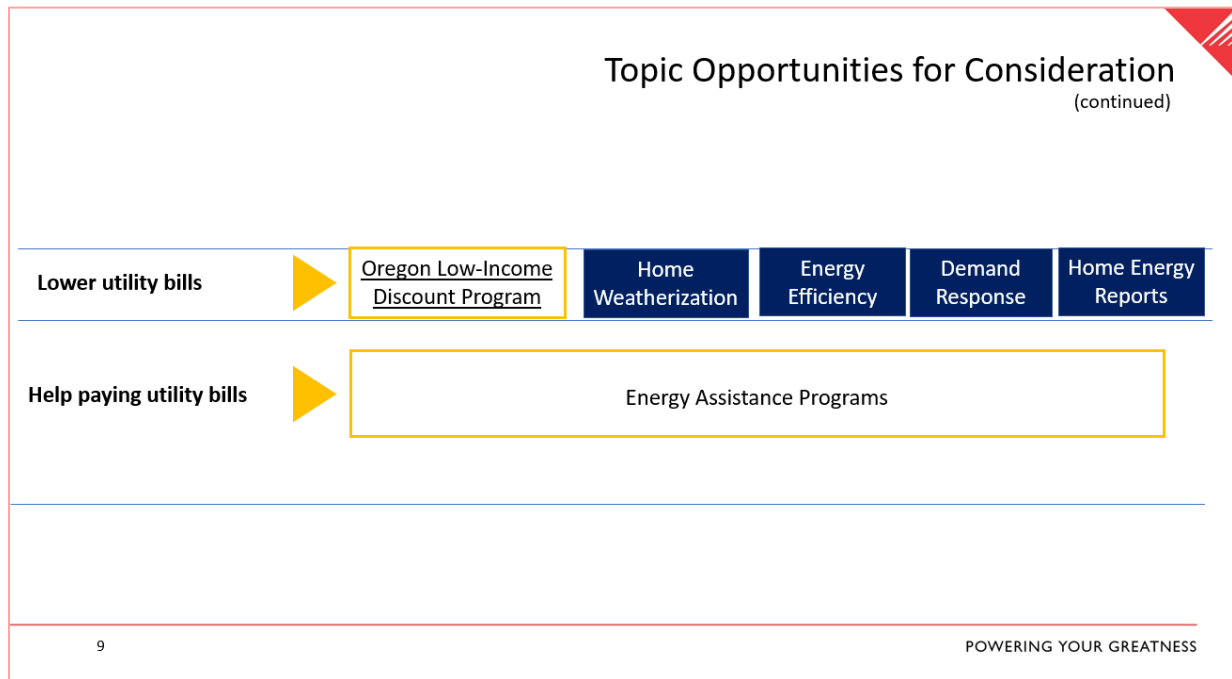
- **Transportation Electrification Plan:** Electrifying the transportation sector. Bringing complex systems to the surface and, with feedback received, to adapt and shift programs to ensure they are useful to the communities.
- **Energy Trust of Oregon:** Introduction and collaboration to maximize community benefits. Energy burden is real and using relationships and feedback to leverage.
- **Integrated Resource Planning:** Pacific Power serves six states, adhering to the governance, like tribal nations, in each respective state. The process is complex, but we are excited to share the topics and SMEs in future meetings.
- **Distribution System Planning:** Taking meaningful data on community profiles (economic, last mile) and overlaying that information to be more targeted on where to make investments. This is one of the greater equity efforts being undertaken, and one of the spaces we want to take feedback on.
- **Clean Energy Plan (CEP):** Future for the ones that we love, mindful decision making to mitigate potential harm to the environment and communities.
 - HB 2021 – rooted in the voices in community, key requirements in developing CEP are to include and incorporate the voice of the community. This gives the opportunity to have everybody at the table to create understanding on these topics and. As a utility, PacifiCorp is trying to work on communicating in an effective way.
- **Community Based Renewable Energy Projects:** An important portion of migrating to a clean energy future. PacifiCorp is interested in how to partner in these spaces.

Discussion:

- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises – Spoke on how energy is being served currently, one substation served from PPL and has room for renewable and battery type projects. Interest in offsetting tribal members usage with community based renewable energy projects to lessen costs on the tribal members. The tribal administrator does not have a position capable of coordinating this but wants to work to overcome it. There is land that is close to the Substation that could house that type of project.
 - PacifiCorp’s Christina Medina responded – We have heard that Energy sovereignty is a large goal for Tribes. Our objective is to build relationships to support inclusive and equitable adaptation. Grant opportunities exist, specifically for this type of project, and some do not require that investment be made on the reservation land. PacifiCorp hopes to become a trusted partner in navigating these processes.

