



# Making Energy Work for Rural Oregon

## 2017 Fall Energy Symposium October 16-17, 2017 Best Western Plus, Hood River Inn

Monday, October 16, 2017

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1:15pm – 2:45pm

### **Federal and State Policies: Preparing for emerging legislation and opportunities through the public process**

2018 brings both opportunities and challenges for clean energy programs, projects, and policies in Oregon. This discussion will provide an overview of priorities for some of Oregon's energy experts, and discuss emerging legislative concepts at the federal and state level. Guests will have the opportunity to provide feedback and help shape the clean energy conversation.

Phil Chang, Office of U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, Jana Gastellum, Oregon Environmental Council, Rob Del Mar, Oregon Department of Energy

3:00pm-4:30pm

### **Workshop: Deep dive into the Community Solar Program in Oregon**

On-site rooftop solar is out of reach for many utility customers due to shade, roof space and orientation, ownership constraints or financial hurdles. To address many of these barriers, the Oregon legislature created a Community Solar Program through Senate Bill 1547. This workshop will examine the structure and governance of community solar with experts involved in the formation and development of this innovative program.

Nolan Moser, Oregon Public Utilities Commission, Rikki Seguin, Renewable Northwest, Charlie Coggeshall, Clean Energy Collective. Moderated by Bridget Callahan, Sustainable Northwest.

5:00pm – 7:00pm

### **pFriem Social Hour**

Rick Williams, a leading expert and advocate on energy resiliency will lead a short talk. Hors d' oeuvres and beverages will be served. (Prior registration required)

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

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9:00am – 9:50am

**Community Spotlight: RARE AmeriCorps Oregon initiatives**

The RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environments) Program is dedicated to increasing the capacity of rural communities to improve their economic, social, or environmental conditions through the assistance of graduate-level participants who live and work in communities for 11 months. The Making Energy Work network has greatly benefited from RARE participants who pursue clean energy programs and projects across Oregon. This panel will showcase work by past and present RARE participants and share innovative and replicable programs and projects.

Marla Harvey, Hood River County, Norah Owings, Lake County Resources Initiatives, Hannah Sohl, Rogue Climate, Connor Shields, City of Talent, Lindsey Hardy, Environmental Center. Moderated by Megan Smith, Resource Assistance for Rural Environments.

10:00am – 11:00 am

**Community Resiliency: Emergency Preparedness and energy independence**

Join a panel of energy leaders focused on increasing grid readiness and energy independence in the event of a natural disaster.

Ken Dragoon, Flink Energy Consulting, Dan Bihn, Bihn Communications LLC, Masami Nishishiba, Portland State University, Initiatives for Community Disaster Resilience, Barb Ayers, Hood River County Sheriff's Office. Moderated by Rick Williams, Oregon Applied Research, LLC.

11:15am – 12:15pm

**Oregon's Emerging Community-Financed Models: Increasing access and deployment**

The traditional models for financing clean energy are evolving. While hardware costs for some technologies have decreased, federal and state subsidies have also waned. Through a variety of emerging and innovative models, Oregon is piloting community-financed clean energy around the state. Learn how these models are transforming the way projects are financed, structured, and adapting to the opportunities (and constraints) of project finance.

Dan Orzech, Oregon Clean Power Cooperative, Evan Ramsey, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and Bridget Callahan, Sustainable Northwest. Moderated by Lizzie Rubado, Energy Trust of Oregon.

12:15pm

**Lunch Buffet**

12:30pm

**Lunchtime Keynote: Debra Smith, General Manager for the Central Lincoln Public Utilities District: An incremental approach to organizational resiliency.**

1:50pm – 2:50pm

### Funding Your Project

Hear from funders, lenders, and nonprofits around the state who help finance clean energy projects. Incentives, competitive grants, loans, and other tools are available for your project.

Todd Andres, PacifiCorp, Susan Badger-Jones, Energy Trust of Oregon, Robert Wallace, Wy'East RC&D. Moderated by Lee Rahr, Sustainable Northwest.

3:00pm – 3:45pm

### Facilitated Next Steps

How can we continue working together to share best practices, push for smart energy policy, and leverage the voices of rural champions around the state? What ideas do we have to stay united and learn from one another? How can we cooperatively track progress and measure results?

Facilitated Discussion: Karen Chase, Energy Trust of Oregon, Lee Rahr, Sustainable Northwest, and Jim Walls, Lake County Resources Initiative

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