

January 4, 2022

CREA Membership Letter

We appreciate your support of CREA.

We are an ORS 190 intergovernmental organization with the majority of board seats filled by local government representatives.

With passage of HB 2021 the pace of the transition to renewable energy sources is accelerating again.

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.

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.

Examples: Patu' Wind
Farmers Irrigation
Prineville Bio-mass

We try to work with small scale developers to understand the obstacles to build new projects and work on policy solutions to overcome the problems.

We also are committed to preserving county authority in siting projects. CREA stepped up to engage in the Crook Co. v. ODFW LUBA appeal by commissioning an amicus brief. As a result the LUBA decision was reversed and remanded, preserving county decision making authority in conditional use permits for solar projects less than 1920 acres.

We convened a group of county planners and commissioners to work with ODFW on solar siting guidelines and mitigation plans. This work is ongoing.

We are participating in two other workgroups attempting to improve siting particularly solar: The Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment and The Oregon Smart Siting Collaborative.

We are engaged in the Small Scale Energy study commissioned by the legislature, The Community Renewable Energy Grant program rules and the Regional Transmission Organization study.

CREA hopes you continue to find value in the efforts to promote renewable energy and economic development that is generated.

Les Perkins, Chair
Community Renewable Energy Association