



Oregonians for Renewable Energy Policy; Progress Report 2012

OREP advocates for an Oregon renewable energy feed-in tariff with good social, economic and environmental outcomes at reasonable costs. Our specific focus has been a FIT statute that: attracts local investment; fosters a stable and flourishing renewables industry with local, living-wage jobs; and encourages renewable energy generation in the built environment of Oregon's urban and rural communities.

We seek a FIT open to all local energy producers such as farmers, homeowners, schools, houses of worship, public buildings, small businesses and tribes. Community-based renewable power, generated close to the end user, reduces energy losses from distribution and limits the cost and environmental impacts of new long-distance transmission lines. Small-scale projects financed with local capital create jobs in communities of all income levels, distributing the economic benefits widely.

The last year has been a very busy one for OREP. We've grown our outreach significantly, in part through our active participation at the 2012 Future Energy Conference in Portland, where Paul Gipe was a keynote speaker and presenter at several OREP sponsored events. This collaboration allowed us to work further with other stakeholders and lead into our efforts to develop and submit FIT legislation that is a successor to Oregon's current Solar Pilot Program, for the 2013 Legislative Session. This report summarizes those and other accomplishments for 2012.

Legislative and Regulatory:

- Developed and submitted legislative concept for a "Clean Energy Economy Act" (CEE Act) to Rep. Jules Bailey in time to meet the September 17 filing deadline with the Office of Legislative Counsel, for the 2013 session; see our website for progress updates; Revised version submitted 01.18.2013
- Prepared and submitted detailed comments on Governor Kitzhaber's Draft Ten Year Energy Action Plan; June
- OREP intervened in three Public Utility Commission dockets in 2012.
 - 1) Under ongoing UM 1452, OREP intervened on behalf of distributed generators to establish fair and reasonable volumetric incentive rates for the April and October enrollments to the Oregon Solar Pilot Program.
 - 2) UM 1559, created at OREP's request, began an assessment of the resource value of electricity from distributed solar generators, which is currently systematically undervalued by most utilities. OREP directed the conversation by pointing the PUC to a body of recent scholarly literature and case studies. OREP teamed with experts at the Renewable Northwest Project to submit joint comments.

3) UM 1505 invited stakeholder input into the biannual report to the legislature on the Solar Pilot Program. OREP filed detailed recommendations, most of which were approved and incorporated. In both UM 1559 and UM 1505, OREP acted as a public watchdog, finding errors in utility methodology and reporting. As a result, OREP is increasingly gaining in stature at the commission.

- At OREP's suggestion, on January 18, 2012, the PUC hosted a webinar presented by Clean Power Research, for all Solar Pilot Program stakeholders, including Oregon's investor-owned utilities. The subject of the webinar was CPR's new software tool designed to help utilities determine how the value of solar PV to the utility grid, is affected by where projects are located, how close they are to the point of use, and many other factors. The software allows utilities to plug in local data and calculate these values for specific geographic locations.

Public Outreach:

- Developed OREP Action Bulletins and supporter database to encourage participation in:
 - Public comment period for Governor's Ten Year Energy Action Plan
 - OREP Roundtables, July through Sept; FIT policy development with stakeholders
 - CEE Act submission and update
- OREP Policy Digest emailed March & October
 - approximately 800 subscribers
- Alliance for Renewable Energy steering committee conference calls; Ray attends (along with other OREP core team as needed) & prepares OREP monthly update
- Monthly updates to OREP What's New page on website
- Self-published five OREP Commentaries; February (x3), July, October
- Jon is developing a series of podcasts on FIT Intro, Oregon FIT developments and energy and climate change related issues to come.
http://www.oregonrenewables.com/Resources/FIT_Resources/Podcasts.html
- Jon organized 4 Community Conversation Roadshows on FIT developments in OR
 - Developed marketing materials for Roadshows
 - Not well enough attended so we'll need to improve pre-event messaging, but it did help us prepare meeting presentations and outreach materials for future use
- The Register Guard, Eugene's daily newspaper published "[Guest Viewpoint: Promoting renewable energy means more jobs](#)" by Ray, on renewable energy job creation through our proposed CEE Act versus coal exports through the Port of Coos Bay
 - Repurposed article as public comment submitted to the Lane County Board of Commissioners, and the Eugene City Council/Mayor/City Manager, on behalf of OREP.
 - Same article used as an OREP commentary in Oct Policy Digest
- League of Oregon Cities conference – Jon and Judy attended and tabled; September

- Kathleen, Jon, and Judy visited a biogas facility in the Salem area; September
- OREP shared a booth space with the Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association at this year's Oregon Country Fair in Energy Park; July
- Met with a variety of Oregon stakeholders (e.g. Renewable Northwest Project, OSEIA, Solar Oregon, Jen Gleason/attorney & FIT expert, OR Senator Wyden's energy staff, etc) to solicit and incorporate feedback on CEE Act
 - Jon organized a community wind conference call with a southern OR small wind developer
- Organized a stakeholder roundtable, public presentation & Legislators' Forum with Paul Gipe (leading international FIT expert), and extensive outreach in conjunction with Paul's attendance at Portland Future Energy Conference; April
 - OREP staffed an information table throughout the Conference
 - Paul's public presentation was video recorded & posted to OREP website
 - Six follow-up stakeholder roundtables conducted
- Educated, encouraged and obtained Resolution from Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians supporting FITs in Governor's 10 Year Energy Action Plan; May
- Ray and Mark provided technical review of draft report by John Farrell, [*U.S. CLEAN Programs: Where Are We Now? What Have We Learned?*](#); May
- OREP staffed a booth at the NW Agricultural show; January
- Presented on FITs at Earth Care Summit; January
- Webinar presentation with two OREP recommended participants from the American Council on Germany study tour to Berlin, Dec 2011, Jeff Bissonnette/ Organizing Director, Citizen's Utility Board of Oregon and Oregon Representative Jules Bailey.

Organizational:

- OREP Steering Committee met in July and October
- Developed and continuing hiring process for a dedicated Development Director position
 - Began investigating and started establishment of OREP as an independent 501(c)(3) or (c)(4)
 - Posted DD Intern announcement to help raise funds for permanent DD wages; December

Fundraising:

- Submitted an LOI to Ben & Jerry's
- Submitted LOI to Arca Foundation
- Steering committee outreach to personal contacts
- Received generous \$5K end-of-year donation from AfD supporter
- End-of-Year Fundraising campaign – sent 3 donation requests through our contact list, to match above contribution and further support for hiring of DD.

The OREP team consists of Judy Barnes (retired), Andrew Koyaanisqatsi, Ray Neff, Kathleen Newman, Mark Pengilly, Leah Parks Schoinas and Jon Roschke January 31.2013