



RENEWABLE
NORTHWEST

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Dear Friends of Renewable Northwest,

While I typically start these letters by highlighting how successful our year was, it would not be honest to do so without first acknowledging the incredibly disruptive actions of the current presidential administration, which impacted so many areas of our work, as well as the work of our members and partners. We have all watched colleagues lose their jobs, authorized federal funding disappear, and private investment shrivel. We now expect to manage negative impacts on grid reliability, economic growth and progress towards grid decarbonization for years to come. In this context, it is difficult to write a letter about how RNW did or did not succeed.

And yet, I feel proud to report we stayed strong as an organization and continued delivering a crucial, fact-based message about the value of a clean, resilient grid across our region. Though RNW lost nearly 20% of our budgeted revenue due to the loss of grants and members, and had to let go of valued staff members and consultants, we were able to achieve some important successes.

In this report, you will read about the work RNW staff were engaged in throughout 2025 and the small but meaningful wins that did occur. I urge you, as you read, to hold in mind the headwinds these individuals faced: the loss of morale, concern for their livelihoods, and the real harm to the organization’s mission that we all experienced.

This report is a record of perseverance. It documents what it is like to show up when the path forward is less clear, and when the stakes for our region’s energy future are higher than ever. The work of building an affordable, reliable and increasingly clean grid does not pause in times of disruption, and neither did we. As we look ahead, we do so clear-eyed about the challenges before us, but firmly committed to the role RNW will play in meeting them.



Nicole Hughes
*Executive Director
Renewable Northwest*



TOWARD A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE



Renewable Northwest (RNW) is a nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes clean energy generation and storage in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. We are unique in the world of clean energy advocacy. Our work is deeply informed by our membership, which is a combination of renewable energy and storage companies, environmental nonprofits, large clean energy buyers, and consumer advocates. Together, we bring technical expertise, a broad perspective, and a solutions-oriented approach to policy and regulation supporting the clean energy transition.

RNW engages in a wide range of overlapping issues, in a wide variety of forums. This means our work can be categorized in many different ways. We've broken out the annual report to reflect our key program pillars, outlined below.

PROGRAM PILLARS



POLICY

“ RNW opposed or successfully amended harmful bills; no harmful-to-renewable-energy legislation entered into law during Oregon’s 2025 session.



OUR STRATEGY

RNW works to establish, implement, and defend policies that trigger new renewable energy and storage investments and drive greenhouse gas emissions out of the electricity sector. At RNW, we define policy work primarily as legislatively focused, but this work extends to administrative rule-making at the state and federal levels.

WORK THEMES

In the policy realm, 2025 was a year of guarding progress and implementation. Across the four states, RNW worked to set up systems and decision-making processes that would soundly implement previously-passed legislation and built support for future legislation that will make building renewable energy projects easier and more predictable. These themes are evident across the following examples.





OUTCOMES

OREGON



◆ PROTECTING PROGRESS: SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE AGAINST HARMFUL LEGISLATION

The Oregon 2025 legislative session held a surprising number of potentially harmful bills for renewable energy development. No harmful-to-renewable-energy legislation passed the 2025 session thanks to RNW opposition to or successful amending of harmful bills. These included punitive utility wildfire liability measures, attempts at weakening Oregon’s renewable and clean energy laws, and negatively altering permitting processes at EFSC.

◆ STRATEGIC MOVEMENTS ON INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY AND ELEVATED URGENCY OF RENEWABLE BUILDOUT

RNW worked with coalition partners to pass legislation promoting the use of Grid Enhancing Technologies (HB 3336) and transmission permitting tweaks (HB 3681). While our priority bill creating an Oregon Electrical Transmission Authority did not pass, it significantly advanced the awareness of and support for the urgent expansion of transmission capacity. This also gained the attention of the Governor and transmission was included in a key executive order on making progress on clean energy expansion (EO 25-29). This coupled with the Governor’s Executive Order expediting clean energy projects to capture expiring federal tax credits (EO 25-25), significantly advanced and created policy momentum around RNW core priorities in Oregon.

◆ CONCLUSION OF PRIORITY PROJECTS FROM PREVIOUS RNW WINS

Two key projects concluded in 2025 which were direct results of RNW legislation passed in 2023: the inaugural State Energy Strategy and the Eastern Oregon Solar Siting Rulemaking Advisory Committee (“RAC”) at the Department of Land Conservation and Development. RNW participated heavily in both processes which significantly advanced the conversation on the difficulty of siting renewable energy projects in Oregon and the challenges facing building clean energy projects and transmission in the state. This work provided the platform for EO 25-29 which focused on implementing key elements of the Energy Strategy that highlighted transmission as a key need. From the RAC, the long process of studying areas for potential solar development highlighted the difficulty of finding “low conflict” sites, paving the way for more comprehensive discussions around land use reform in the state.

◆ OREGON CLEAN GRID COLLABORATIVE (OCGC)

The OCGC, a capacity-building coalition of clean energy, environmental, and labor advocates led jointly by RNW and the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) made big strides in 2025. OCGC began engaging at the legislature by supporting the Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs) and Oregon Electric Transmission Authority (OETA) bill. Organizationally, the group hired a Campaign Director to continue organizing the group and solidifying processes and strategy. The group’s profile continues to grow in the Oregon policy space.

