

# Oregon Utilities & Energy Policy 101

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# Intros

- Name, pronouns, who are you representing?
- What/who is your favorite non-human living thing? (e.g. plant, pet)
- What are you hoping to learn today?

# Agenda and Ground Rules for this Conversation

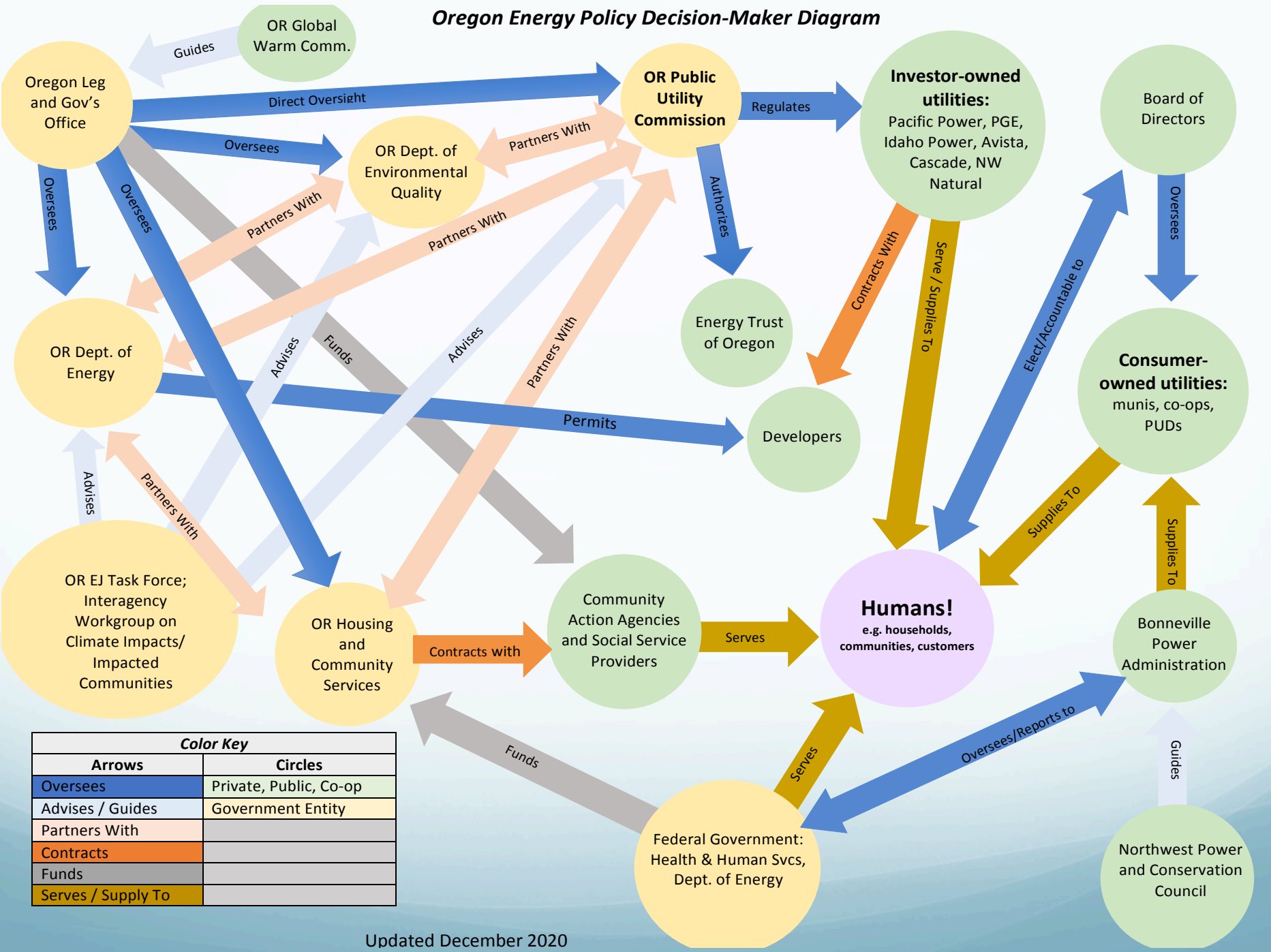
## GROUND RULES

- Assuming no prior knowledge: avoid acronyms & jargon.
- Step up (into speaking/questioning); step up (into listening), speak loud!
- Observe/name power dynamics and respect everyone's time.
- Any question is a good one.
- ?

