

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UM 2276

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Justice Funding Precertification Application
and Budget

NOTICE TO REQUEST HB 2475
INTERVENOR FUNDING
PRE-CERTIFICATION OF OREGON
JUST TRANSITION ALLIANCE

Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a fiscally sponsored project of [Community Initiatives](#), hereby submits its Notice to Request HB 2475 Intervenor Funding Pre-Certification for \$80,000.

Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA) is a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation – the frontlines of injustice and the frontlines of change. We bring together organizations committed to base-building in frontline communities. We gather to create ownership over our collective future and move Oregon toward an economy that is rooted in our shared values, [the principles of a Just Transition](#). Our Steering Committee includes Rogue Climate, Verde, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), Beyond Toxics, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), and OPAL Environmental Justice.

OJTA was founded in 2017 by frontline environmental justice leaders across Oregon to help build a powerful statewide movement for a just transition. In 2019, members of OJTA came together to put forth a draft platform for an Oregon Green New Deal. In 2020, we launched the Frontline Organizers Rising cohort, which led the statewide Oregon Green New Deal Listening Tour, hosting virtual listening sessions across the state to inform the next iteration of the Oregon Green New Deal. In the fall of 2020, OJTA and frontline base-building organizations from across the state came together for energy justice, launching our first-ever joint legislative campaign, Oregon Clean Energy Opportunity, and Energy Justice Leadership Institute, a statewide leadership program for frontline community members.

In July 2021, in collaboration with the Energy Democracy Coalition, we won the Oregon Clean Energy Opportunity campaign, successfully passing into law three groundbreaking bills: **HB 2475, to reduce energy bills**, HB 2842, to support home upgrades to help keep families healthy, and HB 2021, to create good jobs in clean energy projects and require our utilities to reach 100% clean energy by 2040.

Since the passage of HB 2021 and HB 2475, OJTA has been participating in the HB 2021 Energy Advocates group. Recognizing a need to have further direct community engagement and education, OJTA co-launched the HB 2021 Community Advocates program in October 2022, in collaboration with Rogue Climate, Coalition of Communities of Color, Verde, Northwest Energy Council, and Multnomah County Office of Sustainability. We are planning to continue this cohort with returning and new participants in 2024.

In 2023 OJTA along with a broader coalition of organizations passed the Resilient, Efficient Buildings policy package. This package will ensure that we ensure new construction is built smart from the start and make it easier and more affordable for all Oregonians to improve current homes and buildings to waste less energy, protect us from climate extremes, and run on clean electricity. Of particular importance is the Healthy Heating & Cooling for All which sets a target to install 500,000 new heat pumps that will both heat and cool homes efficiently and affordably. Providing financial assistance and other help to purchase and install heat pumps prioritizing low-income households and those at highest risk from extreme weather. OJTA is monitoring and engaging in the implementation of this process and looking at potential barriers impacting low-income and frontline communities.

All of our advocacy at the local, state, agency, and federal levels has been with and on behalf of frontline communities or environmental justice communities, prioritizing the needs of people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, and people in rural areas, those most impacted by the climate crisis. We bring together community-based, base-building organizations from across the state that are led by and serve frontline communities.

OJTA intends to request HB2475 pre-certification funding for 2024 to continue to support this engagement at the PUC and pass through resources to member organizations and/or other community partners to support engaging community members on issues such as energy affordability, access to clean energy, and community climate resilience, among others, in partnership with OJTA staff. The information and data gathered from community members at these meetings will inform the positions OJTA takes and the priorities we advocate for at the PUC.

Description of Areas to be Investigated

OJTA intends to request a total of \$80,00 to be broken down in approximately the following ways:

- \$50,000 passed to 3 OJTA member organizations/community partners to support community engagement workshops or sessions in their communities. OJTA will work alongside these organizations to prepare materials and develop a curriculum/agenda.
 - \$20,000 will go to Beyond Toxics is located in Eugene Oregon. Funding will go to a community meeting and staff engagement in the Energy Advocates Weekly Meeting and other relevant activities.

- \$15,000 will go to Pineros and Campesinos Unidos del Noreste for a community meeting located in Woodburn Oregon. PCUN empowers farmworkers and working Latinx families in Oregon by building community, increasing Latinx representation in elections, and policy advocacy on both the national and state levels.
- \$15,000 will go to Adelante Mujeres located in Washington County for a community meeting.
- A total of \$20,000 to support OJTA's staff time in docket participation and community outreach and engagement.
- \$10,000 for fiscal overhead costs.

OJTA anticipates being involved in the following issues/dockets, alongside our other community partners with whom we have been working closely on PUC docket engagement in 2023.

UM 2211 - Implementation of HB 2475 (ADV 1365, ADV 1390, ADV 1412):

UM 2211 is a non-contested docket that addresses the implementation of HB 2475 (Energy Affordability Act). This docket impacts energy-burdened households across Oregon, as utilities are tasked to consider feedback from stakeholders, such as OJTA, to create programs to address the energy burden for low-income and underserved customers.

