



Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series for Oregon Tribal Nations

May 2024 Meeting Notes

May 31, 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 am, Pacific Time

These notes were synthesized and summarized by E Source, Pacific Power’s meeting facilitation partner.

Executive Summary

There were 21 individuals in attendance at the Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series for the Oregon Tribal Nations meeting on May 31, 2024. The meeting was hosted in a virtual setting with attendees joining via the ZOOM platform.

The following is a summary of the content and feedback received during the 2-hour public meeting.

AGENDA

Check In & Closing the Loop

Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Updates

Community Benefit Indicators (CBIs) Activity

Wildfire Forums & Engagement

Next Steps

Attendee	Organization
Attendees	
Amber Faist	Northwest Native Chamber
Andrew Croy	Energy Trust of Oregon
Brian Boswell	Umpqua Indian Utility Cooperative
David Hill	
Eli Duncan-Gilmour	Clean Energy Innovator Fellow, Energy Liaison, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Department of Energy

Ellsworth Lang	Klamath Tribes (Klamath-Modoc-Yahooskin)
Judy Farm	Tribal One / Coquille Indian Tribe
Mike Lofting	Warm Springs Power and Enterprise
Patrick Mills	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Energy

Presenters

Christina Medina	Manager, Stakeholder Policy & Engagement, Pacific Power
Hallie Frazee	Wildfire Mitigations Communications Program Manager, Pacific Power
Kimberly Alejandro	Equity Advisory Analyst, Pacific Power
Laura James	Program Manager, Pacific Power
Tracy Moreland	Tribal Liaison Representative, Pacific Power
Jeffrey Daigle	Facilitator, E Source
Morgan Westberry	Facilitator, E Source

Pacific Power Affiliated Attendees

Jennifer Senner	Grant Program Manager, Pacific Power
Lee Elder	Load Forecasting Manager, Pacific Power
Tag Galvin-Darnieder	E Source, Facilitation Team
Urvis Pisal	Business Analyst, Customer Solutions, Pacific Power
Zanya Morgan	E Source, Facilitation Team

Meeting Notes

Opening

Pacific Power's Christina Medina welcomed participants to the May Clean Energy Planning Tribal Nations Engagement. Pacific Power is seeking to offer a space for meaningful dialogue and an opportunity to help offer lens on the work that is happening at the utility, as well as anywhere consultation can help to influence that work. Morgan Westberry, from the E Source facilitation team, then opened the meeting by introducing collaborators and presenters and sharing meeting experience items. The information presented in the meeting will be posted online as a resource. More feedback and questions can also be sent to the engagement team offline.

Closing the Loop

Morgan Westberry recapped the last meeting, including:

- An overview of Oregon rate case basics and updates – including the commission process and the rate adjustment effective January 1, 2025
- Revisiting Community Benefit Indicator (CBI) framework and development as it relates to incorporating tribal perspectives

Check In

E Source's Morgan Westberry facilitated the check in question: *What makes us successful?* Below are a few responses

- These meetings make us successful, getting people in a forum to discuss things in a productive and thorough way
- The definition of success can change based on cultural sensitivities or professional and subjective experiences. Success is about building relationships that stand the test of time, the ability to rely on those relationships and call on those same people over time
- Success is defined by diverse perspectives and experiences; it is being able to uplift voices that may not be present in the room but reflect the community served
- Success is unique to everyone, some tie success to happiness or the feeling of it
- Rest. We cannot be successful without making sure to take care of ourselves, and it is important to prioritize our health and wellbeing if we want to succeed

Community Benefit Indicators (CBIs)

Laura James, Pacific Power Program Manager, reviewed the concept of Community Benefit Indicators (CBIs) with the group. CBIs are a component of the Clean Energy Plan as a part of House Bill 2021, which directed utilities to transition to 100% clean energy by 2040 and achieve equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of the transition. CBIs should reflect the outcomes the utility can influence while metrics are measurable phenomena related to the CBI that can be monitored over time to assess progress toward the CBI. Pacific Power received guidance from the Public Utility Commission of Oregon for CBI development, highlighting two key points utilities should observe.