OUTCOMES

IDAHO

◇ ADOPTING A TWO-YEAR STATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Facing increasing development interest from RNW members in Idaho and rising opposition to renewable energy stemming from the Lava Ridge wind project, RNW performed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats analysis and established a 2025-2027 Idaho Strategic Plan around two goals: (1) establishing RNW's reputation as the go-to partner for pragmatic and constructive energy policy, and (2) keeping Idaho open for renewable development.



◇ ACHIEVING THE STRATEGIC PLAN'S TWIN GOALS

RNW's main tactic was to show up where decisions were made. RNW defeated over a dozen anti-renewable and anti-transmission bills in the 2025 legislative session; helped establish renewable-friendly ordinances in Ada and Lincoln Counties; supported the Bannock County renewable ban reversal campaign (expected to wrap up in 2026); and rallied support for a critical transmission project before the public utility commission. Following the 2025 session, RNW educated over three dozen legislators and laid the foundation for key relationships going into 2026. RNW also established relationships with the offices and principals of most of the five State Board of Land Commissioners and the Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

◇ CREATING A PRO-RENEWABLE IDAHO CONSTITUENCY

To strengthen durability behind RNW's growing reputation and impact, RNW began building a pro-renewable constituency across the state. RNW expanded media presence through print and podcast appearances, op-eds, and in-person speaking engagements with community groups. Beyond deepening ties with land conservation and environmental groups, RNW broadened its partner base to include the Associated General Contractors, Idaho National Laboratory, and the Idaho Association of Counties. RNW also increased efforts to recruit Idaho businesses to Idaho Energy Freedom and expand IEF's public engagement and educational efforts.

WASHINGTON

◇ MITIGATING HARM FROM PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

Following a year of close work with the Washington Department of Ecology, in the 2025 legislative session RNW succeeded in passing SB 5175. This agency-developed legislation delayed the implementation of the state's photovoltaic (PV) recycling requirement. The law had been unworkable for industry. This new law provides clarity for developers and a path forward for the state's PV recycling work.



◇ ADDRESSING LOCAL PROPERTY TAX CHALLENGES

Washington's personal property tax on clean energy projects leads to declining local revenues as projects depreciate in value, which is challenging for county budgets. In the 2025 legislative session and throughout the rest of the year, RNW and members worked diligently to develop tax proposals that keep the clean energy industry whole while increasing benefits to host communities. We made major progress towards resolving this contentious issue, and have the goal to pass legislation in 2026 or 2027.

◇ MAKING TRANSMISSION MAINSTREAM

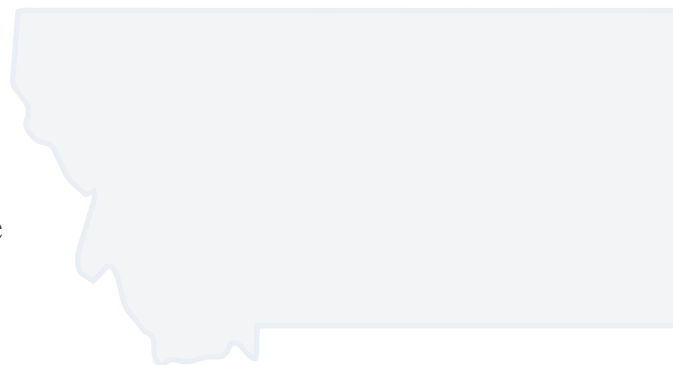
As a lead advocate for a Transmission Authority (intended to improve reliability and capacity of the electric transmission system in Washington state) in the 2025 legislative session, RNW rang the alarm bell on the state's transmission needs and its necessity for our clean energy transition. Previously a niche issue, legislation for a transmission authority and permitting relief for reconductoring became a priority among legislators, labor unions, environmental groups, and other key stakeholders in the 2025 interim.

OUTCOMES

MONTANA

◇ SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED AND PREVENTED FUTURE HARMFUL WIND GENERATION BILLS

During the 2025 legislative session, six bills were introduced in committee whose purpose was to mitigate or entirely eliminate wind development in the state. RNW led the charge with many partners, including labor and the Montana Chamber, to contest and ultimately defeat these bills. RNW was also successful in heavily amending and passing a bill to clarify or revise some siting and decommissioning requirements.



◇ GROWING COALITIONS

RNW continued to grow the Montana Energy Business Alliance (MEBA), Montana's first ever energy advocacy organization for business. MEBA grew its board, hosted multiple events focused on Montana's infrastructure needs and policy gaps, and advocated directly with state agency heads, legislators, and the Chamber on advancing the state's investment goals.

◇ TRANSMISSION ADVOCACY

RNW continued to bring heightened attention to this issue, culminating in the Energy and Technology Interim Committee (ETIC) dedicating most of its interim effort to the study and drafting of policy around these issues; the Governor establishing an Energy Task Force to recommend solutions around these problems; NorthWestern Energy formally announcing new plans to acquire a portion of the North Plains Connector (NPC) and also to develop the Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI), jointly with Grid United.

