

Oregon Solar Plus Goals

June 30th, 2017

The Solar Plus project has overall targets to increase solar deployment, lower installation costs, and increase solar employment. In pursuit of the overall goals of Solar Plus strategy development, stakeholders identified three overarching principles to be incorporated as the project moves forward:

- Increase the solar value proposition to ensure that solar enables other state and local energy & climate goals
- Integrate a framework into decision-making processes to drive equitable outcomes
- Ensure that the Solar Plus project creates a legacy of sustained efforts beyond the grant period.

The stakeholders also defined additional specific goals in the pursuit of increased solar deployment, installed cost reduction, and job creation targets defined in the Solar Plus grant.

- Increase the access and benefits of solar to low-income communities and communities of color.
 - The current solar marketplace does not provide adequate options for low-income participation. Furthermore, solar may provide new opportunities to address economic and environmental disparities. New tools and incentives are necessary to enable access and deliver benefits to low-income households without creating additional burdens.
- Strengthen the advocacy capacity of communities around the state regarding solar, and diversify the network of organizations that engage in solar policies.
 - Currently a relatively small number of organizations are involved in renewable energy policy and regulatory matters. An active development of the technical understanding and advocacy capacity of more groups could lead to more engagement in developing tools to deploy solar in targeted ways and to meet multiple goals.
- Increase solar employment in low-income communities and communities of color
 - There is an opportunity to use solar energy deployment as a tool to reduce poverty and increase employment in rural communities as well as densely populated metropolitan areas.
- Engage regulatory entities and utilities to explore distribution, locational needs and complementary technologies that add value to solar deployment.
 - The Oregon Public Utilities Commission and other regulatory bodies are conducting proceedings related to solar and distributed energy resources. There are opportunities for collaborative input and coordination with utilities to evaluate how solar coupled with other technologies can provide services to the electric grid and increase resiliency and the solar value proposition.
- Increase the business community's connection to solar
 - Businesses could be a significant driver of new solar capacity, and could use solar deployment as a tool to meet their energy needs, connect with customers, and provide job growth in the solar industry.
- Increase the popular understanding of solar opportunities and technology
 - There is a need for greater awareness, education, and outreach regarding solar energy and potential future uses. Achieving this goal could lead to greater capacity of installation, greater public understanding of energy, and a more participatory energy marketplace.

These goals will inform the development of potential strategies and tools to implement this vision, and will be developed by Solar Plus stakeholders in the following months.