

A photograph of a wind farm at sunset. Several wind turbines are visible in the distance, silhouetted against a sky with orange and yellow clouds. The foreground is a dark, green field.

Public Purpose Charge

Michael Grant – Executive Director

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Public Purpose Charge



SB 1149 (1999) required PGE and PacifiCorp to collect a charge from customers to fund public purposes

Charge equal to 3% of utility revenues to sunset in 10 years

- Extended through 2026 under SB 838 (2007)

Allocated monies to programs administered by:

- PUC
- Oregon Department of Energy, and
- Housing and Community Services Department

Public Purposes



Cost-Effective Energy
Conservation

Market Transformation Efforts

Above-Market Costs of New
Renewable Energy Resources

Low-Income Weatherization

Revenue Allocation –

63%	Energy Conservation (includes 10% for school districts served by the utilities)
19%	Renewable Energy Resources
13%	Low-Income Weatherization
5%	Low-Income Housing

Role of Public Utility Commission



Designated PUC as administrator of 73% of the funds collected under PPC

Allowed PUC to direct those funds to a “non-governmental entity” for investment in public purposes

Energy Trust was created as that non-governmental entity

Energy Trust of Oregon



Energy Trust is a nonprofit organization funded by grant agreement through the PUC

Provides energy efficiency and renewable energy programs for customers of PGE and Pacific Power (also works with natural gas utilities outside PPC)

Operates under direction of an Executive Director, a Board, and advisory committees (made up of interest groups, two state agencies, and stakeholders)

ETO Oversight and Accountability



- Grant Agreement
- Performance Measures
- Strategic Planning
- Annual Budget
- Annual Reporting
- PUC as Ex-Officio Board of Director