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Community Solar & SB 1547
Agenda

- Environment Oregon
- SB 1547 – The Clean Energy & Coal Transition Act
- Community Solar
- Questions
Environment Oregon
Environment Oregon

- Statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization.
- Over 40,000 members and supporters statewide
- Engage over 100,000 Oregonians face-to-face every year
- Work to ensure our policies reflect the values all Oregonians share—an Oregon where we protect special places, clean air and clean water.
- Advocate, Research, Fundraise, Engage Citizens
SB 1547 – Clean Energy & Coal Transition Act
Pre-session lay of the land

- 25% Renewable energy standard
- Greenhouse gas reduction goals
  - 75% below 1990 levels by 2050
- Community solar study
- No-coal ballot measure
SB 1547: The Clean Energy & Coal Transition Act

- Removes coal from Oregon’s energy mix by 2030
- Raises Oregon’s renewable energy standard to 50% by 2040
- Authorizes community solar program
SB 1547: Carbon reductions

- Cuts greenhouse gas emissions from energy sector in half by 2030
- 30 MMT of carbon avoided
  - Equivalent of removing 6.4 million cars from the road
- Puts energy sector on pace to hit their share of Oregon’s ghg reduction goals
SB 1547: Ramping up clean energy

- 4 GW of new wind power in NW
- Community solar
  - Opens up solar market to the 3 out of 4 Oregonians who can’t install solar
  - Opens solar market to low-income customers
  - Local-clean energy
Community Solar Program
Design Details
“Community solar project” means one or more solar photovoltaic energy systems that provide owners and subscribers the opportunity to share the costs and benefits associated with the generation of electricity by the solar photovoltaic energy systems.
Community Solar Attributes

- **Who can build a community solar project?**
  - Investor Owned Utilities
  - Any independent third party

- **How do these projects get built?**
  - Projects must be certified by OPUC
  - Once certified, utility must enter into 20-year power purchase agreement with community solar project

- **How many projects can get built?**
  - No cap
  - OPUC may suspend program with good reason
How big are the projects?
- Minimum 25 kw
- No maximum
Community Solar Attributes

- Who can subscribe to the community solar project, and how?
  - Any customer of an investor owned utility can subscribe
  - Subscriber pays subscription fee to project owner

- How does a subscriber get paid back?
  - The community solar project manager tells the subscriber’s utility company how much electricity the subscriber’s panels produce each month
  - The utility gives the subscriber a monthly bill credit for the electricity
  - The bill credit rate is TBD
Community Solar Attributes

- How many panels can a subscriber subscribe to?
  - Up to her average annual electricity load
  - Annual excess generation donated to low-income assistance

- When can I sign up?
  - OPUC must finalize rulemaking by July 1, 2017

- Other notes:
  - OPUC to determine how to make 10% of community solar capacity available to low income customers
Community Solar Program Rulemaking Priorities
PUC Rulemaking

- **Bill Credit Rate**
  - “an electric company shall credit an owner’s or subscriber’s electric bill ... in a manner that reflects the resource value of solar energy
  - (However) “the commission may adopt a rate for an electric company to use in crediting an owner’s or subscriber’s electric bill other than (the RVOS) if the commission has good cause to adopt the different rate.”

- **Low-Income Allocation**
  - PUC must “determine a methodology by which” 10% of total program size to be available to low-income customers.
  - Possibly will be its own docket.
Next Steps

- Make Residential Energy Tax Credit available to community solar projects
- Working w/ cities to support community solar
Questions or more information?

For more information:

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