MONTANA ENERGY BUSINESS ALLIANCE IN ACTION

From the outset, the mission of Montana Energy Business Alliance's (MEBA) has been to ensure affordable, reliable, increasingly clean electricity supply for Montana business. As a founding member along with large industrials, economic development organizations (EDOs), and energy suppliers, we are pleased to report MEBA is making real progress. In 2025, MEBA fully formed its board, grew membership, and held numerous events across Montana to build understanding around transmission and other infrastructure constraints driving up prices for business. MEBA's advocacy helped spur creation of the Governor's Energy Task Force, passage of transmission legislation, and preservation of customer choice in the state.

Our partnership with Montana's businesses has proven to be uniquely effective in coalescing leaders from all manner of state agencies, EDOs, business, and energy partners around the infrastructure problems we share. It has also spurred new discussion on reforms at the public service commission and a new vision for the state's electricity supply. The Montana Chamber has also taken note, elevating energy issues to the top of its priorities for its next 10-year strategic plan.

◇ PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) REFORM

Throughout the year, the PSC exhibited substantial, highly visible dysfunction culminating in leadership changes and coinciding with yet another departure of its executive director. Coupled with rising awareness of Montana's energy infrastructure gaps and the critical role of a state regulator to ensure progress to a stable, competitive economy in the state, MEBA and RNW both elevated the need for PSC reform to the highest levels. As of the close of the year, three concurrent workstreams among state and industry leaders were underway to discuss and draft policy to reform the PSC.

DEFENDING THE FUTURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

RNW played a role in three federal lawsuits aimed at removing barriers to clean energy development. First, we submitted a Declaration of Harm in support of the states of Oregon and Washington who, alongside other states, sued the Trump Administration over the wind energy permitting Executive Order (“EO”). On December 8, 2025, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts granted plaintiff’s Motion for Summary Judgment, thus vacating and declaring unlawful the EO.

Second, we submitted a Declaration of Harm, live testimony of RNW's Executive Director, Nicole Hughes, and an amicus brief in the subsequent appeal of the *Lighthiser, et al. v. Trump, et al.* case brought by Our Children’s Trust against a number of Trump EOs. Nicole’s testimony and Declaration centered on irreparable harms to the renewable energy industry wrought by the EOs.

Finally, RNW joined a lawsuit alongside sister regional organizations of American Clean Power against several other Trump Administration EOs that fundamentally threaten the renewable energy industry. While the lawsuit was filed in January 2026, work to organize the lawsuit was completed towards the end of 2025.

REGULATORY ADVOCACY

“ Our advocacy helped ensure clean energy benefits were considered in various regulatory processes to advance the clean energy transition.



OUR STRATEGY

RNW engages in utility planning and procurement processes, legislative implementation proceedings, and a wide range of utility regulatory matters from beginning to end, working directly with utilities and public utility commissions to ensure demand is met with a diverse selection of clean energy and storage resources. RNW consistently advocates for meeting new capacity and energy needs with non-fossil options through a blend of legal, economic, and other technical analysis.

WORK THEMES

As we do every year, the RNW regulatory team worked to advance clean energy in the development and review of utility integrated resource plans (IRPs), ensure competitive bidding in utility request for proposals (RFPs), and soundly implement clean energy laws. Although 2025 was marked by significant headwinds for our sector – including a shift by regional utilities away from plans centered on renewables, storage, and transmission and the expiration of federal tax credits – our advocacy helped ensure clean energy benefits were considered in various regulatory processes to advance the clean energy transition.





OUTCOMES

◇ RESOURCE PLANNING AND PROCUREMENT PROCEEDINGS

In 2025, our engagement in the following planning and procurement proceedings significantly shaped their outcomes:

- ◇ **PacifiCorp’s 2025 IRP/CEP:** RNW worked with technical consultants to expose the deep flaws in PacifiCorp’s IRP modeling, which resulted in a shared understanding among staff and stakeholders of the need for a new modeling approach. We expect a Commission decision in early 2026.
- ◇ **Idaho Power’s 2025 IRP:** The Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) issued a decision in Idaho Power’s IRP that highlighted RNW’s arguments regarding the risks inherent in the Company’s pivot to including large scale natural gas generation in its long-term portfolio. RNW also intervened in the parallel filing before the Idaho Public Utility Commission. In the final order, the Commission encouraged Idaho Power to incorporate several changes recommended by RNW.
- ◇ **PacifiCorp and Avista’s 2026-2029 CEIPs:** RNW continued to engage at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to ensure that PacifiCorp and Avista are on track to meet the Clean Energy Transformation Act’s 2030 standard.

- ◇ **PacifiCorp’s 2025 Oregon- and Washington-situs RFPs:** Our advocacy resulted in PacifiCorp dropping its novel deliverability requirement, removing its ban on certain BESS vendors, and allowing bids with conditional firm transmission rights.
- ◇ **Portland General Electric’s 2025 RFP:** We successfully pushed for changes to the RFP, removing language that would have prevented emerging storage technologies from participating. We were also able to advocate for bids using conditional firm transmission.
- ◇ **Avista’s 2025 RFP:** Because of our advocacy, Avista provided an unredacted version of its bid evaluation methodology and clarified its acceptance of bids using conditional firm transmission.

