



Renewables Energy Siting Challenges and Opportunities

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Overview

- Oregon Renewable Energy Market
- Solar Siting in Oregon – lay of the land
- Siting Conversations underway
- Challenges for siting renewables
- Opportunities for siting renewables

Renewable Northwest

- Regional, renewable energy advocacy organization (Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho)
- Mission is to promote the environmentally responsible development of renewable energy resources.
- Members consists of renewable energy developers, energy companies, environmental non-profits, consumer advocates.

Oregon “Utility Scale” Renewable Market

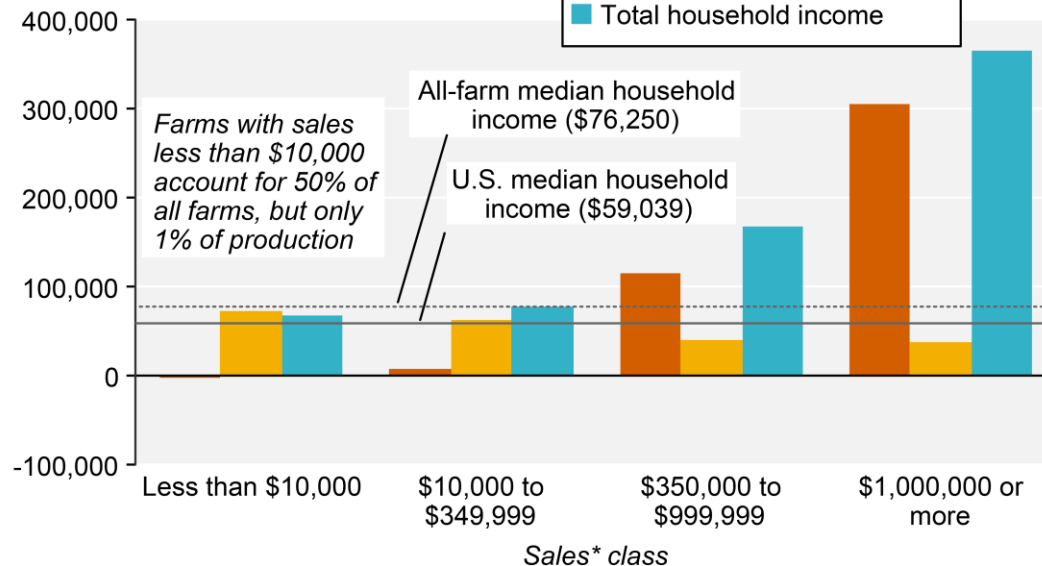
- **Oregon RPS**
 - Large Utilities (PAC, EWEB, PGE) 50% by 2040
 - Consumer Owned Utilities 25% by 2025
- **PURPA**
 - Small solar (>10MW) developers may sell power to IOU at a set price
- **Net Metering**
 - Allows customers to offset electricity requirements with on site generation (up to 2MW).
- **Community Solar** (Investor Owned Utilities only)
 - Project Size: 25kw – 3MW
 - Projects must be in same service territory as customer
 - Initial Capacity: 2.5% of 2016 peak load
 - PGE: ~100MW
 - PAC: ~73 MW
 - IDP: ~2.5 MW

Benefits of PV Solar

- Compatible with adjacent land uses and agriculture
- Does not require significant modifications to the landscape (can be restored upon decommissioning)
- Environmental impacts minimal with proper siting
- No water use required
- Agricultural uses are possible in combination with infrastructure

Median household income of farm operators by source and sales class, 2016

Median income (dollars per household)



Solar Siting

Multiple Options for Solar Siting: Local or State review?

	High Value	Arable	Non-Arable
LOCAL: Conditional Use Permit (CUP)	< 12 acres	< 20 acres	< 320 acres
LOCAL: CUP + Goal Exception	> 12 acres, < 100 acres	> 20 acres, < 100 acres	
STATE: Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC)	> 100 acres	> 100 acres	> 320 acres

Goal Exception Process

- 19 Statewide Planning Goals – Solar on Farmland within certain size thresholds requires exception to Goal 3: Farmland protection
- Justification for the exception:
 - Set of reasons established in regulations
- An alternatives analysis – can other lands nearby be used and not require an exception?
- Demonstration that the environmental, economic, social and energy (ESEE) consequences are not more significant on the subject property than other agricultural lands not requiring an exception.
- Typically considered by the local Planning Commission and recommends action to the Board of Commissioners

Local Siting Discussions

- **Yamhill County**
 - Ban on new solar applications on HVF
- **Marion County**
 - Moratorium on new solar applications on HVF
 - Public process underway to revise zoning codes
- **DLCD Solar PV Rulemaking**
 - Does 12-acre limit for solar on HVF adequately protect HVF?
 - Wildlife, temporary rules

State Siting Discussions

- **Legislative Workgroup**
 - Chaired by Senator Alan Olsen
 - Exploring inefficiencies at EFSC and how to increase public participation
 - Goal is to produce legislation
- **EFSC Solar PV Rulemaking**
 - Can multiple non-jurisdictional solar projects functionally aggregate to become jurisdictional?

Siting Challenges

Local

- Rulemakings could lead to increased limits on solar siting
 - 12-acre threshold up for discussion
- Extremely difficult to get a Goal 3 Exception
 - Statewide planning goals do not consider solar
- Temporary Rule limits dual-use projects
 - “preclude” to “use, occupy, or cover”
 - More difficult to innovate ag + solar

State

- EFSC Process has its challenges
 - Public – “No meaningful public engagement”
 - Counties – “More local control – we have the capability to do this”
 - Developers – “Cost- and Time-Prohibitive”

Siting Opportunities

Local

- Extremely difficult to get a Goal 3 Exception
 - **Solution: Add Renewable Energy to Planning Goals**
- Rulemakings could lead to increased limits of solar siting
 - **Solution: Look holistically at state**
- Temporary Rule limits dual-use projects
 - **Solution: Update language**

State

- EFSC Process has its challenges
 - **Solution: Update Thresholds for Renewable Energy**

Help us pass these policies!

To get involved or find out more, please contact me:

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