- Utilities should engage stakeholders to identify appropriate CBIs for their service area
- Utilities should adopt at least one CBI for each of the following topic areas
 - Resilience (System and Community)
 - Health and Community Well-being
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Energy Equity (Distributional and Intergenerational Equity)
 - Economic Impacts

Structuring a long term, large scale public initiative like the Clean Energy Plan follows a 5-step cycle that begins with the following steps:

1. Identifying equity issues – specific needs or problems to be addressed
2. Define CBIs and metrics – the outcome that will indicate the need was met and the metrics to assess progress
3. Take actions – identify and implement actions the utility can take to address needs
4. Monitor trends – Track established metrics and capture lessons learned from actions
5. Refine and improve – use lessons learned and metrics trends to reassess barriers and necessary actions

External input has been an integral portion of crafting CBIs. Pacific Power is developing metrics by staff, with input from OPUC staff, tribal communities, other interested parties through OPUC workshops, and the Community Benefits and Impacts Advisory Group (CBIAG). A key aspect of the CBI framework is that it is intended to be adapted overtime, it is a living document with room for improvement.

Ms. James shared the goal intended for today's meeting as it relates to CBIs, to incorporate tribal perspectives by identifying specific equity issues that the Tribal communities want the Clean Energy Plan

and the CBI framework to address. The goal for the next meeting is to review Pacific Power’s proposed updates to the CBI framework based on issues raised.

The current CBI framework is as follows:

CBI Topic Area	CBIs (Outcomes)	Metrics
1) Resilience	a) Improve Resiliency of Vulnerable Communities During Energy Outages	SAIDI, SAIFI, CAIDI at area level including major events
	b) Reduce Frequency and Duration of Energy Outages	Energy Not Served (ENS) for IRP portfolios are included as an output from portfolio development
2) Community Health & Well-being	a) Decrease Residential Disconnections	Number of residential disconnections by census tract
3) Environment	a) Increase Energy from Non-emitting Resources and Reduce CO2e Emissions	Oregon GHG emissions (from Oregon-allocated resources)
		Oregon allocated renewables
4) Energy Equity	a) Decrease Proportion of Households Experiencing High Energy Burden	Average Energy burden by census tract, for low-income customers, bill assistance participants, Tribal members and for all customers
	b) Increase Efficiency of Housing and Small Businesses in Disadvantaged Areas*	TBD
5) Economic	a) Increase Community-Focused Efforts and Investments	Headcount of DSM program delivery staff & grants
		Public charging stations
		Pre-apprenticeship / educational program participation
	b) Reduce Barriers for Disadvantaged Communities for Company Program Participation*	Energy supply resource development - workforce and spend
		TBD

Advisor Activity | Identifying Key Challenges

Meeting participants will be placed into breakout groups to discuss Tribal member needs, the goal is to provide a list of membership needs in local Tribal communities and identify the challenges members face in trying to meet those needs. Which Tribal member populations face these challenges (families, elders, veterans, etc.)?

Meeting Discussion:

- Northwest Native Chamber clarified if this activity is specifically related to energy and power?
 - o Laura James replied, yes, it is. However, members should not filter themselves excessively to ensure conversation is specifically about energy. Pacific Power is going to group the challenges and groups that members identify in categories to identify ways in which the utility could influence each. If this proves difficult, Pacific Power will bring that information back to the group for further development and engagement.
 - o Jeffrey Daigle agreed that the dialogue can be helpful even if it is not tied directly to the CBI. For example, if internet access is a challenge – although that is not related to energy, it is something Pacific Power must consider when developing community programs. Issues like so can be just as helpful in the dialogue and in gathering documentation as the group moves forward on ways to work more closely with tribal communities.
- Warm Springs Power and Enterprise voiced concern about power bills getting exceedingly high, especially with another rate case update. This affects all communities, but disadvantaged communities are more affected, such as those on the reservations or just outside. Pacific Power should look at all the viable options for decreasing the bills, such as getting BPA tier one power sources to the reservations. Pacific Power knows how many customers are on the reservations

and what the load is, therefore, the company knows what the allocation is and should work with the governing body of those reservations to receive an allocation which could lower the prices on the reservation.

- Laura James shared this is the type of feedback Pacific Power is looking for. In conversations with other customers across the board, the price of bills is not the first issue raised as a concern. However, issues such as increasing bills are exactly what Pacific Power wants to hear.

- Jeffrey Daigle shared feedback from Breakout Group A

Impacted Tribal Members & Groups	Challenges to Meeting Tribal Member Needs
Tribal businesses	Limited capital; limited resources; does not always have the capacity to navigate resources
All Tribal members	High bills; high energy burdens; can encounter some difficulty working with the utility
Businesses located in more remote areas	Remote locations have more outages; may have more extended outages; getting communications into remote areas during extended outages
Tribal services groups	Capacity in the organization; can encounter some difficulties working with the utility

- Christina Medina asked Group A to further elaborate on the comment “difficulty working with the utility.”