Topics for Opportunities for Consideration – Programs

PacifiCorp’s Christina Medina provided an overview of the current programs.



Discussion:

- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises – How with these new opportunities are you partnering with the state, and will they be involved with these efforts?
 - PacifiCorp’s Christina Medina Responded: Yes, partnerships exist on every level. Still working on some of it, but the state sets the regulatory parameters and rules that PacifiCorp must adhere to. PacifiCorp is also cultivating relationships with other statewide programs (e.g., Oregon Energy Trust) and community-based programs. There are many tiers of support mechanisms that exist, but PacifiCorp is looking for additional mechanisms (e.g., how can we support workforce development to support the transition to clean energy).

PacifiCorp's Christina Medina continued that PacifiCorp wants to be more intentional on bringing in the Tribal nations in these spaces. More room for creation in these complex spaces and if approached collaboratively. Some of the areas that are open to the public, and Tribal Nations are always invited to participated in:

- CBIAG – rooted in equity. Pacific Power did outreach to tribal nations early on and heard that it is not transferable to tribal nations, which lead to the creation of this group.
- IRP – Most complex of the initiative because of the interconnected parts. There is more room to grow in these spaces because of the complexity.

Oregon's Clean Energy Future

How do you envision a clean energy future?

- Oregon Native American Chamber – Current work includes working with contractors to retrofit homes to consume less energy. By 2050, 80% of the homes that are inhabited will have been built prior to 2024. This provides a tremendous opportunity to shift to a sustainable source (beyond petroleum).
- Dave Tovey – Clean energy in general, currently what is considered “clean” is still harmful to the environment (hydro). The tribes are trying to find ways to be more independent with food security, clean energy, and other services that were impacted with COVID. The goal is to make sure to help community members and homeowners.
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Echo's previous comments. Clean energy for the environment on the reservation is hugely important. Leaving nature as it is and protecting water. Other goals would be to lower energy bills and do more in that space.
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises – Bringing clean energy opportunities to homeowners/end users equitably – especially tribal. The goal is to be the first zero carbon footprint reservation, so is working to advance those goals.
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Notes that the clean energy future needs to be appropriately sited to ensure the community is receiving benefits and the tradeoffs are in alignment with community values.
- PacifiCorp's Christina Medina shared an experience with first nation students in Canada, including mentioning a thesis one student is working on. The thesis uses the 7 practices and overlays sciences, moving from consultation to consent. The methodology would test some of these decisions, so it honors the people and environment being impacted.

PacifiCorp's Christina Medina provided background on HB 2021, which offers a framework on the path to the clean energy future. Input from the OPUC was received to pursue that path in a way that incorporates equity.

PacifiCorp's Stephanie Meeks furthered that planning for a clean energy future was already in progress at PacifiCorp. But with HB 2021, this process was augmented by adding community and tribal engagement to create meaningful plans in a collaborative way.

Clean Energy Plan Engagement

PacifiCorp's Christina Medina shared elements of Clean Energy Plan engagement, highlighted below.

Clean Energy Plan Engagement

Diving into the details and intersectionality of clean energy planning with topics including:

- Clean Energy Plan
- Community Based Renewable Energy (CBRE)
- Community Benefits + Impacts Advisory Group (CBIAG)
- Distribution System Planning (DSP)
- Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)
- Resiliency
- Tribal Nations Engagement



Applying the lens of the tribal nations in these is integral, including creating intentionality in these spaces and integrating the voices of our communities. Communities have been generous with input on items, allowing PacifiCorp to incorporate and better measure impacts on these communities.

- IRP, and the elements of that plan, are important to meet GHG reduction targets while supplying consistent power.
- CBRE is a new effort for PacifiCorp but also something the utility should not take the lead on but collaborate with and support others to maximize benefits. It is achievable but must be done together.
- Tribal nations, engagement to unify as organizations and create a platform to offer a lens that is not exhausting.

Transportation Electrification (TE)

PacifiCorp's Kate Hawley introduced herself and explained the TE efforts underway at PacifiCorp.

Transportation Electrification Plan Engagement Topics

Rebates & Grants

Future Program Designs

Federal Funding Partnerships

Feasibility Studies

Educational Initiatives

Transportation Electrification grants and programs can increasingly support the unique needs of Tribal Nations in Oregon.



TE involves all things electric and mobility – not just electric vehicles. As communities transition in this space, PacifiCorp aims to help communities transition into this space and is interested in how collaborate moving forward. Current funding available includes:

- [Rebates and Incentives](#)
- [Grants](#)
- [Technical Assistance](#) – including studies and grant writing support

PacifiCorp would like to further engage Tribal Nations with tribal grants to support the tribes and is looking for input on what that would look like.

