

# RENEWABLE ENERGY AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DRIVER

**Oregon Economic Development Association**  
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Northwest Environmental Business Council



Alaska • Idaho • Montana • Oregon • Washington

# OREGON IS OPEN FOR (ENERGY) BUSINESS

## Mandates & Incentives Pave the Way

- ▶ **RFS (Renewable Fuel Standard) - Biofuels**
- ▶ **RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) - Electricity**
- ▶ **BETC (Business Energy Tax Credit)**
- ▶ **SELP (State Energy Loan Program)**
- ▶ **Energy Trust (PGE & Pacific Power territory)**
- ▶ **New net metering rules**
- ▶ **OECD Feasibility Study Grants**
- ▶ **Dept. of Energy Feasibility Study Grants**

# LOCAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- ▶ **Jobs**
- ▶ **Increased tax base**
- ▶ **(Energy self-reliance)**

# ROLE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

- ▶ **Become aware of opportunities**
- ▶ **Assess community strengths (and weaknesses)**
- ▶ **Reduce barriers in advance**
- ▶ **Inform developers of opportunities**
- ▶ **Help facilitate development process**

# BIOFUELS OVERVIEW

## BIODIESEL

- ▶ **Now:**  
Imported feedstock - soy, canola, palm
- ▶ **Future:**  
Local feedstock - canola, mustard, other oil seeds

## ETHANOL

- ▶ **Now:**  
Sugar based - corn
- ▶ **Future:**  
Cellulosic - straw, grasses, wood waste, etc.

# BIOFUELS PROJECTS

## Potential

- ▶ Land rush is on

## Constraints

- ▶ Limited supply of conventional feedstocks
- ▶ Infrastructure & locational requirements  
(transportation in & out, water, energy supply (NG & electricity),  
feedstock supply, by-products markets)

## Opportunities

- ▶ Decentralized models
- ▶ Local value creation/retention

## Barriers

- ▶ Siting & permitting

# RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PROJECTS

## WIND

- ▶ **Utility scale: top sites identified, transmission is key**
- ▶ **Community scale: wait due to shortage of turbines**

## SOLAR

- ▶ **Incentives and net metering make feasible**
- ▶ **Need host customer**

## BIOMASS

- ▶ **Cogeneration: old concept with new interest**
- ▶ **Need heat customer**
- ▶ **Possible heat-only applications**
- ▶ **Long-term fuel supply is challenge**

# RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PROJECTS

## METHANE

- ▶ Wastewater & Landfill - good potential
- ▶ Manure - digester is cost barrier

## SMALL HYDRO

- ▶ Permitting long & complicated

## GEOHERMAL

- ▶ Need heat customer
- ▶ Heat transportation limits

## WAVE

- ▶ Still R&D stage

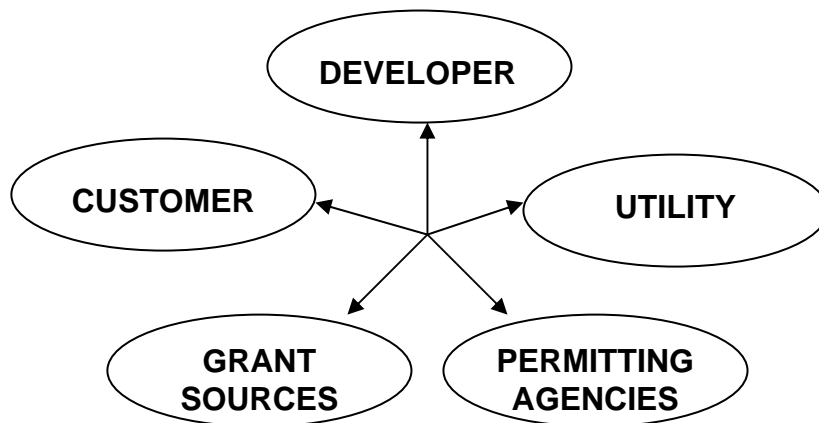
# FOCUS ON COMMUNITY'S STRENGTHS

## INITIAL FEASIBILITY REVIEW

- ✓ **Energy resource potential?**
- ✓ **Infrastructure requirements?**
- ✓ **Project host and/or output customers?**
- ✓ **Institutional barriers (permitting attitudes)?**
- ✓ **Local electric utility supportive?**
- ✓ **Community supportive?**

## MORE ADVICE

- ▶ **Manage expectations - large projects have long, complex development cycles.**
- ▶ **Build partnerships in advance - players need to be on board or timelines stretch and can undermine project economics.**
- ▶ **Play a facilitator role.**



# LEARN MORE & CONNECT

**Harvesting Clean Energy**  
**January 28, Portland**  
**[www.harvestcleanenergy.org](http://www.harvestcleanenergy.org)**

**Making Renewable Energy Projects Happen**  
**April 24, Portland**  
**[www.nebc.org](http://www.nebc.org)**