RNW continued its work on various IRP advisory committees. Specifically, our role helped ensure that utilities include fair assumptions around renewables and storage, considered the transmission necessary to bring generation to load centers, and used updated resource adequacy methodologies to account for a changing resource mix.

◇ 2025 PROCUREMENT ROUNDUP

The procurement picture for our region's investor owned utilities (IOUs) in 2025 was mixed. While three utilities issued RFPs for large volumes of new resources, only four projects secured contracts in 2025 from earlier RFP processes. Across the board, it's clear that utilities subject to clean energy mandates must procure a significant amount of resources to meet those fast-approaching requirements.

Procurement numbers are difficult to capture and carry some level of uncertainty since resource acquisition happens over multiple years and utilities have varied reporting requirements. For the purpose of this report, we've broken down procurement into 1) resources for which a contract was signed in 2025, 2) final shortlists submitted in 2025, and 3) RFPs initiated in 2025.

◇ CONTRACTS SIGNED IN 2025

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) contracted for 830 MW of renewable and storage resources in 2025. PGE submitted a request for a waiver of Oregon's competitive bidding rules to contract with a 200 MW storage resource. These resources either resulted from prior RFPs or were negotiated outside of the RFP process.¹

◇ SHORTLISTS SUBMITTED IN 2025

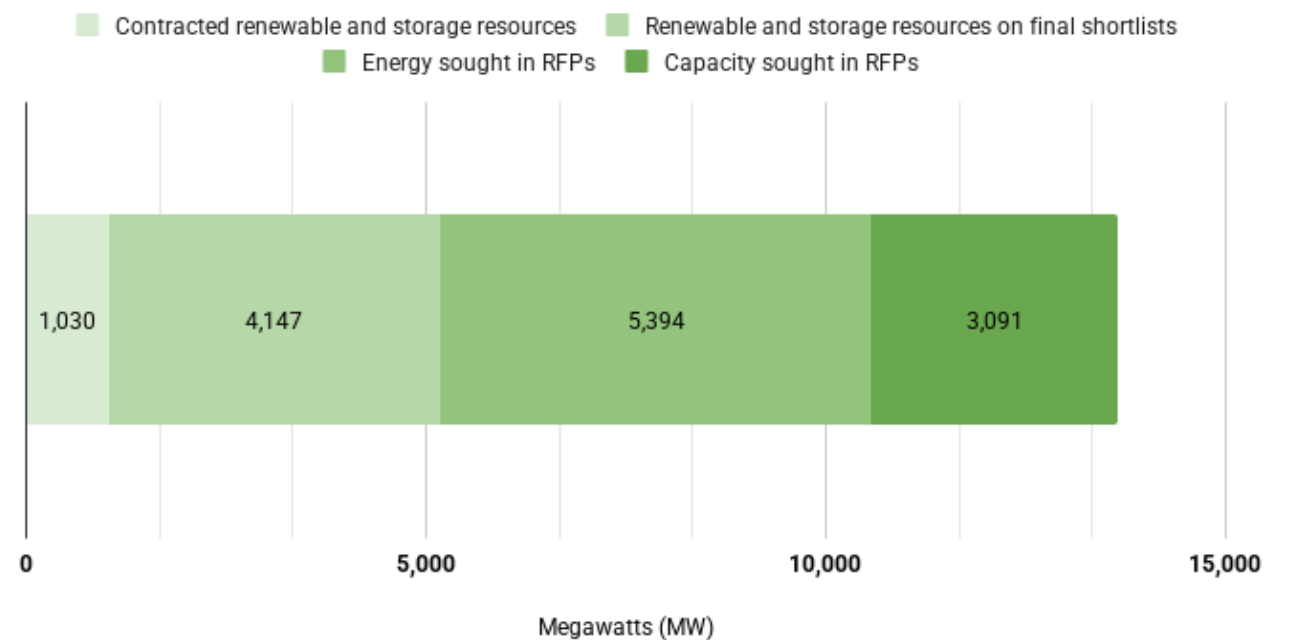
Idaho Power and PGE both submitted final shortlists in 2025. Combined, these utilities are planning to procure 1608 MW of solar, 379 MW of wind, 490 MW of solar + storage, and 1670 MW of storage for a total of 4,147 MW of renewables and storage.²

◇ RFPs INITIATED IN 2025

PacifiCorp, PGE, and Avista initiated RFPs in 2025, with combined energy needs of 5,394 MW and capacity needs of 3,091 MW. In all likelihood, the vast majority of these resources will be renewables and storage.

◇ In total, utilities procured or are currently seeking to procure over 13,662 MW of new resources.

2025 Procurement Roundup for Northwest IOUs



¹ Resources that PSE contracted for in 2025 were found from their 2024 Voluntary RFP docket. Contracted resources for 2025 may differ from the reported total due to varying utility reporting requirements and challenges in determining the exact contract execution dates.

