



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 11, 2023

SUBJECT: Oregon Department of Energy Community Renewable Energy Grant Program

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature created the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program to support projects outside Portland city limits. The program has a total budget of \$50 million.

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is now accepting applications for Round 2 of the program. In this application period, ODOE is making \$12 million available to support planning and developing of community renewable energy and energy resilience projects for tribes, public bodies, and consumer-owned utilities. Applications are due by February 15, 2023.

At least half of the grant funds will be awarded for projects that serve environmental justice communities, including communities of color, lower-income communities, rural communities, and others. Similarly, at least half of the grant funds will be awarded to projects that support community energy resilience.

The County applied for multiple projects in Round 1 of the grant program including funding for a biomass project at Mt. Bachelor. The Mt. Bachelor project was selected to receive funding.

If the Board is interested in submitting a second application, staff recommends submitting one project application for consideration:

DESCHUTES COUNTY FAIR AND EXPO CENTER (New Well with Solar Power, EV Charging)

This project would include the installation of a hybrid grid-tied and battery back-up solar photovoltaic system to provide continuous power to a new water well to replace a well currently used for irrigation. The existing well is providing roughly 50% of the water output it had previously provided. The proposed project would install a new well to provide 500,000 additional gallons per minute to the property, install a new submersible pump, install a water filtration system to convert to potable water, install potable water storage facility, provide power for Emergency Operations staging, and provide EV charging stations.

The new site would be located on a 40 acre undeveloped parcel of land on the East side of the property, closer to public access.

The County's Fair & Expo Center is routinely used during natural disasters to provide temporary emergency shelter and support for displaced community members and livestock. It also serves as a command post to support regional Emergency Response. Fair & Expo has agreements with multiple local, state and federal emergency response agencies to provide this type of support when needed.

This project would allow Fair & Expo to support Emergency Operations in the event that a natural disaster disrupts power supply. It would also provide a fresh water supply for displaced residents and ensure that electric vehicle users would have access to "off-grid" charging in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Grant Requests:

\$1,000,000 grant request for constructing a community energy resilience project
Potential matching funds from the Fair and Expo Center

ATTENDANCE:

Lee Randall, Facilities Director

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager