

# Renewable Energy Feasibility (REF) Fund

ACWA Workshop

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Oregon State Fairgrounds

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Oregon Economic & Community Development Department

# REF Fund

- Created in 2006 in response to Governor's Executive Order 06-02 "Sustainability for the 21st Century"
- Provide Loans and **Grants** for Community Renewable Energy Projects
- Encourage Widespread Adoption of Renewable Energy Projects by Funding **Feasibility Studies**

# OECD Renewable Energy Feasibility (REF) Fund

- Feasibility of **Municipally-Owned** Community Renewable Energy Projects
- Use **Renewable Energy Resources** to Generate Electricity, Heat, and/or Manufacture a Fuel
- Promote **Sustainable** Economic & Community Development

# REF Fund Eligible Applicants

- Cities
- Counties
- County Service Districts
- Tribal Councils of Indian Tribes
- Ports
- Districts as defined in ORS 198.010
- Airport Districts

# Renewable Energy Resources

- Water
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Solar
- Biomass
- Waste Materials or Waste Fuels

# Intent of REF Fund

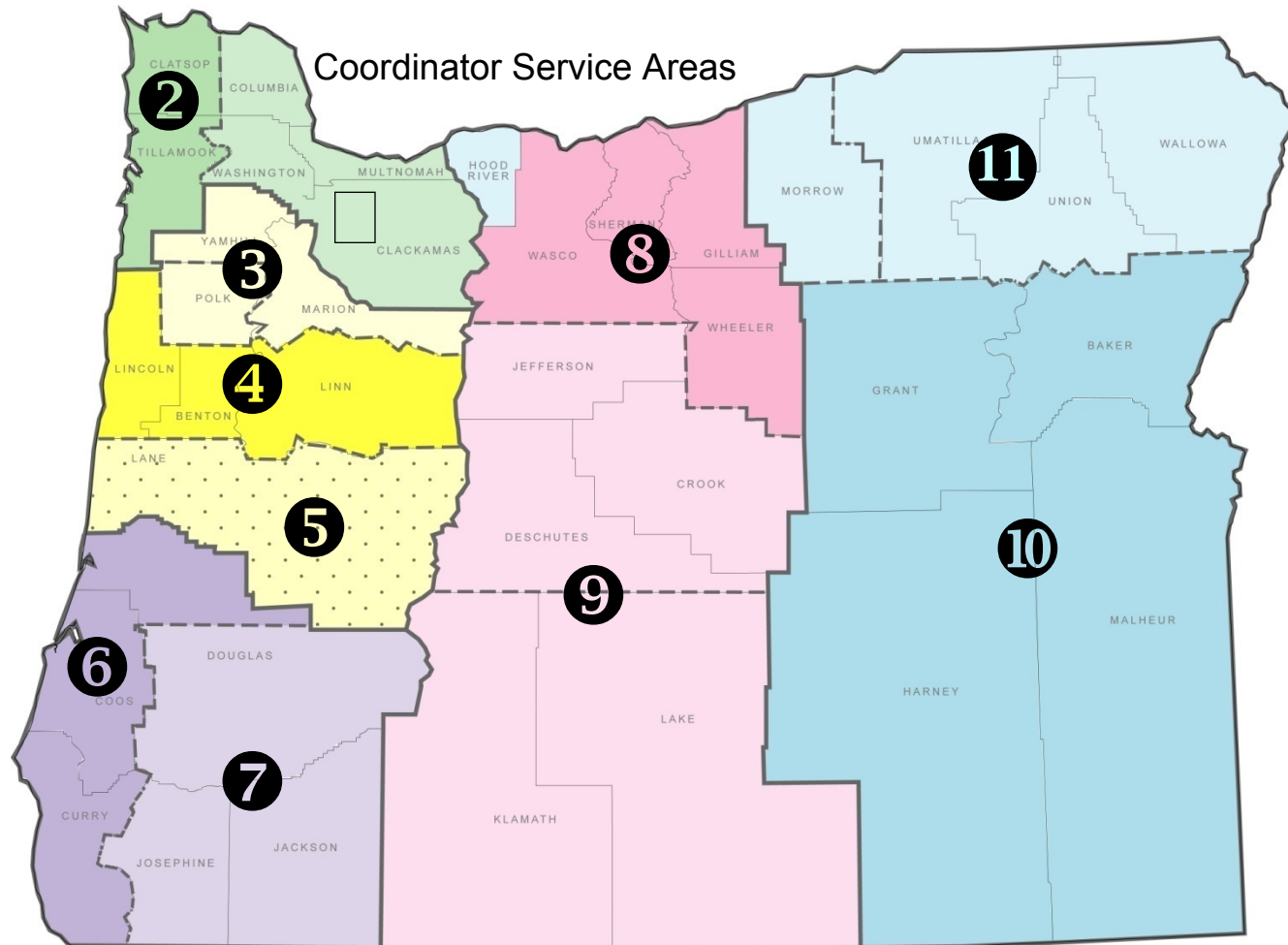
- Use Renewable Energy Resources to Support Municipally-Owned Facilities or Infrastructure
- Rely on Market Proven Technologies
- Lead to Near Term Construction Activity
  - Encourage Energy Efficiency
  - Cost-Effective Use of Renewable Energy Resources

# REF Fund Application Process

- Call for Project Proposals – Applicants Submit an Intake Form (pre-application) to Regional Coordinator
- Eligible Applicants and Proposals Invited to Submit Complete Application
- Applications Reviewed, Rated and Ranked by Evaluation Committee

# IFD Regional Coordinators

...assisting our customers



## Regional Coordinators

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# REF Fund Rating Criteria

- Project Opportunity
- Scope of Work
- Financial & Administrative Capacity
- Next Steps (Implementation of Findings)
- Additional or Other Considerations

## ... Project Opportunity

- Identified Specific Renewable Energy Resource with Development Potential
- Specific Marketplace Technologies Identified to Generate Electricity/Heat or to Manufacture a Fuel
- Technical & Economic Feasibility Needed to Develop the Renewable Energy Resource

## ... Scope of Work

- Proposed Study Analysis Appropriate
- Activities Logically Organized
- Addresses Potential Energy Cost Savings and/or New Revenue
- Addresses Energy Security/Availability/Reliability
- May Lead to New Industry Siting and Job Creation/Retention
- Designed to Lead to “Yes or No” Answer to Construct Project

# ... Financial & Administrative Capacity

- Required Matching Funds Committed and Available
- Applicant Prepared to Issue RFP for Study
- Applicant has Anticipated Potential Barriers and Challenges for Timely Completion
- Sufficient Expertise to Oversee Study Effort
- Qualified Resources to Administer Award

## ... Next Steps

- Applicant Identifies Its Next Steps if Feasible
- Potential Funding Sources Identified for Implementation if Project is Feasible
- Applicant has Engaged Appropriate Stakeholders in Project Proposal
- Permit Requirements Identified

## ... Other Considerations

- Innovative Approach Using Market Technology that may serve as Model for Others
- Funding Level appears very Cost-Effective Relative to Proposed Scope of Work
- Special and Exceptional Features

# REF Fund General Requirements

- Awards Subject to Statutory and Administrative Rules of Special Public Works Fund (SPWF) Program
- Maximum Grant Award is \$50,000, or 75% of Total Projects Costs (whichever is less)
- 25% Local Cash Match

# REF Fund Special Requirements

- Electricity Studies Limited to Capacity greater than 25kW less than 10MW
- Heat or Fuel Generation Projects Must Emphasize Small-Scale Production
- Priority Given to Projects that Potentially Qualify as “Renewable Resource Project” under Oregon’s Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) Program

# REF Fund

## 2008 Evaluation Team

- Jim Zelenka                      OECDD Program Coordinator
- Mark Brady                      OECDD
- Tom Chester Oregon Institute of Technology
- Karen Chase Oregon Department of Energy
- Robert Del Mar                Oregon Department of Energy
- Kip Pheil                         Oregon Department of Energy
- Betsy Kauffman                Energy Trust of Oregon
- Craig Kohanek                 Oregon Water Resources Department
- Craig DeHart                  Middle Fork Irrigation District
- Jan Lee                          Northwest Hydroelectric Association
- Stephanie Page                 Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Lori Koho                        Public Utility Commission
- Christine Valentine          Governor's Economic Recovery Team

# REF Fund Grants to Date

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2007
  - 4 Feasibility Studies, \$134,349
  - Range \$25,000 - \$49,841, \$33,587 Average
- FY 2008
  - 8 Feasibility Studies, \$262,000
  - Range \$6,000 - \$50,000, \$32,750 Average
- FY 2009
  - 8 Feasibility Studies, \$192,080
  - Range - \$7,330 - \$40,000, \$24,010 Average
- Total: 20 Studies - \$588,429, \$29,421 Average

# REF Fund Award Locations

- Geographic coverage - 14 counties
  - *Western*: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Coos, Hood River, Lane, Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill
  - *Central- Eastern*: Deschutes, Klamath, Lake, Wasco, Wallowa
- Applicants Awarded Projects:
  - 3 counties
  - 11 cities
  - 1 Indian tribe
  - 2 irrigation districts

# REF Fund Study Types

- 9 hydroelectric generation
- 1 hydro/wind electric generation
- 3 biogas electricity generation
- 3 biomass electricity/heat generation
- 3 geothermal electricity/heat generation
- 1 wind electricity generation

# REF Fund 2009

- Review of process - Tentative
  - June 12, 2009 – Call for Intakes
  - June 30, 2009 – Intakes due
  - July 14, 2009 – Invitations for full apps
  - August 14, 2009 – Full applications due
  - September 11, 2009 – Evaluation and Recommendation due
  - September 25, 2009 – “Intent to award”

# Questions?

