

**From:** [COLLINS Kristi](#)  
**To:** [PUC.FilingCenter](#)  
**Subject:** FW: UM1020, Public Comments, Blue Sky and Energy Trust Incentives  
**Date:** Friday, April 15, 2016 3:29:37 PM

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**From:** BATMALE JP  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2016 3:15 PM  
**To:** COLLINS Kristi  
**Subject:** UM1020, Public Comments, Blue Sky and Energy Trust Incentives

This being forwarded on behalf of Buzz Thielemann. He originally sent the email below on Wednesday 4/13/16 as public comment on UM1020 to me.

**Jean-Pierre (JP) Batmale**

Sr. Utility Analyst

**Oregon Public Utility Commission**

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Hi JP,

I was alarmed to see the following direction from Energy Trust and the Oregon PUC. Our company, Oregon Energy Green provides assistance to many non-profits that want invest in solar projects but are at a distinct disadvantage without being able to utilize the ITC of 30% or

MACRS (rapid depreciation). As a result, on the successful projects we have completed, all of them used a combination of private investment, Blue Sky and Energy Trust to make the project a reality.

From reading documents the issue appears to be co-mingled rate payer dollars. I do not see how this applies in any way to Blue Sky because Blue Sky is an option, just like the *market based* power that Pacific Power offers rate payers. They are separate dollars. Also, for customers to obtain a Blue Sky grant, they also have to be Blue Sky customers and contribute to grant fund.

I feel not allowing customers, who pay into the fund to not be able to use both Energy Trust dollars, which are mandatory Public Purpose and optional Blue Sky funding is unfair.

Currently are working on a potential Blue Sky project in Klamath Falls for a mission that is being funded in the most part by the Wendt foundation, and both funds were being considered in the successful implementation of the project.

If Blue Sky and Energy Trust are not allowed, it will just put more pressure on Blue Sky funding and there will be less to go around. Also, to win a Blue Sky grant, one of the considerations is leverage, which is taken away with this ruling.

Sincerely,

Buzz Thielemann

President

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April 8, 2016

**On March 28, Energy Trust of Oregon received direction from the Oregon Public Utility Commission that solar projects that receive funding from [Portland General Electric Clean Wind](#) or [Pacific Power Blue Sky](#) grant programs cannot receive an Energy Trust solar incentive. This direction will apply to all solar projects seeking funding from either grant program during the 2016 submission process. Projects that seek and do not receive funding through the grant programs are eligible to apply to Energy Trust for a solar incentive.**

This decision only applies to projects receiving a Pacific Power Blue Sky grant or a PGE Clean Wind grant. Customers receiving funds from other state or federal grants remain eligible to receive those funds and an Energy Trust solar incentive.

Both utility grant programs are currently seeking applicants. If you have already submitted an Energy Trust incentive application or have a reserved incentive for a project and are seeking Blue Sky or Clean Wind grant funding in 2016, please contact Jeni Hall at [jeni.hall@energytrust.org](mailto:jeni.hall@energytrust.org) and we can discuss next steps. Projects that have not yet completed and received grant funding in 2015 are not impacted by this Oregon Public Utility Commission decision.

More information about the utility grant programs is available online and by email:

- [Portland General Electric Clean Wind \(RDF@portlandgeneral.com\)](mailto:RDF@portlandgeneral.com)
- [Pacific Power Blue Sky \(blueskyprojects@pacificpower.net\)](mailto:blueskyprojects@pacificpower.net)