



Workshop Preparation Questions

Docket No. UM 1930 – Community Solar Program

On June 4, 2021, from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm, Staff and the Program Administrator are conducting a public workshop to receive stakeholder input on the next phase of the Community Solar Program.

To prepare for the workshop, we ask stakeholders to consider the following questions and come prepared to share your insights and opinions. If you are unable to attend the workshop, we invite you to email your responses to kacia.brockman@puc.oregon.gov by June 3, 2021.

The prompts listed below each question suggest various program design ideas for consideration, but we encourage stakeholders to suggest other ideas that may not be listed.

1. What is your priority group for the next program phase and why?
 - a. Low-income residents
 - b. Residential and small commercial tenants
 - c. Community-based projects
 - d. Large commercial/public entities
 - e. Other

2. What program changes would be needed to increase participation by your priority participant group?
 - a. Bill credit rate
 - b. Eligibility criteria
 - c. PIM requirements
 - d. Project capacity designations by participant type
 - e. New program support services (tech assistance, language translation, educational materials)
 - f. Other

3. The primary challenge with recruitment of low-income residents is the risk of indebtedness to the Project Manager if the customer falls into arrears on their utility payments. The root cause of the problem is the existing bill hierarchy where on-bill subscription fees are reimbursed after utility charges are paid in full. If the program is not able to change the payment hierarchy, which alternative solution(s) do you recommend to achieve the Program's low-income goals?
 - a. Enroll low-income multifamily housing providers instead of individuals
 - b. Increase participant income eligibility threshold

- c. Establish a loss reserve fund to cover arrearages owed to Project Managers
 - d. Subsidize subscription fees for low-income participants
 - e. Other
4. How can the program reduce complexity for participants?
 - a. Embed program and utility administration fees into the bill credit rate, rather than charging as separate line items on the participant's bill
 - b. Simplify participant contracts
 - c. Restrict custom off-bill transactions between Project Managers and participants
 - d. Other
5. How can the program achieve greater administrative efficiency to shorten timelines, reduce Project Managers' costs, and improve participants' experience?
 - a. Delegate certain authorities from the Commission to the Program Administrator
 - b. Standardize schedule for Program Implementation Manual updates
 - c. Other
6. How can the program help reduce project development costs borne by the Project Managers, considering that the Commission has opened Docket No. UM 2111 to investigate interconnection processes and procedures?
 - a. Increase Project Manager capacity limits to allow for larger project portfolios
 - b. Adjust project capacity requirements by participant type
 - c. Revise eligibility requirements for projects or Project Managers
 - d. Other
7. What do you consider the most important issue that the Oregon Community Solar Program should address in the next program phase?