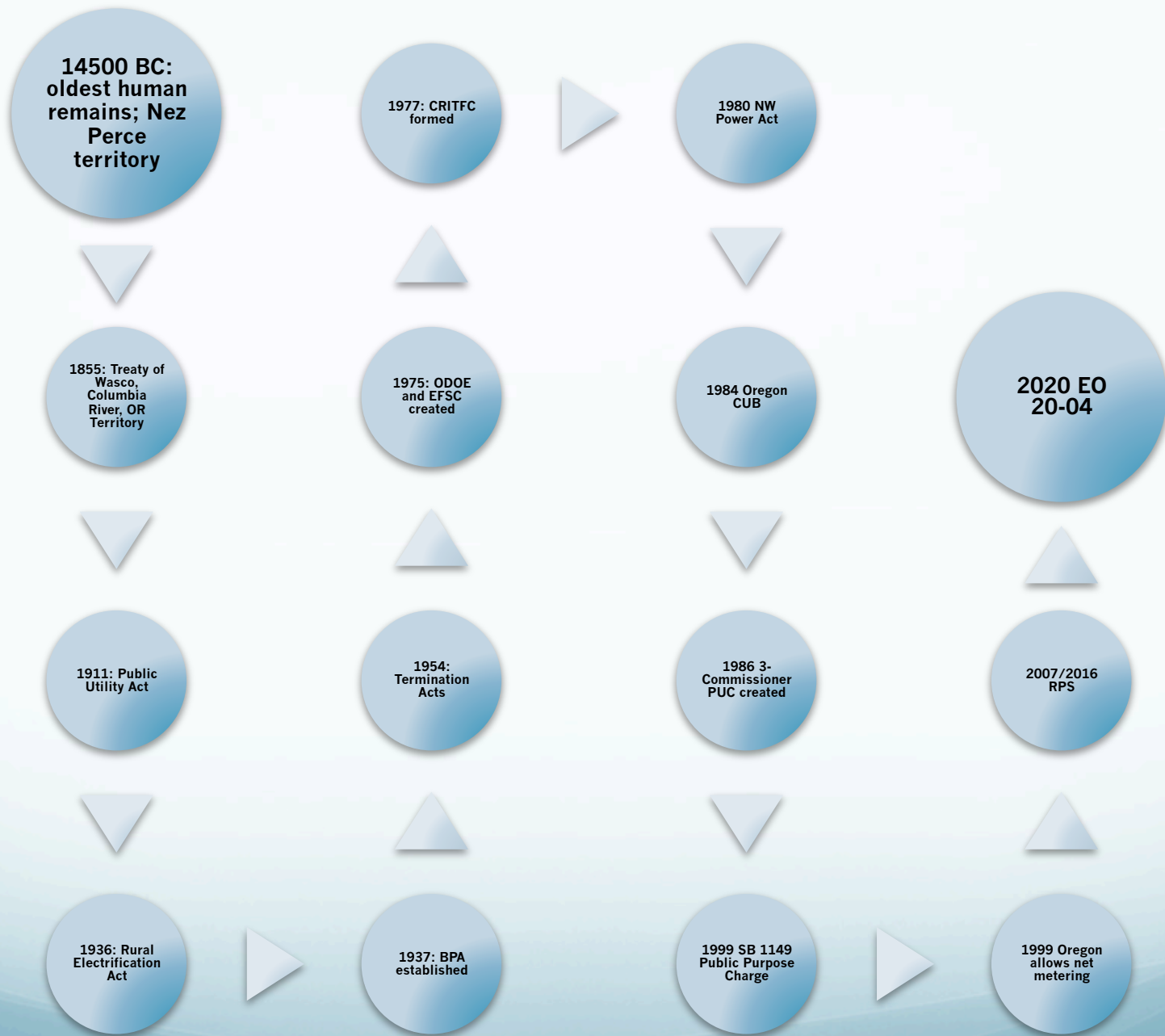
## AGENDA

- Epol Decision-Maker Diagram
- Epol Timeline
- The Grid
- Where our energy comes from
  - Hydro
- Energy Efficiency
- Utilities: IOUs and COUs
- How utilities are regulated
- The PUC
  - Who
  - What they do
  - How to get involved
  - Hot topics/key opportunities
- Takeaways and Feedback