- Tribal One added further context as it to Tribal businesses, trying to navigate energy related needs and reach a result of resolution can be overwhelming with the abundance of options as opposed to one clear path.
- Umpqua Indian Utility Cooperative elaborated on the difficulties tribes face in working with the utility, adding specific struggles with system impact studies and the time it takes to do that with a timely turnaround. Business expansion can serve as learning opportunities.

- Morgan Westberry shared feedback from Breakout Group B

Impacted Tribal Members & Groups	Challenges to Meeting Tribal Member Needs
All Tribal members	Energy programs may reduce power but does not reduce costs
Aging populations	Finding contractors to come to reservations is hard, meaning it is not going to work. Could be beneficial to be larger scale/reservation wide
Agricultural/Rural/Travel gaps – added burden of cost	Reservations (or other disadvantaged communities) do not have the opportunities because of locations (i.e., jobs) Programs must be utility led

Members living off reservation	On reservation programs are not equitable to members living off reservations
	Thinking outside the box, implementing a comm solar farm on reservation and net meter (each meter gets equal percentage of solar off shed – benefit to all and tribes incentivized to invest in)

- Warm Springs Power and Enterprise added the human capacity is needed in vulnerable communities to do the work, for example a partnership between the utility and tribal government. There are programs for insulation, but programs like so must be fully funded by the utility with no cost share that goes along with it. Therefore, Tribal members are taking money from other necessities to participate in programs and taking away from funds to pay bills. It is a repeating cycle that makes it impossible to save as members look at the day to day and not the long term.
- Lee Elder thanked members for their feedback and time on this subject as it is critical in helping develop CBIs going forward, especially since some of themes are recurring such as high bills and energy burden. The topic of business is not often discussed in other spaces, but that is especially insightful input. Mr. Elder asked for clarification on how agricultural Tribal groups are impacted.
 - o Warm Springs Power and Enterprise shared the difficulties of being a rural community, as it requires more transportation and travel, because of this EV programs do not work in rural communities. Charging stations are being put in place, but there is a failure to utilize them. Rural customers also have the added burden of additional costs that urban customers do not that are associated with a vehicle such as fuel, insurance, and maintenance. These factors should be considered during equity conversations.
 - o Northwest Native Chamber added the burden of tribal communities is amplified due to food systems effected by climate change and priority levels. It is important to uphold those voices when having these conversations. For example, salmon is an indicator species and tells how healthy people and communities are so even if it is not a direct challenge, agriculture is important to consider. When a utility is tasked with creating equity for shareholders but also tasked with ensuring communities have fair and equitable access to energy, the missions conflict. An example of this is the rate case increase, it is pertinent to respond to the wildfire damages and risk, however, this cannot be done on the backs of the ratepayers. If rates are increased, customers need acknowledgement and promise that resources will be used differently and will not continue seeing rate increases moving forward.
- Lee Elder assured that Pacific Power will take the input received and digest and appear before the group with suggestions around CBIs outcomes and metrics.
 - o Christina Medina informed the group of an internal feedback tracker that is updated after every meeting and used as a measure for accountability and acknowledgement.
- Laura James shared the issue raised by Breakout Group B, program eligibility dependent upon living on a reservation, has come up in community conversations before and is a known issue that Pacific Power is working to address. Ms. James asked if any members have thoughts about how to address that issue and target a program but still ensure if it reaches everyone who should have access to it?
 - o Warm Springs Power and Enterprise added that there are opportunities on reservations that target community solar projects, but the target there is not the community and is

instead individual buildings. The Tribal membership does not see the benefit directly on individual bills. An ideal solution would be a larger power project that serves as the source of power for the entire community. The downside to this would be Tribal members that do not live on the reservation or use Pacific Power, would not see the benefits. A direct subsidy to each Tribal member or head of household would distribute equity appropriately.

- Umpqua Indian Utility Cooperative believes the programs may be missing the mark. If Pacific Power lets the tribes administer a community solar project and gave the tribes an incentive, for example, the output from the project can be net metered equally to the Tribal members. This approach could be applied to a variety of different projects.
- Christina Medina assured the group that notes are being taken and the voices of the members will be uplifted and reflected in the upcoming biennial report, due in November.

