



Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series with Tribal Nations Public Notes

Friday, May 19, 2023, 9 - 11 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 the 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 second meeting focused on reaffirming PacifiCorp's commitment to collaboration with Tribal Nations, sharing information on energy assistance programs and breaking down the concept of community benefits indicators.

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

AGENDA

Check In & Closing the Loop

Solutions & Support

Energy Efficiency Roadshow

Community Benefit Indicators (CBIs)

Topic Exploration

Next Steps

Check In & Closing the Loop

Participants

Tribal Nation	
Brian Boswell	Indian Utility Cooperative (Cow Creek Tribe)
Cathy Ehli	Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises
Mike Lofting	Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises
Sahalee McFarland	Oregon Native American Chamber
Stacey McQuade-Eger	Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation
Monica Paradise	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Kristina Simpson	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Dave Tovey	Nixyaawii Community Financial Services
Jacob Wallis	Nixyaawii Community Financial Services
JR Wegehaupt	Oregon Native American Chamber

PacifiCorp	
Kimberly Alejandro	Energy Equity Analyst
Lee Elder	Load Forecasting Manager
Kari Greer	Senior Community Relations Manager
Amy Kort	Sr Communications Representative
Christina Medina	Stakeholder Policy & Engagement Manager
Charity Spires	Customer Assistance Programs Manager
Lisa Markus	E Source
Morgan Westberry	E Source

Meeting Notes

Opening

PacifiCorp's Christina Medina opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees to the second session of the Tribal Nations Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series. The purpose of the series is an open forum, and PacifiCorp reaffirmed the commitment to providing individualized presentations on any of the information provided, should that be requested.

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

Check In

E Source's Lisa Markus facilitated the check-in question: *"What are your priorities?"*

- Oregon Native American Chamber spoke on the many efforts in the Northwest Native Chamber and the desire to learn anything and everything in the green energy space.
- Nixyaawii Community Financial Services spoke about ample opportunities through DOE, DOI, and DEQ. Nixyaawii Community Financial Services hopes to establish partnerships to secure funding and implement projects.

- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises discussed the ongoing commercial focus while working to establish distribution enhancements at lower costs to the individuals living on the reservation lands.
- Oregon Native American Chamber discussed the clean energy contractor development program, funded through the Portland Clean Energy Fund and learning more from these spaces.
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises stated that some utility-scale activities are being worked on currently, but in the community space, Warm Springs is looking at things from efficiency to microgrids to EV charging stations.
- Indian Utility Cooperative (Cow Creek Tribe) mentioned eagerness to partner and learn from PacifiCorp and others in this space to support many current projects and initiatives.

Closing the Loop

PacifiCorp's Kimberly Alejandro recapped the last meeting, including the theme of focusing on action. Discussion highlights from the first iteration of the Tribal Nations Clean Energy Planning Engagement Series included:

- Benefits and resources to save money, build transportation infrastructure and transition to energy sovereignty
- Staffing: project managers, technicians, grant writers to fund the transition
- Dialogue and meeting for shorter durations but more frequently (accountability partner)


Support Programs

PacifiCorp's Charity Spires lead the discussion on Pacific Power's support programs, including the Low-Income Discount (LID) Program. The Oregon LID Program, launched in October 2022, offers bill discounts based on median income. Discounts range from twenty to forty percent for qualifying customers. To date, nearly 30,000 customers have enrolled.