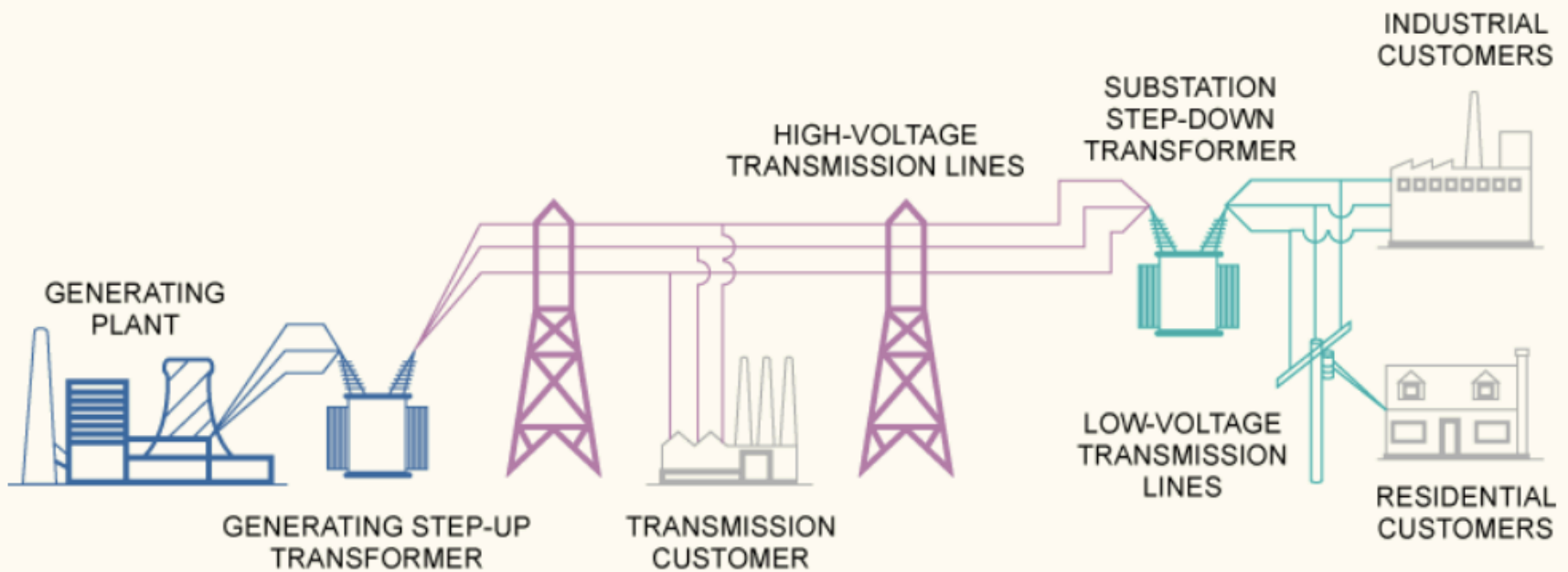
Oregon Energy Policy Decision-Maker Diagram



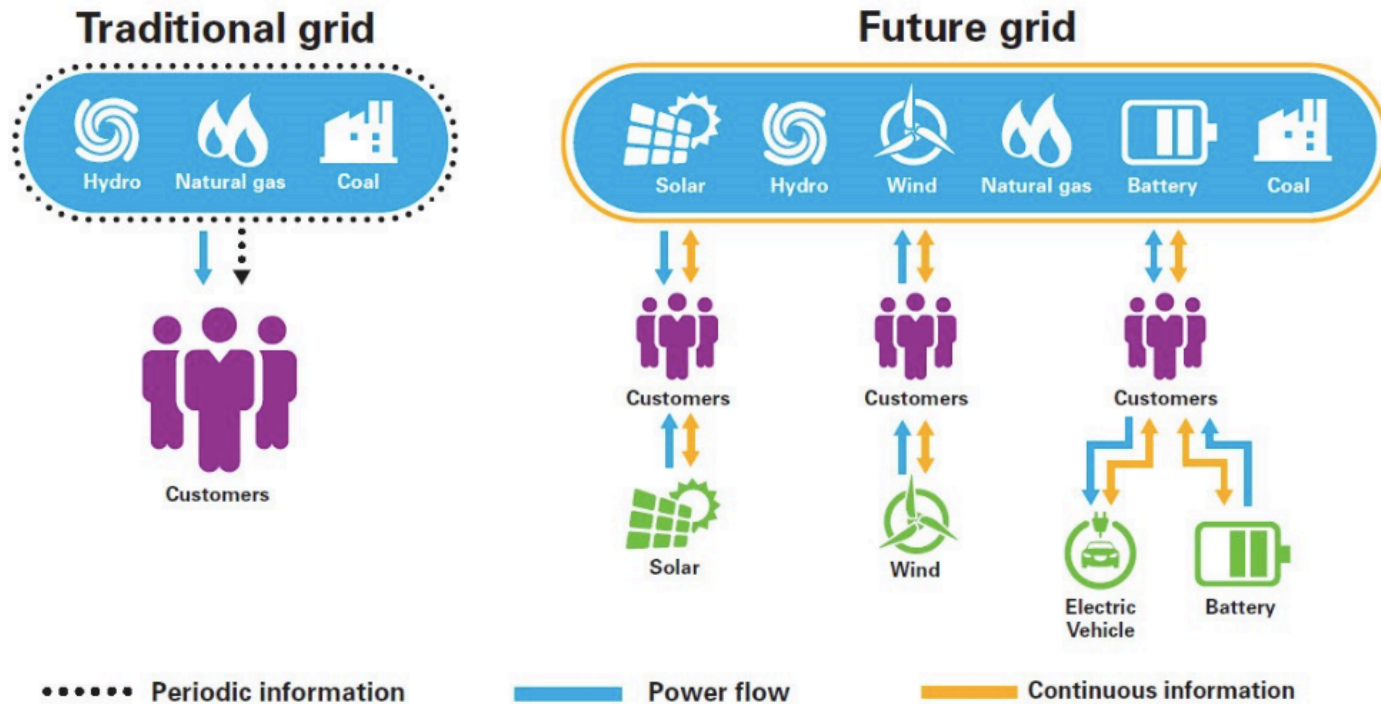
Color Key	
Arrows	Circles
Oversees	Private, Public, Co-op
Advises / Guides	Government Entity
Partners With	
Contracts	
Funds	
Serves / Supply To	



