

Strategic Plan 2024-2026



RENEWABLE
NORTHWEST

Vision

Our vision is for every home, business, and vehicle in the Northwest to be reliably powered by renewable, affordable, carbon-free electricity.

Mission

Our mission is to decarbonize the region by accelerating the transition to renewable electricity.

About Us

Renewable Northwest is a nonprofit advocacy organization that promotes the rapid decarbonization of the electric grid in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Our work is deeply informed by our members, a unique combination of environmental nonprofits, renewable energy companies, and consumer advocates. It is our collective goal to speed the region's efforts to decarbonize our electric grid while maintaining system reliability and affordable rates for customers.

Our Work

Rapid decarbonization of the electricity sector is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Regulatory, policy, market, transmission, and siting and permitting solutions are needed in order to rely fully on clean energy resources. This work requires consideration of and advocacy for appropriate emerging technology and needed infrastructure improvements, while incorporating equity and energy justice principles. Renewable Northwest continues to lead the region's electricity sector decarbonization efforts which also supports good paying jobs and tax revenue to local communities. Together with our partners, we are building the new energy economy.

Our Values

We believe that the values of our organization should guide not just what we do, but how we do it. As we strive to balance the various interests of our diverse membership, we will remain committed to acting in accordance with the following values:

TRANSPARENCY

Renewable Northwest values transparency in the work we do as well as the work of others in the energy space. We expect our members, partners, and staff to engage in a transparent manner.

COLLABORATION

Renewable Northwest works in a collaborative manner to solve important problems. We bring together a wide spectrum of for-profit and nonprofit members and partner organizations to develop a broad and inclusive perspective.

EQUITY

Renewable Northwest incorporates equity into the solutions we advocate for to ensure a diverse set of parties has a voice in the electricity sector. We commit to creating equity in our workplace, among our membership, and within our board of directors.

URGENCY

Renewable Northwest recognizes the urgency of decarbonizing the region's economy. Doing so will provide great benefits to our region.

Our Values

EXPERTISE

Renewable Northwest members, consultants, staff, and board of directors maintain expertise in a wide variety of electricity sector issues. We integrate this expertise into our advocacy for policy, regulatory, market, and infrastructure solutions.

ADAPTABILITY

Renewable Northwest is able to adapt to changes in energy markets, customer demand, economic influences, financial resources, staffing capabilities, and leadership, continually maintaining our integrity and unique value in the renewables and electricity sector.

COMPETITION

Renewable Northwest values competition in energy markets and open access to transmission systems, advocating for opportunities that allow a broad spectrum of generators and customers to engage in, and benefit from, the region's electricity system.

ENVIRONMENT

Recognizing the need to decarbonize the region, Renewable Northwest advocates for expansion of renewable energy in a manner that minimizes further impact to the environment

Strategies & Tactics

REGULATORY

STRATEGY

Engage in utility planning and procurement processes to advocate for meeting new capacity and energy needs, and fully replacing fossil fuels with a diverse selection of clean energy, storage, demand-side resources, and energy efficiency strategies.

TACTICS

- Make the case for renewable energy, storage, and system modernization in utility resource plans and downstream processes.
- Capture and implement the full value of renewable energy and storage, including climate mitigation, improved air quality, increased local resilience, and job creation.
- Ensure transparent and equitable regulatory processes that result in competitive resource selection and procurement.
- Advocate for regulatory process improvements related to utility cost recovery and the utility business model to incentivize investments in decarbonization while supporting communities and protecting customers.
- Support integrated planning of load growth and demand management with renewable energy and storage resources.

Strategies & Tactics

POLICY

STRATEGY

Establish, implement, and defend policies triggering new renewable energy and storage investments and driving greenhouse gas emissions out of the electricity sector.

TACTICS

- Implement and defend 100% clean energy mandates in Washington and Oregon, including equity and community benefits provisions.
- Assess new clean energy technologies and update policies and incentives to support their development as appropriate.
- Support the growth of good-paying jobs and workforce development initiatives in the renewable energy sector.
- Identify and pursue policy opportunities in Montana and Idaho to increase development of renewable energy.
- Support efforts to maximize federal and state investment in clean energy.

Strategies & Tactics

MARKETS

STRATEGY

Advance a west-wide integrated, efficient electricity market that supports state policies and regional decarbonization, the integration of renewable energy resources, and a diverse, reliable western grid in an inclusive and transparent way.

TACTICS

- Play a leadership role in regional market development conversations and decision making.
- Ensure, in coordination with regional partners, regional day-ahead electricity markets account for and support state clean-energy and climate policies, including non-price policies and greenhouse gas reporting requirements, and are based on inclusive governance structures.
- Educate parties including local and federal decision makers on the status of market development and highlight the importance of well-governed markets that prioritize decarbonization.
- Advocate for improvements to BPA processes and decision making to improve outcomes and transparency for regional market development.
- Advocate for reliable and well-governed electricity systems that facilitate clean energy dispatch in an equitable and cost effective manner.
- Promote increased flexibility, efficiency, and transparency in new and existing markets, and move towards a centralized market structure to minimize market seams and transmission tariff inefficiencies in support of rapid decarbonization and integration of renewable energy resources.

Strategies & Tactics

TRANSMISSION

STRATEGY

Improve processes for planning, permitting and paying for regional transmission improvements while also encouraging more efficient use of existing infrastructure to maintain reliability and support decarbonization.

TACTICS

- Advocate for and engage in meaningful regional and interregional transmission planning and investment that reasonably considers accessing new renewable energy resources and technologies.
- Engage in transmission rate proceedings to ensure fair and reasonable treatment of renewable energy.
- Advocate for improved interconnection processes for renewable energy and storage projects.
- Promote policies that support environmentally and socially responsible transmission capacity expansion and permitting.
- Advocate for expanding availability of existing transmission capacity, including through the use of grid enhancing technologies.
- Push for a consolidated single transmission tariff across the broadest western footprint possible to limit wheeling and pancaked costs, improving tariff consistency.
- Ensure policymakers with a role in infrastructure are informed about clean energy needs and policies.

Strategies & Tactics

SITING & PERMITTING

STRATEGY

Promote streamlined, predictable, and reasonable siting standards and processes to facilitate the development of new environmentally responsible and financeable renewable energy projects, storage projects and transmission infrastructure. Educate policymakers about and oppose siting policies that unnecessarily limit environmentally responsible renewable energy development.

TACTICS

- Engage in renewable energy and storage siting and permitting discussions to support environmentally responsible development and ensure the inclusion and consideration of decarbonization goals.
- Advocate for improved engagement opportunities and consultation of Tribes in federal and state siting and permitting processes.
- Advocate for and engage in robust federal and state processes for offshore wind on the West Coast.
- Promote compatible use of renewable generation and storage on resource lands.
- Streamline or improve permitting opportunities for generation, storage, and transmission at the state and federal level and provide education to decision makers on permitting and other siting constraints.
- Support the adoption of decarbonization as a priority in state and local land use and permitting regimes.



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