Other available programs offers include the varying Energy Assistance Programs depicted below. More information on these programs, including the eligibility and application, may be found on the PacifiCorp website. **(INSERT LINK)** [Bill Payment Assistance \(pacificpower.net\)](#)

Energy Assistance Overview

Pandemic, state and federal support to pay utility bills and prevent disconnections




Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Meeting broader needs


Federally-funded program

Eligible households may qualify for Energy assistance grant applied to utility bill



Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP)

Assistance program for low-income households with priority directed to customers in danger of having their electricity service disconnected



COVID Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)

Energy assistance agencies may have additional funding to support those impacted by COVID-19

Oregon Energy Fund (OEF)

Connecting individuals to community action organizations for assistance with donated funds

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Discussion:

- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises asked if any collateral, such as flyers that go out with bills, exist for these programs to notify customers how to enroll.
 - PacifiCorp’s Charity Spires shared that the ultimate goal is to have messaging on bills that includes program information and eligibility limits. PacifiCorp also plans to use arrear data to identify zip codes to target to provide the information where it is needed most.
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises agreed that providing a call out on the outside of the bill might be helpful to grab attention to the program and achieve greater participation.
 - PacifiCorp’s Charity Spires noted the suggestion, stating that it is a great idea as many customers don’t open their paper bills.

Chat Questions & Comments:

- Nixyaawii Community Financial Services asked, ‘Would you have an electronic flyer/notification for this program we could share with our communities?’
 - PacifiCorp’s Charity Spires responded that flyers in both English and Spanish **would be shared with the group**. The flyer includes a QR Code that offers another avenue for communicating and accessing the information.
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation commented, ‘Along with our continued interest in participating in pursuing clean/renewable energy development opportunities (including funding), we are very interested in pursuing environmental protection priorities/mitigation-type funding out member tribes have stressed needs to accompany clean/renewable energy development. We are interested in learning about the types of projects tribes here are looking to develop so that we can be targeted in the funding we seek to source.’

PacifiCorp’s Charity Spires continued with additional information differentiating the Tribal LIHEAP funds and non-tribal LIHEAP funds. The Tribal LIHEAP funds are dedicated to those who live on tribal trust land;

however, tribal members that do not qualify can apply for the LIHEAP program through community action agencies to deliver the assistance. They will not be disqualified if the customer qualifies because of income restrictions.

Discussion:

- Oregon Native American Chamber commented that social media can be a great platform to reach customers. Furthering that, groups can share links and posts easily on these platforms.
 - PacifiCorp's Charity Spires responded that social media is currently used, but there may be methods to expand this and reach customers through storytelling on social media.
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises requested the slides to share with employees who could not join the call.
 - PacifiCorp's Charity Spires responded that the materials would be sent with the follow-up items after the meeting.

Chat Comments:

- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation commented, 'It would be great if your slides and marketing materials depicted the folks you seek to provide information/services to (i.e., Native American communities, Tribal, etc.). This would include pictorially within your presentations here so that when we pass this information on, it represents our people...just my two cents.'
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[Energy Efficiency Roadshow](#)

PacifiCorp's Kari Greer introduced the group to the Energy Efficiency Roadshow to drive customer awareness of energy efficiency programs. The roadshow is held in coordination with the Energy Trust of Oregon. These free events are held throughout the state to increase access, with 22 scheduled through October 2023.

2023 Energy Efficiency Workshops for Tribal Nations

Pacific Power and Energy Trust of Oregon are holding “Be Wattsmart” workshops in Oregon communities this year.

- Presentations by experts from Pacific Power and Energy Trust of Oregon
- Free program, includes lunch/dinner, hosted at local, community venues

Topics covered:

- 1) How to evaluate your household energy use for monthly savings
- 2) Ways to improve comfort and use less energy at home through:
 - insulation and weatherization
 - heating and cooling
 - water heating
 - appliances
 - lighting
- 1) Cash incentives available for: new appliances, lighting and other energy-efficient products from Energy Trust of Oregon



WATTSMART

PACIFIC POWER.