Wildfire Mitigation

Pacific Power's Wildfire Mitigation Communications Program Manager, Hallie Frazee, to speak to the group about Wildfire Mitigation. Ms. Frazee provides a high-level overview and refresher of Pacific Power's service territory. Currently, Pacific Power serves 642,000 customers across Oregon via 200 substations with 19,800 miles of distribution and about 3,000 miles of transmission lines across 21,000 square miles. In 2023, bare conductor lines were replaced with insulated overhead lines, 75+ reclosers, relays and circuit breakers, and 7,900 expulsion fuses were installed for enhanced protection and control.

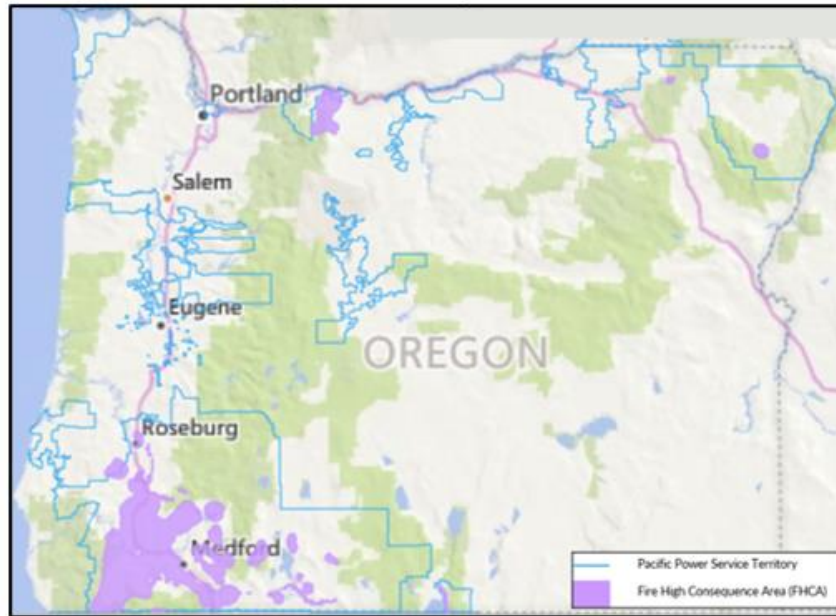
Ms. Frazee shared current system-wide initiatives such as situational awareness, which includes monitoring capabilities and weather forecasting, a weather station network across Oregon, operational practices, such as vegetation management and enhanced safety settings, and community education and outreach.

To improve the program across Oregon and mitigate the risk for wildfire, Pacific Power has:

- Enhanced vegetation management
 - Regular review of best practices
 - Annual inspections in the FHCA
 - Annual clearing of power poles with equipment
 - 1,670-line miles inspected for maintenance
 - 24,000+ equipment poles cleared
- Increased frequency of asset inspections
 - Increased frequency of inspections in the FHCA
 - Accelerated correction of Energy Release Risk
 - Priority A à Correction time: 30 days
 - Priority B à Correction time: 180 days
 - Annual infrared inspection of transmission lines interconnected with FCA
 - Biennial infrared inspection of transmission lines outside of FHCA
- Covered conductor installation
 - Reduces heat and sparking
- Advanced protection and control
- Smarter communication devices

Pacific Power has updated its baseline risk analysis to identify new Fire High Consequence Areas (FHCA). This is a location specific identification methodology to analyze where the company should implement wildfire mitigation programs. The new FHCA encompasses 3,655 overhead line mile and about 21% of Pacific Power's territory in Oregon, these areas will have lines replaced and updated with covered conductor installation.

Oregon Fire High Consequence Area



Ms. Frazee informed the group that weather data is available to the public at <https://pacificpowerweather.com/>.

To further help identify potential risks, Pacific Power uses data acquisition for utility owned weather stations and other state and federal systems to help forecast and assess the risk to inform real-time decision-making process. The company employs 6 full-time meteorologists to provide 24/7/365 support for the Emergency Operations Center for all hazards including fire weather and public safety power shutoff (PSPS). By 2025, Pacific Power plans to add five Artificial Intelligence cameras to detect smoke and alert first responders.

In the unfortunate event of a wildfire, the encroachment strategy consists of emergency de-energization to protect first responders and prevent further spread. Once conditions are safe and the fire is contained, power will be turned back on immediately.

There is currently \$160+M of investments planned for 2024, going toward the line rebuild program, advanced protection and control, and expulsion fuse replacement.