² Final shortlists represent which resources a utility plans to pursue, but contract negotiations may change the actual resource builds.

OUTCOMES

◇ ENGAGEMENT IN INVESTIGATIONS, RULEMAKINGS, AND RATE CASES ON BEHALF OF CLEAN ENERGY

Renewable NW tracked and participated in numerous utility commission proceedings, including staff investigations, informal and formal rulemakings, and a rate case and merger in Montana. Here we'll focus on a few top priorities over the last year: protecting Oregon's HB 2021 at the OPUC, investigations into performance-based regulation (PBR), and other legislative implementation activities at the UTC and OPUC.

After failing to issue consecutive RFPs in recent years, the OPUC found that PacifiCorp has not demonstrated "continual progress" towards meeting HB 2021's emissions reduction mandates. In a separate proceeding, the OPUC held that HB 2021 provides it with the authority to require PacifiCorp to issue an RFP, review bids, and levy penalties for noncompliance. On a parallel track, PacifiCorp appealed the OPUC's finding that it had not demonstrated continual progress with the Marion County Circuit Court. Taken together, these rulings provide a strong foundation for continued implementation of HB 2021.

Through Q1 and Q2 of 2025, RNW developed expert testimony, coordinated among intervenors, and brought a compelling case to contest NorthWestern's requests for cost recovery of the Yellowstone County Generating Station and Colstrip. We demonstrated many serious deficiencies in NorthWestern's IRP planning, RFP criteria, as well as opportunities and necessity of incorporating transmission. The Commission referred to our testimony in part to conclude that NorthWestern did not demonstrate prudence of its investments, therefore placing a large incentive on the utility to improve its practices. NorthWestern's 2026 IRP is showing improvements in many of these areas.

PROMOTING DRASTIC ACTION TO CAPTURE EXPIRING TAX CREDITS

In light of the impending expiration of federal tax credits for solar and wind projects, we advocated for utilities to accelerate procurement. We wrote letters to the governors of Oregon and Washington, as well as to the Oregon PUC and Washington UTC, requesting that state leaders clearly signal the need for expedited utility procurement.

Since then, both governors have issued executive orders identifying expedited procurement as a key priority for the state. We also weaved this message into our advocacy work at the PUC and UTC, filing comments in multiple dockets that stressed the importance of timely procurement to secure the expiring tax credits and ensure substantial savings for utility customers. Additionally, we worked behind the scenes with Washington's Commerce Department to identify advanced stage projects and state-level barriers that could be addressed to help these projects receive federal tax credits.

Throughout these efforts, we highlighted a range of strategies to accelerate procurement, including issuing timely RFPs, pursuing bilateral procurement opportunities, seeking waivers from procurement rules to advance projects more quickly, and encouraging utilities and regulators to adopt creative approaches.

MARKETS

“RNW leveraged our unique position at the nexus of public interest and developer interests to work collaboratively across market sectors.”



OUR STRATEGY

RNW remains committed to the principle that a single, West-wide, fully integrated electricity market is the optimal way to deliver cost-effective and reliable clean energy to customers. As the region moves ever closer to a two-market reality, RNW stays focused on key aspects of market design in *both* markets: transparent and inclusive governance, nondiscriminatory treatment of resources, effective use of the region’s transmission system, and proactive seams management.

WORK THEMES

In 2025, RNW worked closely with regional partners and technical consultants to influence implementation activities for each of the proposed western day-ahead markets – the California Independent System Operator’s (CAISO) Extended Day Ahead Market (EDAM) and the Southwest Power Pool’s (SPP) Markets+. Both markets hit major milestones in 2025: the Markets+ tariff was approved by FERC in January; the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) made its final decision towards Markets+ in May; FERC accepted EDAM-implementing transmission tariff revisions in August; and Pathways legislation passed into law in September.

Across each of these developments, RNW leveraged our unique position at the nexus of public interest and developer interests to work collaboratively across market sectors. We leaned heavily on already-existing coalitions while developing relationships where there hadn’t been any before. Recognizing that market bifurcation is largely a result of political and cultural drivers, not structural or financial ones, RNW kept an even keel in 2025 by maintaining focus on the facts and circumstances at hand.



OUTCOMES

◇ CAISO EDAM

EDAM was well into implementation in 2025. When PacifiCorp and Portland General Electric each filed EDAM-implementing transmission tariff revisions with highly problematic congestion revenue allocation proposals, RNW worked with our clean trades partners in the West – Interwest and ACP – to file protests at FERC. Simultaneously, RNW was able to represent the public interest sector in stakeholder submissions to CAISO. The broad, cross-sectoral show of interest ultimately led to an expedited initiative and FERC-approved tariffs that RNW and others could support.

◇ SPP MARKETS+

With Markets+ moving into Phase 2 of development in 2025 (post-tariff approval), RNW maintained active participation through voting seats on the Markets+ Participant Executive Committee (MPEC) and the Markets+ Design Working Group (MDWG). When governance concerns arose around an overly restrictive attendance and proxy policy, RNW took the lead and worked within and across sectors to reach a compromise solution that was ultimately adopted by the MPEC.