# The Grid Traditionally

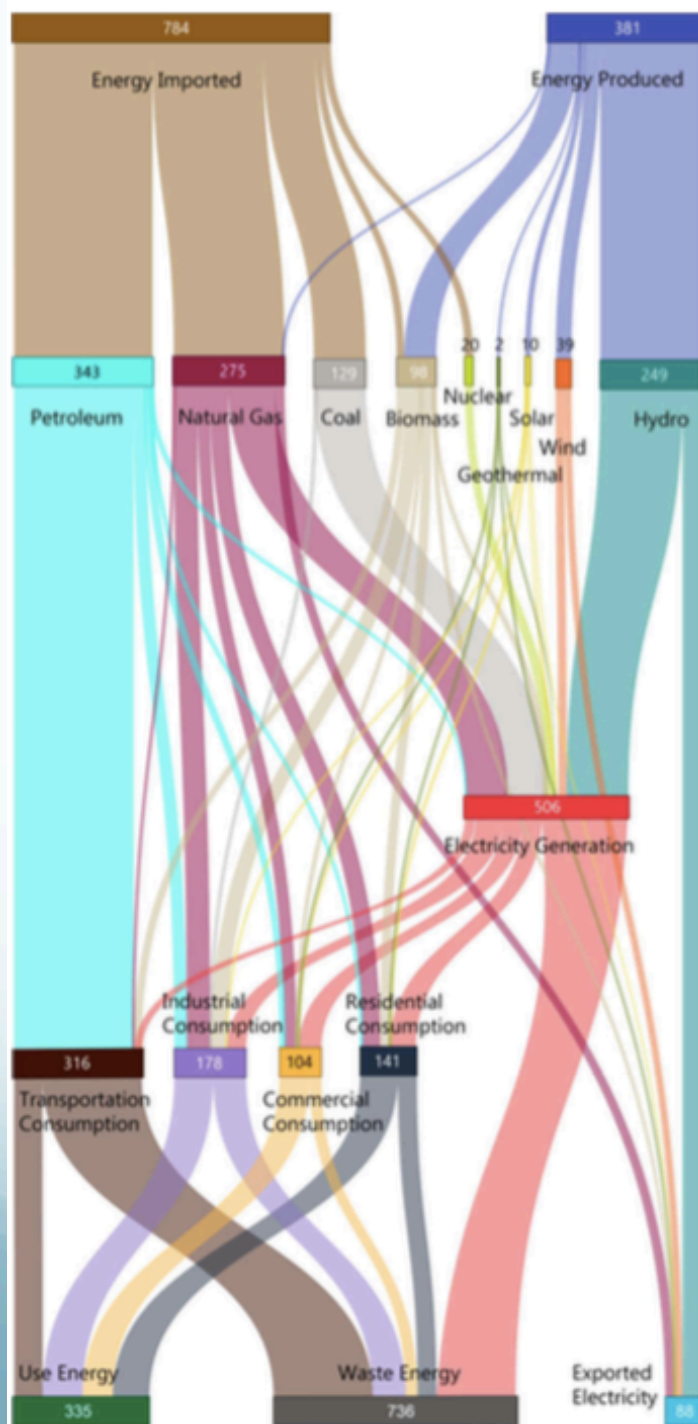


# Changes in the Grid



Source: Alliant Energy



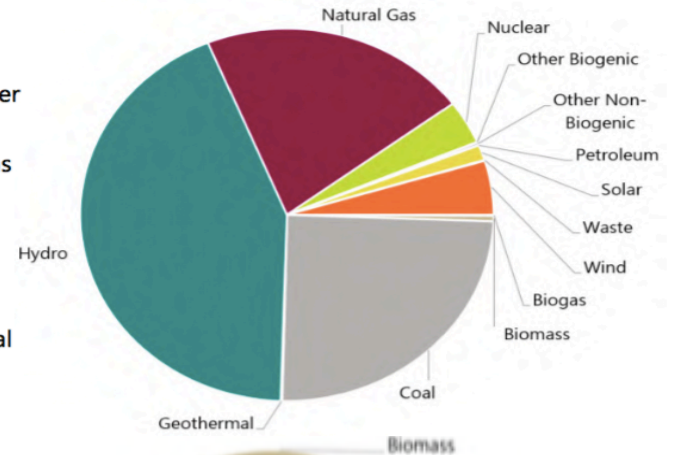


## Electricity

42.4%

of Oregon's  
2016  
energy  
consumption

43.3%	Hydropower
24.8%	Coal
21.1%	Natural Gas
4.7%	Wind
3.8%	Nuclear
1.3%	Solar
0.5%	Biomass
0.1%	Geothermal
0.1%	Biogas

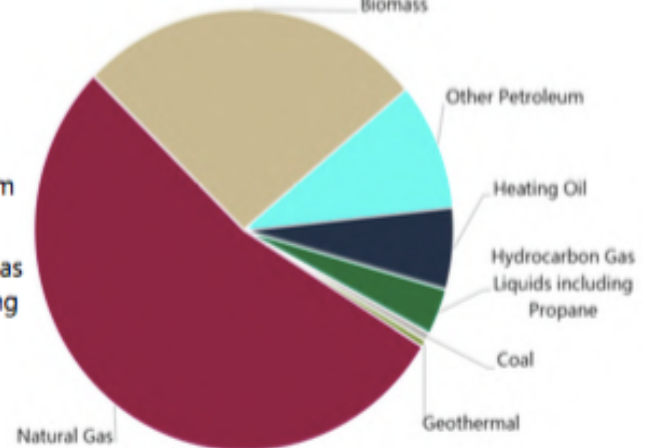


## Direct Use Fuels

25.5%

of Oregon's  
2016  
energy  
consumption

53.5%	Natural Gas
26.8%	Biomass
9.3%	Other Petroleum
6%	Heating Oil
3.4%	Hydrocarbon Gas Liquids Including Propane
0.6%	Coal
0.5%	Geothermal

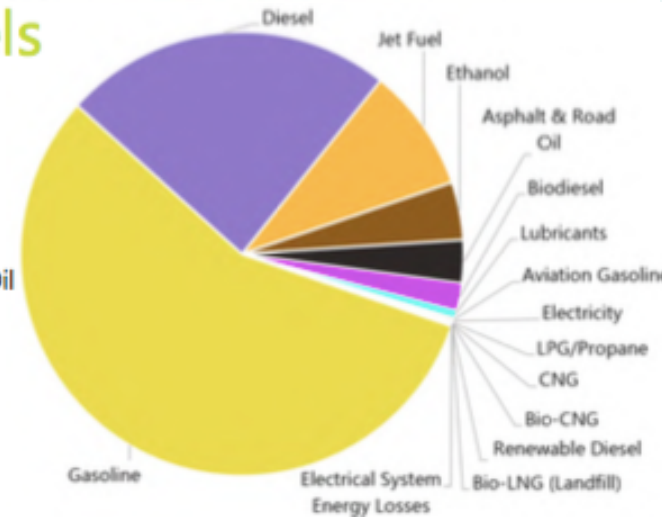


## Transportation Fuels

31.2%

of Oregon's  
2016  
energy  
consumption

56.4%	Gasoline
24.1%	Diesel
9.0%	Jet Fuel
4.2%	Ethanol
3.1%	Asphalt, Road Oil
2%	Biodiesel
0.6%	Lubricants
0.2%	Aviation Gas
0.1%	Electricity



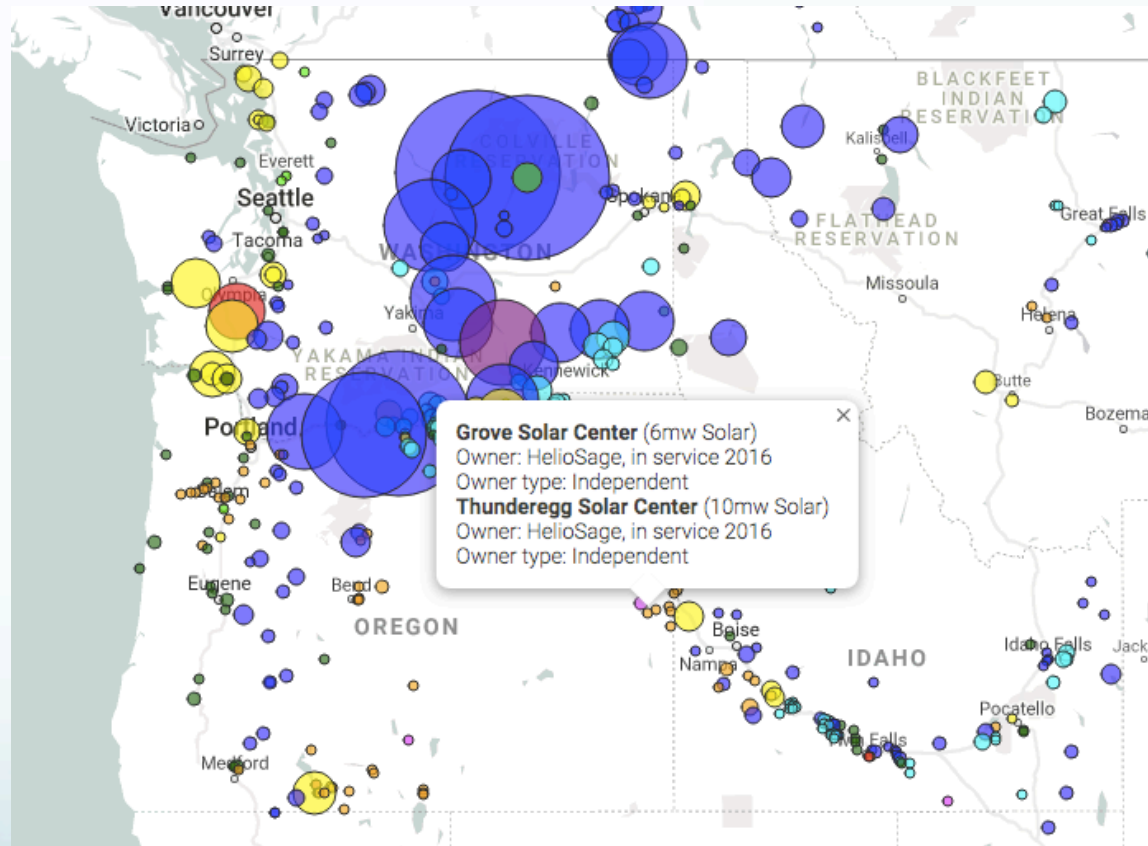


# Give it a try: where does your energy come from?

- ODOE Utility service territory map:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/pages/find-your-utility.aspx>
- ODOE Electricity-mix-by-utility map:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/pages/electricity-mix-in-oregon.aspx#:~:text=%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8BIn,%2C%20wind%2C%20and%20the%20sun.>

# We Are A Hydro Region

- Cons
  - Cultural upheaval
  - Salmon “keystone species”
  - Treaty of 1855 Violation
- Pros
  - Low rates
  - 100% free of direct emissions



# Discuss! And Stretch Break

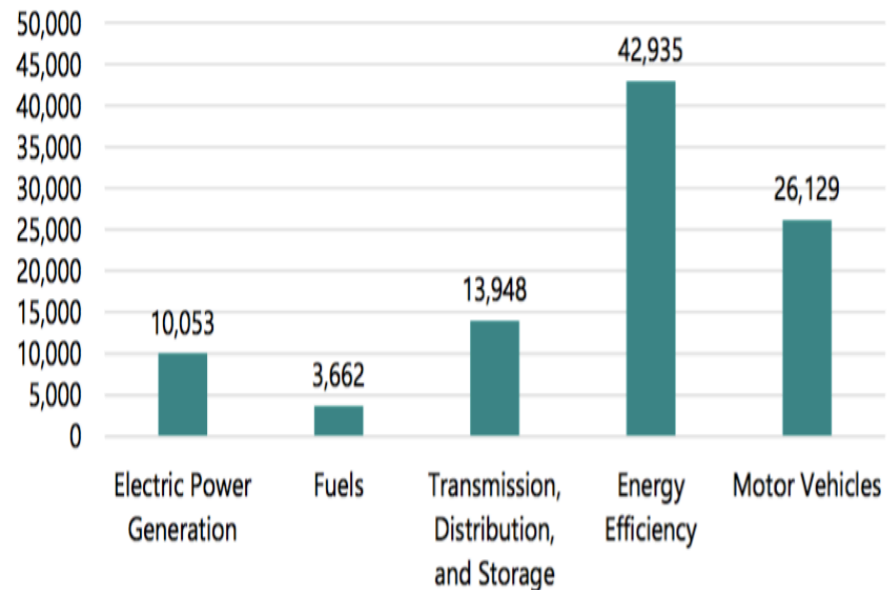


# Energy Efficiency

- EE: “implementing a measure to reduce energy consumption by using less energy to attain the same output.”
- 1980 NWPA: “conservation is the first resource”
- Total Resource Cost < Cost of New Generation = Implement the Measure
- Multiplicative benefits of EE “harder to acquire” lately
- In OR, funded mostly through Public Purpose Charge (IOUs) and BPA (COUs) budget

In 2019, Oregon's energy industry employed 96,727 Oregonians.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1: Energy Jobs in Oregon (2019)**



# IOUs and COUs

## IOUs

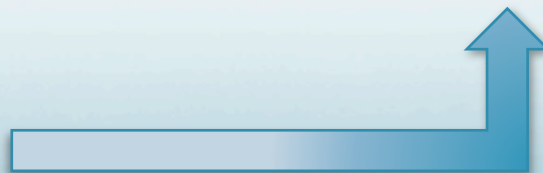
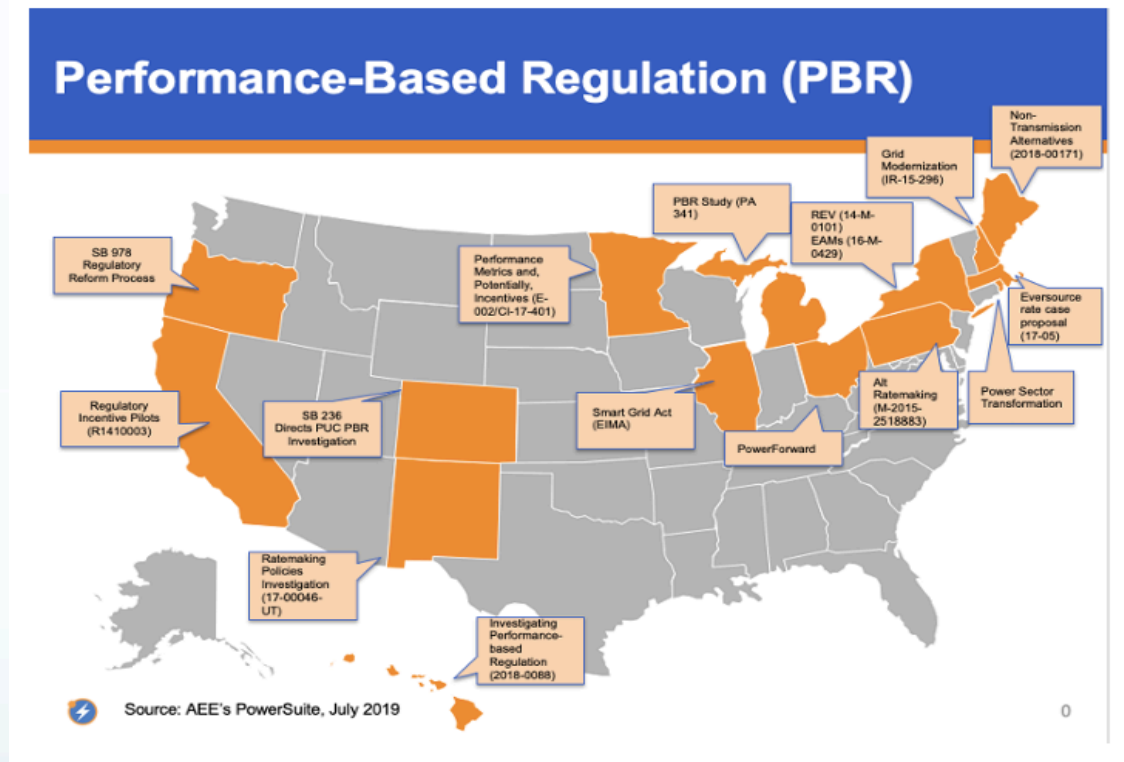
- Accountable to (currently progressive) Commission and state government
- Profit-driven industry

## COUs

- (some) Benefits stay in community
- Locally accountable leadership
- Potential industry capture

# Utility Regulation

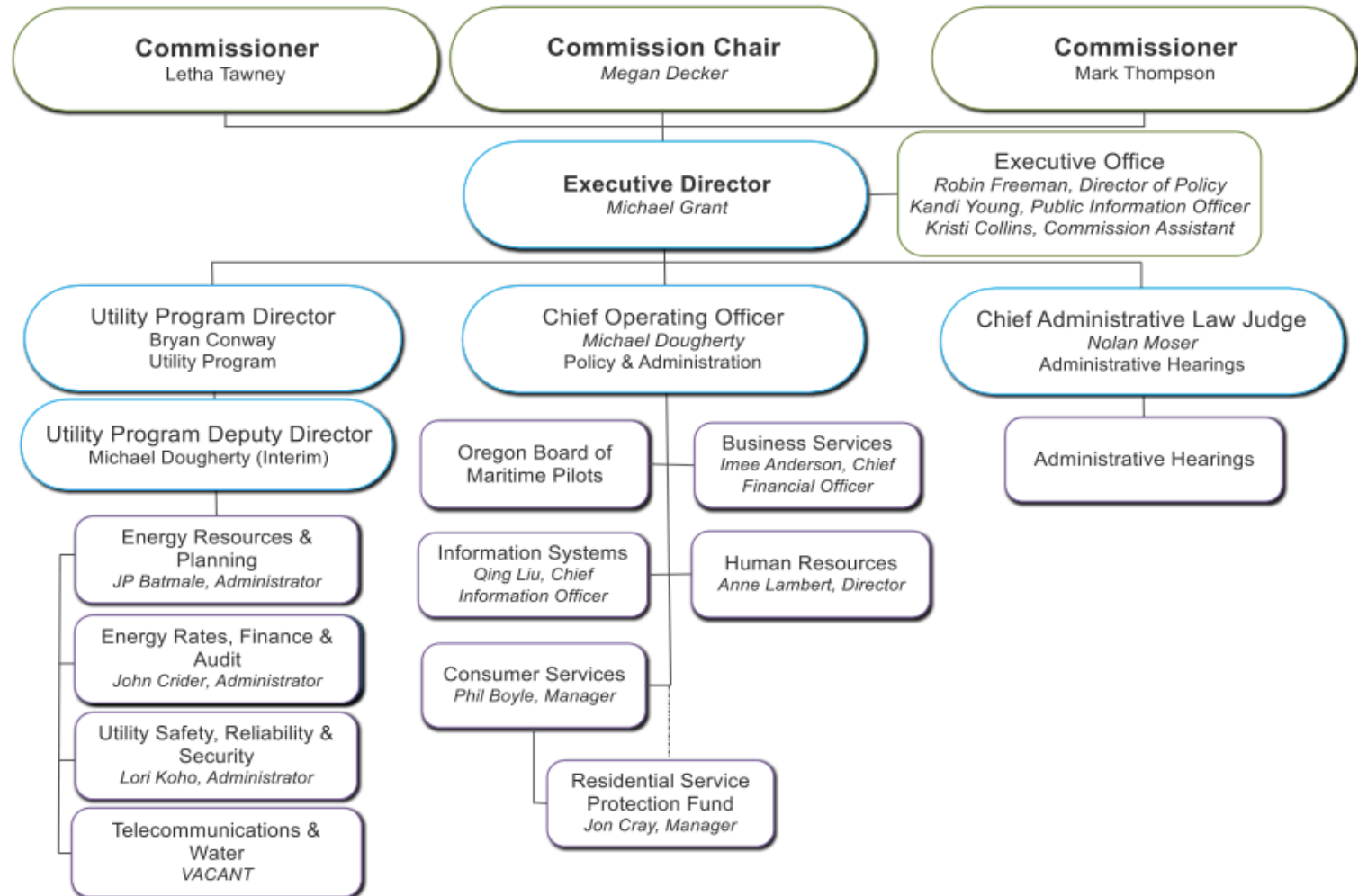
- Revenue Requirement (RR): what should the utility be allowed to charge customers in order to reasonably cover its costs?  
$$\text{Rate base of investment} \times \text{Rate of Return} + \text{Operating Expenses} = \text{RR}$$
- [Guide to Utility Regulation in the US](#) by Jim Lazar, RAP
- Outdated utility business models: capital bias and the throughput incentive



Utilities should be regulated based on how well they \_\_\_\_\_.



# Organizational Chart





# What does the PUC do?

- Regulate private utilities AKA IOUs.
  - Let's name the electric and gas (majority of their work)!
- “To ensure Oregon utility customers have access to safe, reliable, and high-quality utility services at just and reasonable rates.”
  - How are these concepts defined and by whom?
- Least-cost, least-risk framework



# Discuss! And Stretch Break



# More Oregon PUC

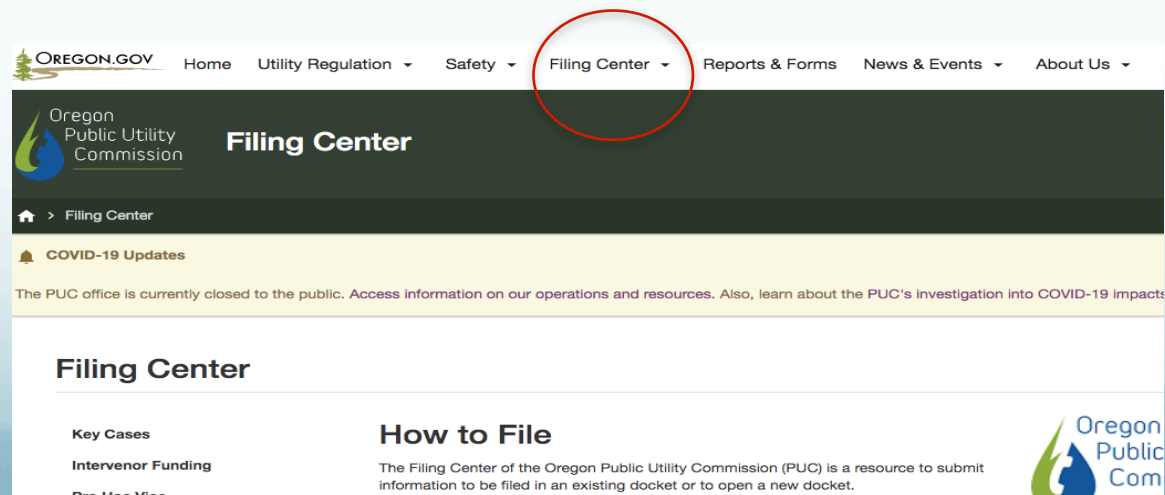
- Quasi-Legislative, Quasi-Judicial: 4 Decision-making processes
  - Open Meeting
  - Rulemaking
  - Contested Case
  - Hybrid
- What's a docket? "A record of all of the filings and proceedings related to a particular matter."
  - A docket is not the same as a case or a decision-making process. One docket can contain multiple proceedings and cases.
  - [Docket Designations](#)

# Get Involved and Learn More

- Receiving info about a docket (different from being a party): email [puc.hearings@state.or.us](mailto:puc.hearings@state.or.us)
- “Party” (formal participant) to a docket
  - In contested case: File a petition to intervene
    - Right to file testimony, briefs (lawyer) and cross-examine (lawyer)
- [Recordings/minutes](#)/agendas

# Offer Comments

- Public meetings:
  - Advised to get on list re: specific agenda items
  - Or, speak up during general public comment section
  - Name, organization/base for the record
- Informal workshops and investigations: just speak up!
- Written
  - Formal: rulemaking/contested case, file by a certain date/time and format
  - Information
    - Email staff
    - General investigations/workshops less strict



# Hot Topics

- [Hot Topics Webpage](#)
- [Covid-19 Report/Stipulation](#) & EJ commitments
  - Energy burden docket
  - Low-Income/Equity Advisory Committee
  - Social justice framework for policy decisions
- EO 20-04
- DEI Program Director starts January 1



# More Info

- Energy Justice Workbook: <https://iejusa.org/workbook/>
- Oregon Biennial Energy Report: <https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/ber>
- Video: [Steps to Equitable Energy Service](#)
  - In-depth: National Consumer Law Center
- Vote Solar Equity & Access Program: [Low-Income Solar Policy Guide](#)
- [NAACP Centering Equity in the Sustainable Building Sector](#)
- [Powering the Transition: Community Priorities for a Renewable Future](#)
- Guide to Utility Regulation in the US by Jim Lazar/RAP:  
<http://www.raonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/rap-lazar-electricity-regulation-US-june-2016.pdf>