Operational stations expanded to 153 weather stations in 2023 and aims to have 203 by 2027, updating every ten minutes to support real time operations. Pacific Power operates on a scale of low, elevated, significant, and extreme fire risk. Low fire risk areas are defined as modified hot-dry-windy index above the 60th percentile, windy weather relative to normal about 60th percentile, and/or slightly dry vegetation with dead fuel moisture 14-16% and/or vegetation grasslands curing. Elevated to significant fire risk areas

are defined as modified hot-dry-windy index about the 80th percentile, abnormally windy relative to normal above 80th percentile, and/or dry vegetation with dead fuel moisture of 12-14%. Extreme fire risk areas are defined as modified hot-dry-windy index above the 95th percentile, intense winds relative to normal above 95th percentile, and/or very dry vegetation with dead fuel moisture lower than 10%.

It is important to note that fire season is a condition, not a date and the beginning can vary by year. Due to this, Pacific Power is constantly monitoring the service territory year wide. In the event of a public safety power shutoff, Pacific Power will set up community resource centers for those impacted with onsite medical personnel, air conditioning, refrigeration for baby/medical needs, communications (phone, internet) and charging stations for electronic devices. Thus far, there has only been a single public safety power shutoff in Oregon in 2023 as these are seen as a very last resort. Prior to deciding to turn off power, the utility will engage local authorities to foresee the community impact and prepare resources needed to maintain during the outage.

PSPS communication protocol requires de-energization warnings 48-72 hours prior, then 24-48 hours prior, with another warning 1-4 hours before de-energization commences. Status updates are provided as needed with cancellations and re-energizing communication immediately. Pacific Power has scheduled 9 public wildfire forums, 4 presentations, a tabletop exercise, community outreach event, town hall, workshop, and functional exercise for 2024.

Oregon has a medical certificate program for individuals or households that could be aggregated by an outage. Eligible conditions include:

- Reliance on electric power to meet mobility needs, such as a scooter or wheelchair
- A medical condition that requires additional heating/cooling needs
- Any condition that requires use of medication that needs to be refrigerated, such as insulin
- Other medical conditions that require electrically powered medical equipment in the house

To learn more and enroll in the medical program visit: [Medical Certificate \(pacificpower.net\)](https://www.pacificpower.net/medical-certificate)

The Backup Power Rebate Program offers a \$4,000 rebate for one qualifying backup power supply to all Oregon Pacific Power customers enrolled in the medical program.

To learn more and claim a rebate visit [Backup electric power \(pacificpower.net\)](https://www.pacificpower.net/backup-electric-power)

Pacific Power hosted a Wildfire Mitigation Webinar that can be reviewed online at [Oregon Wildfire Safety Webinar | May, 2024 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

The following in person wildfire forums are scheduled for June:

Lincoln City, Oregon | Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 5:30 PDT at Chinook Winds Casino

Astoria, Oregon | Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 5:30 PDT at Fort George Brewery

Final Thoughts

- Warm Springs Power and Enterprise raised the concern that individuals may not have the capacity to bare the upfront costs associated with receiving a rebate, so is there an ability to get qualified and have the utility pay for the material to receive the rebate?

- Hallie Frazee responded that after similar feedback, Pacific Power is looking to shift the program in that direction. However, at this time the customers will have to sustain the upfront costs.
- Warm Springs Power and Enterprise reiterated the importance of making programs as accessible as possible to capture the diversity of economic and health circumstances since most do not have the capacity to manage these programs outside of their normal course of work.

Meeting Close & Next Steps

Christina Medina thanked the group for such rich dialogue today and reiterated that we are tracking the feedback in a living document that is posted online to ensure we are capturing the dialogue.

Upcoming Meetings

The group is invited to come in person to Portland, Oregon for the Tribal Nations meeting which will be hosted in a hybrid setting with an option for [Zoom](#) available for those who cannot physically be present. The meeting is to be held June 28th, 2024, 9am – 11am PDT.

Community Benefits and Impacts Advisory Group – June 20, 2024, Online
[CBIAG Zoom Registration](#)

Clean Energy Plan Engagement Series – June 21, 2024, Online
[CEP Zoom Registration](#)

Integrated Resource Planning Public Input Meeting – June 26, 2024, Online
[Public Input Process \(pacificorp.com\)](#)

Resources

Pacific Power's Christina Medina shared a slide of resource links and closed the meeting.

- Email comments to: TribalRelations@PacifiCorp.com
- For more information: [Oregon Clean Energy Plan Updated Engagement Strategy](#)
- <https://www.pacificorp.com/energy/oregon-community-benefits-and-impacts.html>