

Proposed NEEA budget cuts:

Talking points for energy efficiency advocates

For 18 years, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance has been the region's premier provider of energy savings. The 136 utilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana that fund NEEA do so because it does what they cannot: reach across territorial and temporal boundaries to capture large savings opportunities and to reset manufacturing baselines to benefit both the environment and consumers.

NEEA was created to maximize energy efficiency gains through market transformation and region-wide, often long-term efficiency projects. Its five-year budgets give NEEA the flexibility to engage in a wide range of market transformation projects across utility service territories and to adapt those projects to secure further gains as markets evolve. As a result, NEEA secures energy savings more cheaply than any individual utility or program.

NEEA now is developing its next five-year strategic plan and budget (for FY 2015-2019). The process is an opportunity to examine NEEA's organizational efficiency, improve its processes and adopt a budget sufficient to advance its long-term clean energy vision.

Unfortunately, the utilities that make up most of NEEA's governing board and greatly benefit from NEEA's unparalleled efficiency achievements have proposed cutting the organization's primary budget by nearly 30%.

This is unacceptable. It's one thing to find operational efficiencies and fix problems with overlapping initiatives. It's quite another to downsize this critically important and wildly successful organization and thus leave significant opportunities to reduce energy use and consumer bills untapped. The public interest must be represented and served.

A series of local public-input sessions and regional webinars on the budget proposal begins next Monday, April 21, and concludes on Friday, May 2. Times and locations may be found on the attached schedule or accessed at <http://neea.org/get-involved/neea-strategic-planning>. Written comments may be emailed to lclark@neea.org.

Please submit written comments, attend your local input session and participate in the regional webinars. Here are some points to make:

- NEEA provides the lowest cost energy efficiency savings in the region. For example, not a single Idaho Power efficiency program nets savings for less than 2 cents per kilowatt-hour; NEEA averages 1.9 cents/kWh.
- NEEA was designed to operate projects beyond utilities' service territories and has been hugely successful in securing efficiency savings by doing so. It must have the budget to continue this crucial activity.

- NEEA focuses on wholesale-level efforts that transform markets. Individual utilities are constrained by service territories and their own budget periods; they need NEEA to bridge the gaps.
- This is not the time to retreat on energy efficiency, our cheapest, cleanest and quickest new energy resource. We need all the cost-effective energy efficiency we can get to reduce climate pollution and consumers' bills
- Cutting nearly 30% of NEEA's base budget would downsize the organization and reduce efficiency savings, costing consumers money. NEEA would have to walk away from certain projects and programs that provide regional benefits.
- Allowing utilities to opt out of (or choose to not opt into) a range of projects could transform NEEA into a "fee-for-service" organization and put management of projects and sectors into silos. That reduces adaptive management options, making it harder or impossible to take advantage of emerging opportunities.
- Any overlap problems between NEEA's and individual utilities' efficiency programs can be solved without Draconian budget cuts that undercut the integrity and mission of the organization.

For more information contact:

- Nancy Hirsh, NW Energy Coalition, nancy@nwenergy.org, (206) 621-0094
- Bob Jenks, Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon, bob@oregoncub.org, (503) 753-4190
- Ben Otto, Idaho Conservation League, botto@idahoconservation.org, (208) 345-6933
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Regional Input Sessions: NEEA 2015-19 Business Plan



Input Session Location	Date	Time	Speakers
Portland, OR PacifiCorp, 825 NE Multnomah St, Conference Room 720 (7th floor) Portland, OR 97232	April 21	10:00-11:30am PDT	Susan E. Stratton, NEEA Executive Director Local NEEA Board Host/s
Regional Webinar Webinar Link Dial-in: 1-877-809-9502 Participant code: 0094737	April 21	1:00-3:00pm PDT	Susan E. Stratton, NEEA Executive Director NEEA Board members
Missoula, MT Location TBD	April 22	2:30-4:00pm MDT	Susan E. Stratton, NEEA Executive Director Local NEEA Board Host/s
Spokane, WA Inland Power & Light, 10110 W. Hallett Rd., Spokane, WA 99224	April 23	10:00-11:30am PDT	Susan E. Stratton, NEEA Executive Director Local NEEA Board Host/s
Boise, ID Idaho Power, 1221 W. Idaho St, First Floor Auditorium, Boise, ID 83702	April 28	1:30-3:00pm MDT	Susan E. Stratton, NEEA Executive Director Local NEEA Board Host/s
Seattle, WA Puget Sound Energy, 355 110th Avenue NE, Auditorium, Bellevue, WA 98004	April 30	10:00-11:30am PDT	Susan E. Stratton, NEEA Executive Director Local NEEA Board Host/s
Regional Webinar (tentative) Webinar Link Dial-in: 1-877-809-9502 Participant code: 0094737	May 2	1:00-2:30pm PDT	Susan E. Stratton, NEEA Executive Director NEEA Board members

RSVP Requested for all events to NEEA: Tamara Anderson at tanderson@neea.org

DESIRED OUTCOME:

To present proposed revisions and capture stakeholder input and direction on NEEA's draft Business plan.

**DRAFT AGENDA**

5 min	Welcome/Opening Remarks	NEEA Board Host
5 min	Review Agenda and Process for Feedback	Clay Norris, NEEA Director of Stakeholder Relations
30 min	Present NEEA's Proposed 2015-2019 Business Plan	Susan E. Stratton, NEEA Executive Director
45 min	Q&A and Public Input	Clay Norris, NEEA Director of Stakeholder Relations
5 min	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed Timeline• Wrap Up	Clay Norris, NEEA Director of Stakeholder Relations