CITY OF TALENT
PUTTING COMMUNITY ENERGY & CLIMATE PLANS INTO PLACE

Michael Hoch – Energy Efficiency Coordinator & RARE Participant
Talent, Oregon

- Southern Oregon within the Rogue Valley (Exit 21 on I-5)
- Small rural town
- 6,500 People
- 2,639 Households
Why is the City of Talent pursuing energy & climate plans?
- Forward-thinking community
- Wants to be a leader in reducing GHG emissions within Oregon
- Climate change
- Natural disasters
- Expand local economy
Putting Community Energy & Climate Plans into Place

- Working with nonprofits: Rogue Climate & Together for Talent
- Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Program
- Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Program
- Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Energy Element
- Outreach and Energy Education
- Renewable Energy Development
Rogue Climate and Together for Talent

- 2015: Community Outreach & Research
- 2016: Drafted Year One & 2030 Plans
- 2017: Year One Plan Adopted
- 2018: Modified the 12 year plan into a 20 year comprehensive plan
Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) Program

- AmeriCorps program administered through University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement (IPRE)
- Mission: To increase the capacity of rural communities to improve their economic, social and environmental conditions
- Talent, Oregon has been involved with this program for 3 years now (2016-Current)
RARE Participants Work in Talent

- Develop and Integrate Clean Energy Action Plan (2016)
- Policy Review: City Codes (2016)
- Community Outreach & Education (2016- Current)
- Renewable Energy Development (2016- Current)
- Comprehensive Plan Amendment: Energy Element (2017- Current)
- Managing SEM program (2017- Current)
Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Program

- Program administered by Energy Trust of Oregon
- Objective is to find no- or low-cost operations and maintenance improvements that deliver energy savings
- Provides incentives for completing milestones, partial funding for intern and monetary rewards on energy savings at end-of-year
- City of Talent started in 2018
- Talent has 6 government buildings in this program
Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Program

- Foster an Energy Team
- Provide up-to-date data
- Created an Energy Policy
  “The goal of the City of Talent’s energy conservation efforts is a 5% reduction in annual energy consumption (electricity & natural gas) based on past energy consumption of the two preceding years.”
- Energy Management Action List
Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Energy Element

- Started in 2018
- Policy 1: Energy Efficiency & Conservation
- Policy 2: Energy Generation
- Policy 3: Energy Resilience
- Policy 4: Local Economy
- Policy 5: Transportation
Outreach & Energy Education

- Providing energy education to residents of Talent
- Participation in community events
- Education program with Phoenix-Talent School district and Science Works
- Increasing use of LED lightbulbs with Rogue Climate
  - 1,150 bulbs installed thus far
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Solar installations</th>
<th>Solar generation (reportable kWh)</th>
<th>Capacity (MW)</th>
<th>Manufactured Homes</th>
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Renewable Energy Development

- RARE project: Pacific Power’s Blue Sky Grant funded 88% of this project
  - 15.7 kW solar system & 85% of the building’s annual energy demand
- Research funding opportunities and locations for more projects
How can this be scaled to your community?

- Educating yourself and the community around you
- Look at similar communities energy plans, action plans or comprehensive plans
- Also look at communities you want to strive to become
- Work along side with local nonprofits and activist groups
- Create an intern or full-time position within your organization