◇ BPA DAY-AHEAD MARKET PROCEEDINGS

Seeing a last opportunity to weigh in before BPA's final market decision, RNW filed lengthy comments on BPA's Draft DAM Policy in April urging BPA to delay a final market commitment until ongoing market governance and federal workforce reduction concerns could be addressed. The comments also included a comprehensive discussion of BPA's statutory obligations to the region. Though BPA still came out with a final decision towards Markets+ in May, the fruits of RNW's advocacy and educational labor at state and federal levels over the last few years were clear to see in the final stages of this proceeding.

◇ THE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

After a tumultuous journey through the California legislature, the Pathways bill was finally signed into law in September. Though RNW chose to stay out of the legislative process, we remained engaged with Pathways' other workstreams through the public interest sector representatives on the Launch Committee. Also in September, RNW formally stepped into the public interest sector liaison role at the CAISO Regional Issues Forum (RIF), just in time to shape discussions about how the RIF would transition into the Stakeholder Representatives Committee envisioned by Pathways.

◇ WESTERN RESOURCE ADEQUACY PROGRAM

RNW continued to co-chair WRAP's Program Review Committee (PRC) in 2025. Even as entities withdrew from the program ahead of binding commitment deadlines, several other entities (including many in our region) reaffirmed their commitment to the program, enabling WRAP to move forward into binding operations. RNW worked with other stakeholders to review, prioritize, and endorse dozens of policies to improve WRAP's effectiveness in addressing regional capacity concerns.



SOUTHWEST INTERTIE PROJECT- NORTH (SWIP-N)

At the request of Idaho Power, RNW engaged quickly and deeply in the successful effort to secure approval of the Southwest Intertie Project-North (SWIP-N) 500kv transmission project by the Idaho Public Utility Commission. SWIP-N, which had been previously approved but saw renewed opposition in Jerome County, is a critical transmission line which will connect the Northwest to the Desert South via Idaho Power's service territory; it regularly shows up in base cases in transmission studies from groups like Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WestTEC).

When SWIP-N had its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) challenged by the Stop Lava Ridge group, RNW rallied three dozen rate payers to speak at a public hearing and submit written comments to the PUC, representing approximately one-third of all ratepayer input that helped secure the CPCN.

TRANSMISSION

“Many of our transmission-related wins in 2025 were a direct result of the cumulative hours over previous years to educate state agencies, policymakers, and advocacy partners about the importance of regional transmission.



OUR STRATEGY

RNW remains committed to improving processes for planning, permitting, and paying for regional and interregional transmission, while also encouraging more efficient use of existing infrastructure to maintain reliability and support decarbonization.

WORK THEMES

Even as Department of Energy transmission grants were canceled and permitting reform conversations stalled in Congress, regional efforts to push for proactive, scenario-based, interregional transmission planning moved full speed ahead in 2025. And though conversations about who should pay for transmission and related upgrades remained a political flashpoint, RNW maintained focus on the significant reliability and affordability benefits of greater transmission buildout (knowing that decarbonization benefits would follow closely behind). When the Western Governors Association announced a bipartisan focus on “ways to meet the growing energy demand in the West,” RNW and our regional partners emphasized transmission as a key part of the solution.



2025 was also a big year for transmission-related reform activities at BPA. When BPA signaled greater interest in working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop wholesale transmission reforms, RNW took the opportunity to turn away from our federal advocacy and work more closely with BPA staff and other stakeholders on solutions that would benefit the region at large.

Many of our transmission-related wins in 2025 were a direct result of the cumulative hours over previous years to educate state agencies, policymakers, and advocacy partners about the importance of regional transmission. Steep learning curves remain, but RNW has established itself as a thought leader in spaces traditionally dominated by incumbent utility interests, and will continue to prioritize this work.



OUTCOMES

◇ BPA TRANSMISSION REFORMS

When BPA announced in February 2025 that it was pausing many of its transmission-related activities to prioritize holistic transmission planning and service request reforms, RNW and the Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC) saw an opportunity to work more collaboratively with BPA than in previous years. Through submitted comments, stakeholder presentations, and meetings with BPA staff and state regulators, RNW and NIPPC raised support for many of the same recommendations we've been advocating for since 2023.

◇ WESTERN TRANSMISSION EXPANSION COALITION

RNW and our technical consultant, Grid Strategies, have been heavily engaged with WestTEC in development of its 10- and 20-year reports. We successfully advocated for revised, lower BESS cost estimates, futures with advanced cost trajectories for wind and solar, more granular consideration of zones in the transmission capacity expansion model, and the clear need for a strategic communications approach for the release of the reports.

◇ FERC ORDER 1920

Through submitted comments, regulator meetings, and stakeholder presentations to relevant state entities in the West, RNW and our regional partners pushed NorthernGrid to break from the status quo on regional transmission planning. We advocated for a more robust stakeholder process, more careful consideration of benefit-to-cost ratio requirements, and consideration of a fuller set of benefits as required by Order 1920 for the purposes of project evaluation and selection for cost allocation. Though NorthernGrid's has yet to incorporate these recommendations in their proposals, our engagement raised overall awareness of these concerns and their implications for greater transmission buildout, and set a course for continued engagement directly at FERC when compliance filings are due in June 2026.

