

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 02/10/16

**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Meeting Dates:** 02/03, 02/08, 02/10

**Vote:**

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Monroe, Riley

Nays: 2 - Girod, Thomsen

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs the Public Utility Commission to establish a program for the procurement of electricity from community solar projects. Establishes guidelines for program implementation and qualifications for community solar projects. Requires the Commission to report on implementation of the program to interim legislative committees related to business and energy on or before January 1, 2019.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Situations where community solar projects might be developed
- Program exists in other states
- Number of participants in, and output of, community solar projects
- Possible amendment related to hydropower and the renewable portfolio standard

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Adds “project manager” to definition of “owner.” Modifies definition of “subscriber” to include those with an interest in part of a community solar project. Adds definition of “unsubscribed electricity.” Deletes specification that program must incentivize consumers who do not have the ability to install photovoltaic energy systems on their own property. Requires project manager in a power purchase agreement to be compensated. Deletes provisions related to making generating capacity available to low-income residential customers. Specifies that electricity procured by an electric company through a power purchase agreement may be used to comply with the renewable portfolio standard under ORS 469A.052.

**BACKGROUND:**

Community renewable energy projects include those where community members pool their investments into renewable energy development. The term “community solar” refers to an arrangement where a solar-electric (photovoltaic) system is owned, in whole or in part, by community members who share either the energy itself or its monetary value on the market. A community solar model allows residents who do not own property amenable to photovoltaic infrastructure, such as apartment owners or homeowners with shaded properties, to invest in such infrastructure.

Senate Bill 1572-A directs the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish a program that creates incentives for residential and small commercial consumers of electricity who lack the ability to install photovoltaic systems on their own property to be owners or subscribers in a community solar project.