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Small Scale Study Taking Points

- > Intent of PURPA was to promote competition in electricity generation and thus reduce costs to consumers. It has worked when OPUC policies have allowed for contracts and schedules for avoided costs which are reasonable and consistent with the law.
- > USDOE/Lawrence Berkeley Labs Annual report found that for 2015-16-17 solar PV projects < 5-20 MW 25.9% less cost than projects > 100 MW. And 50-100 MW were the least expensive, only slightly (~4%) more than the <20 MW.
- > A 2018 study of the comparison of PGE estimated cost for three wind projects compared to PURPA projects indicates PGE paid more for Bigelow I & III and Tucannon than the schedule 201 avoided costs offered to QFs.
- > The benefits of Production Tax Credits and Accelerated Depreciation are often not available to community scale projects who have no tax liability to offset.
- > There is evidence that community acceptance of renewable projects is much greater when locally owned according to a study from the Institute for Local Self Reliance, from 44% opposed to 33% in favor.
- > BPA requirements for COUs power contracts (100% requirement) restrict the opportunity for small scale projects that might actually reduce rates.
- > Distributed Generation opportunities provided by small scale projects improve the grid and enhance resiliency.

> Many studies show that local employment opportunities are increased with locally owned small scale projects as well as the economic benefit to the community.

> Studies show Solar + Storage is 1/3 the cost of a new gas plant but currently Oregon PUC has not adequately determined the value of storage in a QF contract.

CREA is an ORS 190 intergovernmental association. Members include counties, irrigation districts, project developers, for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. CREA supports business and economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment. We support use of free enterprise principles to create economically and environmentally responsible electric generation within the State of Oregon.