OJTA intends to participate in the following dockets for each utility program that fall within UM 2211: PGE Advice Income Qualified Bill Discount (ADV 1365), NWN's Advice Residential Low-Income Bill Discount Program (ADV 1390), and PacifiCorp Low-Income Bill Discount Program (ADV 1412). In these proceedings, the applicant plans to inform our alliance and provide feedback on program eligibility, enrollment, verification, level of relief, outreach, engagement, and timeline to ensure that these programs adequately address the energy burden faced by low-income and underserved communities.

OJTA is interested in the UM 2211 phase two investigation which will be beginning soon.

These types of matters are eligible proceedings because they involve the development and implementation of programs that affect the rights and needs of low-income and underserved communities in the energy sector. OJTA has a stake in ensuring that these programs are designed and implemented in a way that is fair, equitable, and effective.

UM 2225 - HB 2021 Implementation:

OJTA plans to participate in this docket by advocating for the implementation of HB 2021, which promotes equitable access to clean energy for all Oregonians. OJTA believes that this docket is eligible because it aligns with the organization's mission to promote community-based solutions to energy issues, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring equitable

access to clean energy. We will continue to support programming for the HB 2021 Community Advocates, which will run through October 2023, and planning to resume in 2024 with returning and new participants. The Community members from across the state will learn about energy justice, how to engage with the PUC and utilities, and how to comment and influence HB 2021 plans, including Integrated Resource Plans and Clean Energy Plans.

LC 79 NWN IRP:

OJTA believes that this docket is eligible because it aligns with the organization's mission to promote community-based solutions to energy issues and to ensure that low-income and underserved communities are not disproportionately affected by the actions of utility companies. OJTA plans to be engaged in the NWN IRP as they look to file their update in 2024.

LC 82 - PAC IRP & CEP

OJTA considers this docket eligible because it is related to energy planning, which is an important aspect of OJTA's policy and advocacy to promote community-based solutions to energy issues. OJTA plans on continuing to be engaged through the duration of PAC's IRP & CEP process at the PUC working alongside the Energy Advocates Group.

UM 1893 - Energy Efficiency Avoided Costs for 2025

OJTA considers this docket eligible because it is related to energy efficiency, an important aspect of our advocacy over the past couple of years. OJTA plans on engaging with Beyond Toxics to evaluate the way the utilities and Energy Trust of Oregon are looking at energy efficiency as a resource and the equity consequences of their decisions around energy efficiency.

Energy Trust of Oregon Grant Agreement

OJTA considers this docket eligible because of the impacts and/or opportunities for low-income and environmental justice communities from what is outlined in the grant agreement rules. It is important to have EJ voices at the table when thinking about improvements that can be made to the current PUC agreement. OJTA plans on engaging to evaluate the equity implications of the grant agreement, as well as other topical issues that might evolve from the investigation process.

NWN Rate Case

OJTA considers this docket eligible because it affects NWN's residential customers and our energy advocacy is to ensure that low-income and underserved communities are not disproportionately affected by the actions of utility companies.

General PUC Planning

Oregon Just Transition Alliance will spend time planning future ways to advocate within the PUC beyond specific dockets already in motion. Examples of arenas and topics include:

- OJTA can coordinate with our members so that more experienced advocates can help advocates that are newer to the PUC process as they begin to engage through the pass-through funding.
- Join the Stakeholder "Utility Policy Reading Group" to learn more about technical issues and discuss PUC engagement strategies.

OJTA intends to be involved in other dockets that impact the following areas:

- Issues that grow out of IRP and rate cases/revisions
- Decarbonization/electrification
- Energy affordability for low-income rate-payers
- Equity in energy efficiency
- Grid equity
- Disconnections
- Community Resilience

Budget Showing Estimated Fees and Costs

Attachment A and Attachment B submitted herewith set forth the estimated fees and costs.

Oregon Just Transition Alliance respectfully requests that this Commission grant its Notice Request for HB 2475 Intervenor Funding Pre-Certification.

Dated this November 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joel Iboa

Joel Iboa

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Attachment A
OJTA's PUC Intervenor Funding Budget - 2024

OJTA Internal Expenses	Rate	Hours	Cost
<i>Staff</i>			
Advocacy and Systems Director	\$100	200	\$20,000
<u>Staffing Subtotal</u>			<u>\$20,000</u>
<i>Subgrants</i>			
Beyond Toxics			\$20,000
PCUN			\$15,000
Member Organization of OJTA			\$15,000
<u>Subgrants Total</u>			<u>\$50,000</u>
<i>Overhead</i>			
Fiscal Sponsorship fee			\$10,000
<u>Overhead Total</u>			<u>\$10,000</u>
Total			<u>\$80,000</u>

Attachment B
Community Energy Project Proposed Budget By Utility

	<u>PGE</u>	<u>Northwest</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>Natural</u>	<u>PacifiCorp</u>	
<i>Staff time</i>				
Advocacy and Systems Director	\$6,667	6,667	\$6,667	\$20,000
<i>Subgrants to Member organizations</i>				
Beyond Toxics	\$6,667	6,667	\$6,667	\$20,000
PCUN	\$5,000	5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Memeber Organization of OJTA	\$5,000	5,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
<i>Overhead</i>				
fiscal sponsorship fee	\$3,333	3,334	\$3,333	\$10,000
Total	\$26,666	26,667	\$26,666	\$80,000