Discussion:

- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises asked if PPL does solar installs?
 - PacifiCorp’s Kari Greer responded that installations are done by trade allies, not directly. The trade allies are located throughout the state and on the Energy Trust of Oregon’s (ETO) website. **(INSERT LINK)**
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises brought up that the grants through ETO aren’t working as intended, partly because the monopoly created from this is driving up prices. Requested that PacifiCorp help in communicating this with ETO.
 - PacifiCorp’s Kari Greer suggested facilitating a call to discuss directly with ETO to work through this.
- Nixyaawii Community Financial Services mentioned an occurrence where the contractor declined to complete the project because it was located on a Reservation.
 - PacifiCorp’s Christina Medina responded that a similar barrier was overcome in Washington, where PacifiCorp was able to act as a passthrough entity to ensure the project was completed. PacifiCorp is eager to help. One pathway could be tackling workforce development and working to secure a tribal-specific solar installation agency.
 - PacifiCorp’s Kari Greer also responded that this is troubling to hear and would like to follow up directly.

PacifiCorp’s Christina Medina and Kari Greer added that there is an opportunity to have a Tribal specific event if desired. PacifiCorp is flexible and can help coordinate and fund the event.

- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises expressed interest, adding that having Charity Spires present at a community meeting would also be welcome.
- Nixyaawii Community Financial Services also expressed interest.

Discussion:

- Northwest Native Chamber shared that a current effort is to develop contractors statewide, which has been a challenge, but would be eager to discuss further and work to continue funding and developing these opportunities for the tribes.
 - PacifiCorp’s Kari Greer responded that additional funds might be available to develop a more robust system through conversations with the Conservation Advisory Council Energy Trust.

Community Benefits Indicator (CBIs)

PacifiCorp’s Lee Elder presented the background, definitions, and metrics related to CBIs. CBIs are the outcomes that community members wish to see and should be measurable, equitable and something that a Utility can influence. Examples of CBIs include:

- Reduce energy burden for customers through a utility initiative
- Increase renewable energy resources through resource acquisition, and
- Reduce the number/duration of outages through utility grid investments

CBIs are identified by working with our stakeholders and the outcomes desired by those groups. The CBI that will be touched on today is Energy Burden.

Energy Equity

In considering Interim CBIs, it’s helpful to consider what we know about vulnerable populations:

ENERGY BURDEN

PacifiCorp defines high energy burden as customers spending 6% or more of their income on home energy costs. This coincides with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)’s definition of high energy burden.

Energy burden is higher for vulnerable populations:

- Less income
- Energy bills are higher
 - Less energy efficient housing
 - More energy is needed to keep housing hotter or cooler (energy escaping, use of space heaters, etc.)

SOURCES: [Low-income Community Energy Solutions | Department of Energy](#); Low Income Billing Assistance Program participants, from CBIAG / WA EAG experience & E Source research

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Low-income households have higher energy burden than the general population; therefore, PacifiCorp proposes the CBI to decrease the proportion of households experiencing a high energy burden. PacifiCorp aims to track progress at meeting this objective by tracking the average energy burden within each census tract of the service territory and tracking the energy burden for low-income customers, bill assistance participants, and tribal members.

Check Out

E Source's Lisa Markus facilitated the checkout question: *What would you like to discuss in our next session?*

- Oregon Native American Chamber reaffirmed interest in connecting with PacifiCorp's Kari Greer to build a strong network of contractors statewide.
- Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises reaffirmed interest in partnering to realize the vast amount of current resources, especially regarding receiving help on these activities' technical and application side.
- PacifiCorp's Kari Greer mentioned that discussions are occurring to address the technical assistance that some tribes and local governments are having issues with. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Next Steps

PacifiCorp's Christina Medina covered the following steps and closed the meeting. The meeting notes, and other follow-up items will be shared. Upcoming events are below.

PacifiCorp Stakeholder Engagement			
Oregon Tribal Nations Engagement Series Meeting	5/19/2023	9-11am PST	Oregon Tribal Nations Clean Energy Engagement Zoom
Clean Energy Plan Engagement Series	6/23/2023	1-4 pm PST	Clean Energy Plan Engagement Series Zoom
Oregon Community Benefits + Impacts Advisory Group	5/18/2023	1-4 am PST	Oregon Community Benefits Impacts Advisory Group Zoom

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