

AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING () Discussion only
(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: CREA Membership

<p>Background:</p> <p>It is proposed that Umatilla County become a member of Community Renewable Energy Association. The association was formed to support business and economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment. The association advocates for improved policies that support development of more community renewable energy in Oregon. The amount of annual dues is \$250.</p>	<p>Requested Action:</p> <p>Authorize Umatilla County to become a member of Community Renewable Energy Association and payment of \$250 dues</p>
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ATTACHMENTS: Letter

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

- () Dept. Heard (copy)
- () Human Resources (copy)
- () Fiscal
- (X) Legal (copy)
- () (Other - List:)

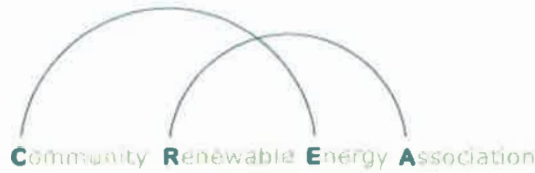
To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: February 22, 2023

Action taken:

Follow-up:



www.community-renewables.org

January 4, 2023

Dear CREA Member;

We appreciate your support of CREA.

We are an ORS 190 intergovernmental organization with the majority of board seats filled by local government representatives. CREA's mission is to facilitate the development of new renewable energy projects in Oregon, particularly smaller scale projects with local ownership to maximize the economic benefits.

With passage of HB 2021 the pace of the transition to carbon free energy sources is continuing to accelerate. The BPA interconnection queue includes 45,000 MW of requests for just Sherman, Morrow, Wasco and Crook counties. Off shore wind and onshore hydrogen on the south coast are also moving ahead. We are also committed to preserving county authority in siting projects.

We believe we are the only local government organization actively representing and informing our members about issues involving renewable energy development in Oregon and advocating their interests.

There is a great deal of work happening around the siting process for renewable projects. CREA is closely involved in several of those discussions which may lead to legislation. The common goal seems to be reducing conflict and streamlining the process.

We continue to engage at the OPUC to ensure that there are opportunities for small scale projects to connect to the grid and find a market for the power generated. In particular, CREA is advocating for a rate schedule for renewable energy delivered from small scale storage projects.

We serve on the Obsidian Renewable Hydrogen Hub Steering Committee. Obsidian recently received a "letter of encouragement" from the federal Department of Energy, one of only 33 projects out of 100 to get that endorsement in the Northwest. Hydrogen has the potential to serve as a clean transportation fuel source and green ammonia fertilizer produced here in the Northwest as well as a replacement for fossil fuels generally.

We are supporting work to secure grant funding from a new source at Oregon Department of Energy for resilience projects: The Community Renewable Energy Grant program. The need to support critical infrastructure in the event of grid instability is becoming increasingly more evident.

CREA represents our local governments as a board member of the Oregon Solar and Storage Industry Association, as an advisory member for Sustainable NorthWest, also with Oregon Coast Economic Alliance Network and participant with Renewable NorthWest policy development and the Renewable Hydrogen Alliance.

CREA dues support the work of staff: executive director and administrative assistant. Funding also goes to legislative advocacy by Milio Capitol Consulting and the work of Greg Adams attorney with Richardson Adams at the OPUC who are experts in the implementation of the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978.

CREA hopes you continue to find value in the efforts to promote responsible renewable energy and economic development that is generated from those projects located in Oregon.

Commissioner Les Perkins, Chair

Mike McArthur, Executive Director

Community Renewable Energy Association