SITING AND PERMITTING

“ The County Advisory Group convenes county commissioners and county planners to learn about the electric energy system and the challenges of developing clean energy infrastructure.



OUR STRATEGY

RNW promotes streamlined, predictable, and reasonable siting and permitting processes to enable the timely development of clean energy projects. This includes renewable generation, energy storage, and transmission infrastructure needed to maintain reliable and affordable service.

WORK THEMES

While the politics of siting vary widely across the four states and even from county to neighboring county, RNW sees a consistent theme – large energy facilities represent often unwelcome change. RNW always acknowledges this reality, while also seeking to increase positive benefits of building clean energy infrastructure and sharing these examples. Several bills and activities related to siting were noted in the policy section. In this section, we fill in more details about RNW’s siting-specific work.



OUTCOMES

- ◇ In partnership with Greenlight America, RNW supported the creation and on-going operations of the Southeast Idaho Energy and Property Alliance, a grassroots organization focused on advancing renewable-friendly county ordinances in Southeastern Idaho.
- ◇ The County Advisory Group, started in 2024, continued to meet every 6 weeks in 2025. The mandate remains the same: convene county commissioners and county planners to learn about the electric energy system generally, and the challenges of developing clean energy infrastructure specifically. Topics addressed in 2025 included: discussion of the regional transmission system, a discussion about development in Wasco County, Oregon, and best practices around agrivoltaics. The group is now 25 members strong, representing counties across Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
- ◇ RNW staff participated in the Eastern Oregon Rulemaking Advisory Committee, a year-long process that concluded with a series of recommendations, including county-led review processes of larger solar projects.
- ◇ Through conversations with the County Advisory Group, RNW reaffirmed the Washington Growth Management Act's treatment of agricultural land as a key siting barrier, and we began identifying policy solutions with members, allies, and the Department of Commerce. We expect to deepen this work in 2026.

DON'T TREAD ON MY SUNSHINE

Ada County is Idaho's most populous and economically powerful county, and is home to Boise, the state capital. Ada County is one of 24 counties that make up Idaho Power's service territory where demand between 2025 and 2029 is projected to grow 8.3% annually. In preparation for this historic growth, several key counties in Idaho Power's territory, including Ada, made critical zoning decisions in 2025. Early in the year, it appeared that Ada was on the path towards banning utility-scale solar. Given Ada's considerable open land and proximity to critical grid infrastructure, it has long been a key area of developer (and utility) interest. A ban on solar would not only have been a setback for the renewable energy industry, but a meaningful problem for Idaho Power and its customers.

Recognizing the situation, RNW organized a coalition featuring several RNW member developers, Greenlight America, and local allied nonprofits. This coalition supported standing up the Don't Tread On My Sunshine brand under which over 800 Ada County residents were recruited and mobilized to build political support for a solar-friendly ordinance through county commissioner engagement. Don't Tread On My Sunshine also ran advertisements over a variety of mediums to highlight the importance of a reasonable solar ordinance.

Together with Don't Tread On My Sunshine, RNW engaged local media to ensure coverage of the issue, participate in interviews, and apply pressure on the Ada Board of County Commissioners. In addition to these grassroots and media efforts, RNW and its developer members engaged with Commissioners and county staff both directly and through retained lobbyists. What appeared to be a process headed towards a ban on solar turned into the adoption of an ordinance that allows for utility-scale solar development in areas where it can be demonstrated there should be an exception to prioritizing agriculture.

PILOTING BATTERY EDUCATION

RNW anticipates battery energy storage systems (BESS) will be one of the front-line siting battles across the region in coming years. In December, to get ahead of a significant increase in BESS siting applications RNW expects to see in Idaho in 2026, RNW piloted a BESS education roadshow in partnership with member RWE targeting four key counties across the state.

Over the course of three days, RNW and RWE delivered a 60-minute presentation and stood for questions before four boards of county commissioners within Idaho Power's service territory. During this trip, RNW and RWE also briefed two state legislative district delegations, one fire department, and one city mayor. The counties were chosen based on (1) RWE's absence of development activity in those counties (to avoid conflicts of interest), (2) their importance to the Idaho electric grid, and (3) active energy ordinance processes.

The response was overwhelmingly positive: all briefings elicited strong participation with many good questions, and many misconceptions and hesitations were dispelled. There are numerous stakeholders remaining in Idaho that will benefit from this type of education, and RNW is working with additional members to organize on-going BESS education around the state in 2026.



