How does renewable energy harm the environment?

Noise from wind energy can cause problems; wind can be problematic for migratory birds, bats, and birds of prey

Solar impacts - rare minerals are extracted from remote areas;

Biomass - carbon emissions (but it would be emitting methane if it weren’t burned)

The long term benefits/ impacts are less than those of fossil fuels

Do we already have renewable energy sources in Talent?

Yes - we have potential for more solar

Currently, there is solar on one city building (Community Center); Turn… PT; Flywheel

OSF and Camelot are having conversations as well as the City Public Works local (off Suncrest)

Water pump is the largest consumer of energy

Net metering - if you install solar on your roof, you get to use it. If you are using more than the panels generate, pull from the grid. If you make more energy than you use, it goes into the grid (but you don’t get paid for it) So, you can save money but not make money

Where can we put solar panels on the school? And how would we go about doing that?

Get a solar assessment from a solar installer - for ex. True South would do an assessment and tell us where to put the roof or ground to put solar, including cost assessment

Are there laws or regulations to prevent us from putting solar panels on buildings or in open space?

Wind - Not that Emily is aware of. Solar regs - being tasked with looked but as of now, can cut down trees to maximize solar potential and can

30 homes as of 2017

How many people currently use solar power? Wind power?

No wind

How much energy do we currently use?

As of 2015: 26 GWh for 3055 accounts (2847 of which are residential accounts)

How much energy are we going to need? (Projected need based on growth)

Are there environmental / cultural / biological concerns about wind and/ or solar?

How much pollution does making solar panels create?

How many solar panels will we need? (Does the City already know what company / brand of solar panels they will use? For production capacity.)

What happens to damaged solar panels?

How are we going to pay for the solar panels?

Grants; tax breaks and incentives

Home owners are going to bare the burden

Ave. cost of a solar (6 panels installed about $10K - enough energy for the house; 8 panels for $8.5-9K)

What are the different types of solar panels and what are the differences?

Are there any other renewable energy sources being considered?

Solar; renewable energy assessment for the valley concluded that Rogue Valley could have solar (roof top before open space - especially flat tops, then parking lots)

Microhydro (put mini turbines in TID pipes) - can also do that in clean water pipes

The strongest plan would involve a combination

Wind sources (land) would be on the county land on the north side of the valley

We could possibly do hydro project way up the tributaries that would generate a small amount of energy

To reach our goal, will every house in Talent need to have solar panels? What about people who don’t want to participate?

Both private and community owner participation will be necessary (right now private solar is most accessible)

How are we going to keep up with the technology? What’s the maintenance plan?

How would billing work? Will electrical fee be replaced with an upkeep fee?

Are solar panels insurable? (if damaged, vandalized, etc, what’s the replacement procedure?)

Warranty would cover some damage (weather, manufac. issue)

Would we create our own power company? And how would that work with Pacific Power?

That is an active conversation

Community Choice Aggregation (Pacific Power customer but in an agreement with the City where our electricity is purchased)

Before a municipal electric company where we generate, manage, and deliver electricity

OR we partner with City of Ashland and get power from Bonneville

These all provide more choices for community members

If we remain a PP customer,

We would have to pay PP to get out of our contract

We also don’t have the infrastructure necessary to distribute the power ew make - that would be another issue and cost

Can private owners / investors sell extra power back to the City?

How long would installation take?

Have other municipalities gone 100% renewable?

Would the power company be privately owned or a CIty utility?

State of OR has a goal of being 100% coal free by 2037.

Clean energy movement is inequitable because it requires money upfront. There are non-profits that provide grants and loans