

ACSI AQ, Climate, & Energy (AQCE) Subcommittee Meeting Notes September 2, 2026

AQCE: Noelle, Annabelle, Reed, Jona, Derron, Maleek,

Staff: Tim, Silvia, Jairaj, John

Guest: Kristina Donnelly, Oregon Department of Energy

Welcome | Introductions | Subcommittee member updates

- Local premier of a [film](#) about false climate solutions at Tomorrow Theater on September 13
- [Cully Fest](#) looking for volunteers
- Understand that PCEF's Energy Friendly Homes program is maxed for now.

Oregon Department of Energy on HOMES and HEAR implementation

- Kristina Donnelly presented on ODOE's work to implement HOMES and HEAR. Features of the programs/implementation discussed include:
 - Earth Advantage and Energy Trust of Oregon are implementation partners. Each of them is also partnering with community-based organizations to reach low-income households.
 - Programs to serve existing buildings only.
 - Most of the incentives are through program-enrolled contractors, but some will be available directly to property owners.
 - Enrollment portal under development.
 - HOMES requires modeled energy savings to participate and benefit
 - Air sealing and insulation required (if needed) for HEAR program heat pump incentives
 - Fuel switching is no longer allowed, with the exception that you can switch from fossil fuel based system to heat pump, but cannot be used to pay for decommissioning of the existing system.
 - Rental properties, multifamily are allowed. Income is based on the tenant. For MF, 50% of the units will have to be income verified to receive the LI level of benefits.
- Expect to launch programs in phases.
 - DOE revised requirements in June, so Oregon revised plans and resubmitted. ODOE will be able to launch once DOE approves.
- Subcommittee members asked about ways to simplify income verification, like via the OR Department of Revenue.
 - Not able to do automatic verification via Department of revenue. But categorical eligibility with programs like Oregon Trail, OHP etc.

- Subcommittee members highlighted the importance of preparing East County residents to apply and the need for partnerships with CBOs.
 - ETO is working with CBO's to support readiness.
 - Potential that home assessment may serve as qualification for the HOMES program.
 - Opportunity to start to engage now with East County CBO's on readiness to participate.
 - ETO works with various CBOs, including APANO, CEP, LatNet, and the NW Native Chamber
- Staff asked who at ETO should folks interested speak to about the programs.
 - Scott Leonard
- Staff asked whether community action agencies are involved, and whether resources can be braided with HOMES/HEAR?
 - There is interest in braiding resources for these programs with other resources. Modeling requirements for different programs could be an obstacle, but CAAs are used to navigating federal funding complexities.
- Staff asked about any discussions on how to target customers with low incomes, high energy use, and who experience disconnections repeatedly. What is the role of the utilities in program implementation?
- Staff asked what are the income eligibility thresholds for these programs.
 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/699777be3bfe907109bad7e1/t/6a1727bbf6a67b34a3898bf2/1779902396236/H-H-AMI.pdf>
- Staff asked whether these programs could support a transition from oil heating for LI homes ahead of the upcoming expensive winter heating season.
 - HOMES could but may not be able to cover oil tank remediation.
- Subcommittee member suggested outreach in the form of multilingual communications. Staff suggested building off low income bill discount postcard.
- Subcommittee member flagged that she understands that 1-2% of homes may be able to access the rebates based on funding.
 - ODOE estimates around 10,000 rebates across the programs.
- Staff asked about protections for at risk households and public change considerations.
 - ODOE already looking to protect participant information and not ask for unnecessary information