Chat Comment:

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises - Is the funding for grant writing also for other programs outside of the Transportation Electrification Plan?

- PacifiCorp Responded: Currently, it must have a TE aspect but could be a solar project with an EV charger tied in. PacifiCorp has explored this in other spaces, which may be more flexible. Help with grant writing is critically important, so ideas are welcome.
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises – Complexity of the grant writing makes it very difficult for the applications to be completed by those who do not have experience in that. Warm Springs has found barriers in securing grants because of this and would be very interested in joining with PPL for a community-based project that would supply the entire load that supplies the Reservation. I am very interested in partnering here.
- PacifiCorp’s Christina Medina Responded: Funding specifically for grants. One requirement is a partnership between the IOU and the tribes. At DOE there is money earmarked for tribes. Understand. PacifiCorp wants to help there and will share what support that exists. **PacifiCorp**

will make grants a large focus at the next meeting and will explore more deeply (one on one if helpful too). If there is already a project in mind, you do not have to wait, but rather reach out to PacifiCorp directly.

PacifiCorp asks the group: With a tribal specific grant, what is the need.

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Speaking on the idea of capacity development, State and federal funds come with so many strings, which is a barrier in moving progress forward. Having flexible funding to ensure capacity is reached is instrumental. Tribes need to have the ability to act like the states and provide those to the community (block grants). Therefore, PacifiCorp should consider making bulk grants to Tribal Nations that they then distribute among communities in their nation.
 - PacifiCorp’s Kate Hawley Responded that this is a great idea and would be helpful to have a passthrough entity.
- Indigenous Resilience – To help tribal nations to build the capacity around these types of projects to better realize the benefits (managing and monitoring to keep progress). Indigenous Resilience has gotten feedback that some tribal nations that have installed the infrastructure but need to sustain this.
 - PacifiCorp reaffirmed the soft costs, and implications thereof.
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Mentions a case study, where the tribe was not receiving credits and discovered because of tracking.

TE Meeting intention

- TE Plan – regulatory in nature. The session that would be in April would dig into site development and the process of starting the project. Hosted by OPUC. Cradle to grave, developing the site to implementing.

Chat Comment:

Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation - The next State-Tribal Economic Cluster meeting is scheduled for April 28 in Salem. Starting at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm PT. The Pacific Power EV Transportation Plan is on the agenda.

- PacifiCorp Responded that this is very helpful to know, and PacifiCorp is excited to participate. This is the intention of creating this space.

Nixyaawii - Also know this year's Northwest Native Economic Summit will be here at Wildhorse on October 3rd- 6th with a specific Energy breakout session.

Pathfinding

PacifiCorp’s Kimberly Alejandro reaffirms sentiment of

How would you like to shape this engagement?

- Klamath Tribes (Klamath Modoc-Yahooskin) – Recognizing privileges that tribal nations have not had after non-tribal peoples came on to the land inhabited. Engagement on why we think the way we do or why we are reprehensive on working with organizations until that trust is built.

- PacifiCorp Responded – Trust building is at the heart of what this group does and opportunities exist so PacifiCorp can hone in. Each tribe is unique and that is worth explaining and having those conversations.

Chat Comment:

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises - Prefer meetings that are not as lengthy, thank you!

Final Thoughts

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Appreciates all the work and excited to see where this goes.
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Thanks to PacifiCorp. I am happy to see several tribes represented and appreciate the tribal specific setting and efforts that have gone into this.
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises – Very informative session. Excited to see what can be done for these communities.
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises – A lot of good suggestions and tips on this session. Preference to shorter and more frequent meetings. This is a great place to start this discussion.
- Nixyaawii – Appreciates the conversations. Some of the work in the national scene (DOE \$20B). Native CFI industry there is a lot of potential, but it is unknown where to go next.
- Indigenous Resilience – Process to understand how communities find value in these and form meaningful promises. There are a lot of broken promises (not in the room), but the need exists to build the trust back. Bandwidth is a precious thing.
- Klamath Tribes (Klamath Modoc-Yahooskin)– Indigenous territories, one thing to stress when FERC licenses a project that is outside of an urban (swan lake hydro project). PacifiCorp doesn't have control, but they do have some weight to throw around. If they are presented in front of a tribe before anybody else that is important. The Klamath Tribe has been opposed; they don't care who the developer is, but they do know who they are paying their power to – PacifiCorp will get the black eye. It is the tribal leadership that needs to work to mend that.

Chat Comment

Indigenous Resilience – An additional note for everyone; there is a Tribal entity forming - Tribal Energy Consortium - to support Tribal Nations bringing energy projects, or that may be thinking about creating or part of a new Tribal utility formation. rogerfragua@gmail.com - (Roger has been a leader in Indian Energy for many decades - Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico)