Community Renewable Energy Program

Draft List of Resources for applicants

This document includes a draft list of resources that may be helpful for communities applying for a grant in the Community Renewable Energy Program. The Advisory Committee advised ODOE to remain flexible when it comes to the ways that applicants may demonstrate how their proposed project aligns with program priorities, both in terms of the information that applicants share and in the manner of presenting the information as part of their application. At the same time, the Advisory Committee suggested that eligible applicants would benefit from a list of resources they could draw upon for support. This is a draft list of resources that could be provided on ODOE's website to support eligible applicants and the communities the program intends serve.

Questions for Advisory Committee:

- There are a lot of resources for demographic data, but we don't have as many resources for other Qualifying Community considerations such as limited infrastructure or harm from environmental hazards. Do you have suggestions for resources that could be added to our draft list to put on the website? Should others be removed?
- Do you have suggestions on guidance for assessing the level of resilience provided by a project or resources that applicants or communities could use?
- Do you have suggestions for communication around the use of these resources to convey a sense of openness yet also encourage applicants to use resources that will help them make their best case?

Resource	Notes	Evaluation Criteria Nexus
EJ Screen	2020 version of mapping tool	Demographic and environmental data for communities served.
U.S. Census	Basic level: provide links to relevant information for Oregon; more in-depth: select and post Oregon census downloaded from the U.S. Census website in a format that is easy for applicants to view and grab the data for their community	Demographic data for communities served.

Far (Frontier and Remote area codes)	Developed by the USDA Economic Research Service, FAR codes are based upon census data, defined in relation to the time it takes to travel by car to the edges of nearby urban areas, reflects a community's distance from/access to resources such as health care, retail (groceries, gas stations, clothing, household appliances, cars), airports; Q: how well does FAR reflect community's level of infrastructure such as internet/broadband access, availability of natural gas service, fire/police/ambulance, lack of redundancy for water/telecoms/electric/fuel supply? Are there other maps or classification systems that better reflect those aspects of resiliency (or lack thereof)	Quantifying qualifying communities served and potentially energy resilience. Other rural resources may include USDA Economic Research Service data on Rural-Urban Continuum Codes and Urban Influence Codes.
Enterprise zones	OBDD ranking or classification used for access to economic development and financial resources to promote business development, such as tax breaks or incentives	
Oregon Office of Emergency Management	Q: Does OEM publish maps, reports or other useful data that would be useful to communities? Possible examples: which Oregon communities have received funding to respond to natural disasters, natural hazard maps, or classification systems for vulnerability to certain hazards	Resources to assist in description of energy resilience benefits.

CDC Social Vulnerability Index	"Social vulnerability" refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss. The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SVI) uses 15 U.S. census variables to help local officials identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters.	Resources to assist in description of energy resilience benefits.
California EJ maps and other resources	California has maps of EJ communities, although some concern that neighborhoods are left out which seem like they should fit the definition; Governor's EJ LC for 2022 session includes a mapping tool – not yet available for Oregon	
FEMA	Q: Do they publish natural hazard maps or classification systems, resources to rank infrastructure or services by how critical the services are to the community? (e.g., a hospital vs. a community rec center), lists and/or definitions of "critical services"	Resources to assist in description of energy resilience benefits.
Portland Clean Energy Fund		
Oregon Housing and Community Services: energy burden	OHCS compiles data on the percent of income spent on energy, broken down by county and demographic characteristics	Data about communities served.

Utility service area maps	Resources to assist community in identifying the utility(-ies) serving them	
ODOE Resilience Guidebook	Resources to identify resources and actions to assist the community in increasing energy resilience	