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Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute

Renewable Hydrogen Alliance

SEI

Solar Oregon

Spacedust Solar 1 LLC

Spark Northwest

Sustainable Northwest

Twende Solar

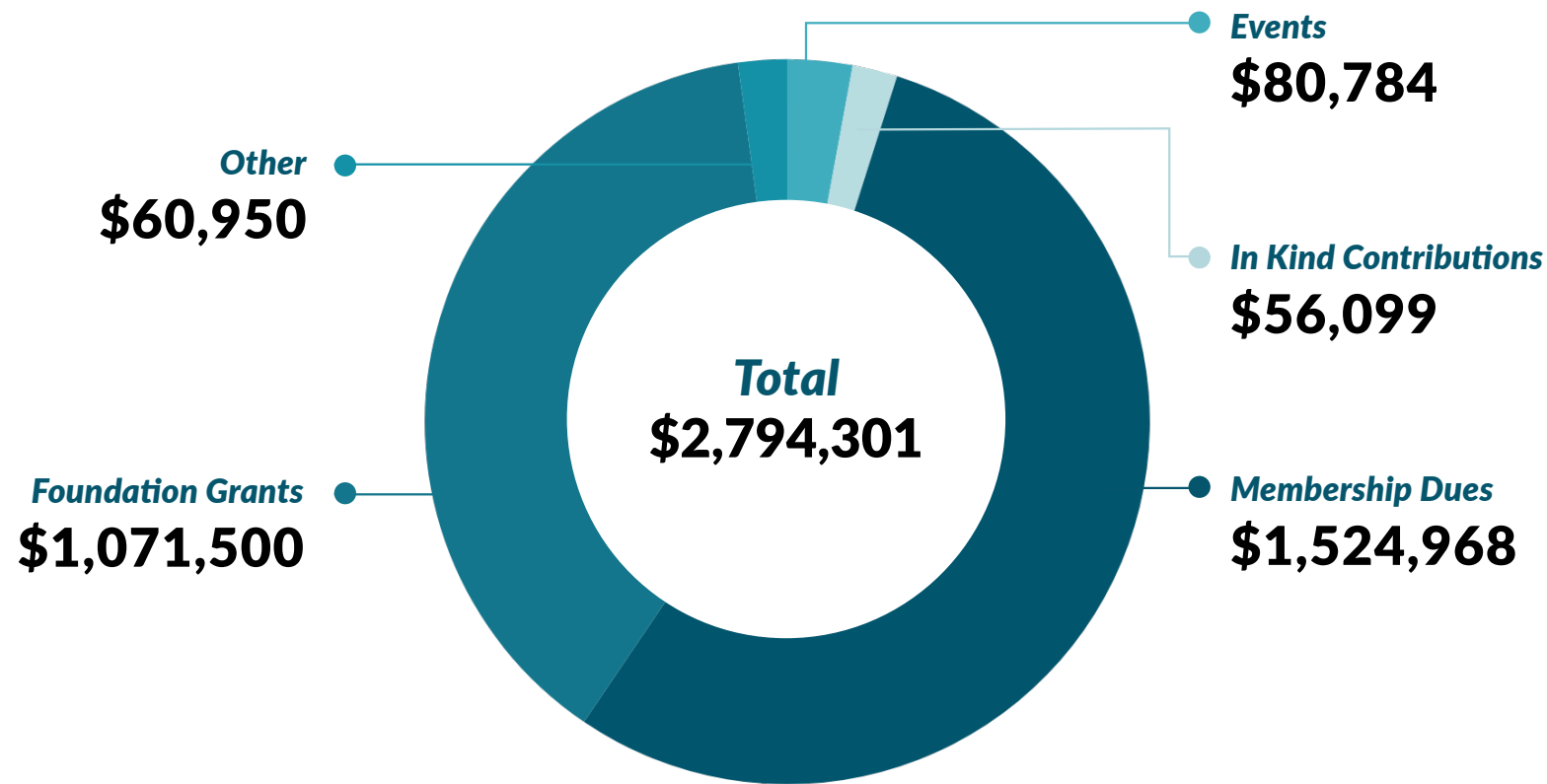
Union of Concerned Scientists

Western Resource Advocates

FINANCIALS



2025 was a year of recalibration for the clean energy industry broadly, and for RNW. Following a period of robust growth, we faced a significant 38% drop in grant revenue, alongside a marginal dip in membership dues. To navigate these challenges, we made the difficult but necessary decision to narrow our focus — ceasing federal work and reducing staff and consultancy costs. By tightening our operations, we have successfully protected our core mission: delivering high-impact advocacy for our members at the state level.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

RNW is incorporated as a 501(c)(3) and this guides the vast majority of our work. In 2025, we filed paperwork to begin a separate 501(c)(4) to allow for increased lobbying in discrete situations, and received funding which is not reflected in the financial numbers above.

MAJOR PRIVATE FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORTERS

RNW was proud to partner with the following foundations during our 2025 fiscal year:

- ◇ Arthur M Blank Family Foundation
- ◇ Energy Foundation
- ◇ Benson Family Foundation
- ◇ Clean Grid Initiative
- ◇ Education Foundation of America
- ◇ Energy Foundation
- ◇ Heartland/Windward Foundation

RNW also received generous project-related grants from the following organizations:

- ◇ Amazon Web Services
- ◇ American Clean Power Association
- ◇ Google
- ◇ Grid United

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT US AT RENEWABLENW.ORG



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