



Energy Trust Solar Program – What to Expect in 2022

Trade Ally Forum

October 28, 2021





Introduction and Foundation Setting

- Almost 20,000 solar systems installed on Oregon homes and businesses since 2003
- Solar Program transition underway for the last few years, now accelerated by House Bill 3141
- Shift from generation focus to a broader set of qualitative benefits: equity, resilience, grid flexibility, workforce diversity

House Bill 3141

- HB 3141 creates new requirements and opportunities for Energy Trust's renewable energy programs.
 - Extends funding through 2035
 - At least 25% of renewable funds go to serve low- and moderate-income customers
 - Expands the program's scope to include advanced technologies that support reliability, resilience, and the integration of renewable resources.
 - Does not provide any additional funding



House Bill 3141 adopted in 2021

“Of the funds allocated... 25 percent must be used for activities, resources and technologies that serve low and moderate income customers, including for technologies that do not have above-market costs.”

House Bill 3141 adopted in 2021

“The above-market costs of new renewable energy resources and **customer investments in distribution system-connected technologies that support reliability, resilience and the integration of renewable energy resources with the distribution systems...**

Solar Program Conceptual Framework

Equitable

Resilient

Flexible

Robust & Diverse Solar Workforce



What we are hearing from
stakeholders...

Go broader and deeper on equity

- Energy Trust should focus more on equity projects: Community Solar incentives, Solar Within Reach, Equitable Solar Initiative – “over-invest!”
- Help families with low incomes in multiple ways; don’t just settle on one program concept



Focus on resilience

- Focus on projects that benefit the grid and support vulnerable customers (especially rural)
- There is an intersection with equity work when we focus on vulnerable populations
- Use project funding to create community resilience hubs
- Utilities want close collaboration as we invest in projects to integrate solar+storage and increase resilience; ideally we try to benefit customers and the grid.



De-prioritize solar that doesn't provide multiple benefits

- De-prioritize single-family home projects that don't contribute multiple benefits
- Exit carefully from this market – must be a ramp down
- Engage with trade allies, utilities and other stakeholders as changes are being planned
- Funding solar without storage right now doesn't make sense. Important for us to help customers shape their load and interact with the grid



Community solar needs our assistance

- Community solar projects need help right now; success at this early stage is important – timing matters
- This is an important tool for assisting low-income families and renters



Diversify the trade ally network

- It is important to have more people of color working in the solar industry and owning solar companies
- Energy Trust must prioritize partnerships and other ways of achieving this goal



Solar Program Conceptual Framework





Program Concepts High Level

- Implement an incentive structure that allows projects with multiple stacked benefits to receive more funding.
- By 2023, phase out residential incentives for projects that do not provide equity, resilience, or grid flexibility benefits.

Robust & Diverse Solar Workforce - Concepts

- Increase the value we provide trade allies with increased investment in solar leads, business development funds and training opportunities.
- Work with pre-apprenticeship programs and increase investments in building a diverse solar workforce, with specific support for people of color and women entering the solar trade or starting new trade ally companies.

Equitable - Concepts

- Expand offerings that serve customers with lower incomes; invest more in equity-focused offerings with a goal of providing one-third of solar incentives to customers with low or moderate incomes in 2022.
- Expand custom incentives for small community solar projects with specific equity goals.
- Build a network of partnerships with local and community-based organizations to address access and awareness barriers for communities of color and rural customers.

Resilient - Concepts

- Pursue federal funds to develop a planning and feasibility pathway for communities pursuing Federal Emergency Management Agency grants to build resilient renewable energy microgrids.
- Clarify the development path that positions communities to access state and federal emergency and resilience funds for renewable energy + storage projects.
- Offer custom incentives for critical facility or community resilience hub projects.

Flexible - Concepts

- Launch add-on incentives for smart inverters and smart battery storage.
- Collaborate with utilities to explore integration of smart inverters and battery storage into utility grid management systems and compensate customers.
- Collaborate with New Homes and New Buildings programs on offers for grid interactive homes and buildings that incorporate efficiency, solar, storage and smart controls.



Questions?

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