



# Oregon

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## Government to Government Report Oregon Department of Energy—2008 Summary

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The mission of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is to ensure Oregon has an adequate supply of reliable and affordable energy and is safe from nuclear contamination, by helping Oregonians save energy, develop clean energy resources, promote renewable energy, and clean up nuclear waste.

### **Renewable Energy and Climate Change**

The Oregon Department of Energy has provided renewable energy information, presentations and technical assistance to a number of tribal meetings and conferences.

Climate change issues were the subject of a presentation ODOE staff gave at an Oregon Tribes conference at Kah-Nee-Ta in June. Also at Kah-Nee-Ta, ODOE provided an educational session for youth on climate change hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. Other assistance was provided to CEDCO, the Coquille Economic Development Corporation in early July.

Renewable energy and economic development are of interest to the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde. In July, ODOE staff gave a presentation about the status of renewable energy projects, proposed wave energy efforts and available incentives.

The Oregon Department of Energy gave an afternoon presentation in November, prior to the 2008 Government-to-Government Summit in Florence. Topics covered included a history of the agency, energy issues facing Oregon and a status of current energy projects.

In May and October, staff worked with the Coquille Indian Tribe as they developed a business case and plan for forest thinning and fire risk reduction on their lands. They have been conducting feasibility analyses on a number of options for biomass power, thermal energy for drying, or prepared fuels such as pellets. ODOE provided help in

verifying assumptions in their plans and information on how State of Oregon incentives apply. The Coquille Indian Tribe participates in the Coos-Curry County biomass working group that ODOE supports. Recent interaction dealt with incentives available to recover sudden oak death forest residuals for biomass fuel.

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation's forest products business is expanding with a woody biomass power facility. At the end of 2007 and in early 2008, they were developing a ten-year stewardship contract with Mt. Hood National Forest. Our work with the Warm Springs over the past year has resulted in their receiving a Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) for biomass boiler system upgrades. Tribes, non-profits and others without a tax liability can use the BETC pass-through option. An additional credit is anticipated as they finish the build out of their fuel handling systems and turbine capacity upgrade in 2009.

The Klamath Tribes are involved in development of a biomass energy facility to assist with treatment of forests on their own lands and to address agreements regarding the removal of Klamath River dams. ODOE worked on an estimate of woody biomass energy generation capacity and outlined the incentives available for them to take action. Further discussions were held at a woody biomass workshop at Rogue Community College in May.

In October, the Department started working with the Burns Paiute Tribe as part of an effort to fund a biomass prepared-fuel facility (pellet and brick mill). The Burns Paiute could be a possible host and/or operator of the facility. Those discussions will continue with the Tribe in 2009. The 10,000 ton per year facility is designed to create a demand for ongoing forest stewardship work on about 700 acres per year in the area. The facility will be able to handle fir, pine and juniper. The latter is of most interest to the Tribe for range and forest-transition land stewardship and hydrology management.

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries is a member of the Forest Biomass Working Group, which is looking at barriers and opportunities for forest biomass development that will expand Oregon's energy independence, promote healthy forests, improve air quality, and benefit the state's economy, especially in rural areas.

The Oregon Department of Energy heads up the Oregon Wind Working Group (OWWG), which helps identify and overcome obstacles to wind development. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians have attended OWWG meetings.

The Oregon Geothermal Working Group, through the federal GeoPowering the West effort, is reaching out to tribes. Geothermal energy has numerous direct uses in Oregon including home heating, and the potential for electricity generation.

### **Nuclear Safety**

The Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State used to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. The production process resulted in large amounts of chemical and radioactive waste. These wastes pose a long-term threat to the Columbia River. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is responsible for the technical review of the Hanford cleanup and assessment of potential impacts on the Columbia River and Oregon.

The State of Oregon continues to work closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) regarding Hanford policy and technical issues. This is done under a Memorandum of Understanding coordinating efforts related to the Columbia River, groundwater protection, radioactive material transport, public information and emergency preparedness.

ODOE staff consults and coordinates with CTUIR staff regularly on Hanford technical and policy issues. ODOE also works with the CTUIR, the Nez Perce Tribe and the Yakama Nation as a member of the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council.

### **Energy Infrastructure**

The Oregon Department of Energy works with tribes regarding the proposed siting of new energy facilities and pipelines. In 2008, ODOE met with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to review anticipated transmission line and wind farm projects.

### **Public Information and Outreach**

In October, we provided logistical support for the Third Annual Tribal Energy Conference in Eugene. The mission of the conference was to provide a vehicle to aid the networking, information and communications among Northwest tribes. The modules included energy assistance and weatherization measures.

The agency also attends the Natural Resource Working Group meetings, the annual Government-to-Government Summit and Tribal Information Day at the Capitol.

### **Incentives**

The Oregon Department of Energy Loan program offers low-interest, long-term loans for energy efficiency and renewable resource projects to tribes, individuals, businesses and non-profits. The Residential and Business Energy Tax Credit programs make tax credits available for tribes and others without a tax liability through the pass-through provision.