

To: Governor's Energy Efficiency Work Group
From: Jeremiah Baumann, Environment Oregon, Jim Edelson, Interfaith Power and Light, Jason Eisdorfer, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board
Date: April 24, 2008
Subject: Initial Brainstorm List of Energy Efficiency Policy Concepts

A. New Buildings

1. Establish a long-term goal of all new buildings being zero net energy by 2030
2. Establish policies to move the state toward the goal, including—
 - a. Develop a high-performance buildings standard that is at least 25% better on energy savings than the state code and that is regularly updated to get to zero net energy by 2025
 - b. Require that all new public buildings, as well as any buildings that receive state funds, comply with the high-performance buildings standard
 - c. Allow cities to adopt the high-performance buildings standard as their building code
 - d. Use the high-performance buildings standard as the benchmark for BETC/RETC in cities where it's not required
 - e. Adopt an explicit on-site renewables policy: Require that solar hot water and PV be a standard offer in new homes (for developments over a certain size) and that all new homes have electrical and plumbing work to make them ready for solar hot water and PV
3. Provide funding for cities and counties to meet the high-performance buildings standard, e.g. low-interest loans paid for by bonds backed by funds from energy savings

B. Existing Buildings

1. Require energy audit at time of sale (for residential & commercial) that include both assessment of energy usage & options for improving
2. Require retrofit improvements (retro-commissioning) for commercial buildings above X size (100,000 square feet?)

C. Statewide Electric Utility programs for all customer classes

1. Set utility performance targets to go beyond energy efficiency programs currently in place, by:
 - a. Requiring that electricity consumption decline to 1990 levels by 2020, or
 - b. requiring a 1% reduction per year from 2010 through 2025
2. Implement equivalent program for gas utilities

3. Funding for utility energy efficiency programs could be paid for from either cap and trade auction revenues, utilities implementing a conservation tariff to meet the new targets, or an increase in the public purpose charge.

D. Smart grid

A “smart grid” is one that has automated demand management capability. By using sophisticated meters and software, a consumer can choose to let a smart appliance—for example, a dishwasher or clothes dryer—run at the time that the grid signals is the most energy-efficient and cost-effective (when prices and demand are low and/or there is excess capacity). Oregon should launch a program to develop and initiate the steps to move Oregon toward this capability.

E. Extend net metering law statewide

Make current net metering policies (which are some of the nation’s best) apply in all utility service territories.

F. Build Oregon’s EE infrastructure

1. Training & education to make sure there are enough trained engineers, architects, etc. to lead the way (recommend this to green workforce committee as well).
2. One-stop shopping (OECDD?) for all energy-related incentives & programs

G. Energy-efficient Appliances

1. California may have new standards this summer; Oregon should adopt them by administrative rule.
2. Oregon should develop strategies to build markets for particularly promising appliance technologies—one good example to start with would be LED lighting.

H. Industrial energy savings

Perhaps as part of an economic development strategy aimed at maximizing economic benefits and minimizing economic costs of transitioning to a low-carbon economy, Oregon should consider a program to reduce energy-intensity in the industrial sector.

I. Peak Demand Management

To reduce peak demand and avoid the need for new peak capacity generating resources, Oregon should develop a program and identify and reduce peak demand, either at the point of consumption or in the transmission system.