Oregon Workgroup Meeting Notes

Date/Context: Oregon State-Focused Workgroup Discussion
Topic: Income-Qualified (IQ) Measures, Comfort Ready Home (CRH) Support, & Utility Feedback
Meeting Facilitators: Rachelle Powers, Amy Burke (BPA)

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1. Welcome & Icebreaker

- **Icebreaker:** What's your favorite thing about fall?
- Introductions completed across participating utilities, CAP agencies, and BPA representatives.

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2. BPA Program Updates (Amy Burke — Residential Energy Conservation Program Lead)

General Updates

- **Participation:** Solid IQ measure participation across Oregon utilities.
- **9th Power Plan:** BPA is actively weighing in.
- **Resources:** Utility Program Guide is now published.
- **Outreach:** Attended *Energy Out West*; positive feedback received from East Coast partners regarding CRH materials.
- **Leadership & Committees:** Amy announced as the new Residential Energy Conservation Program Lead. Recruitment is currently open for the **IQ Workgroup Steering Committee** (interested members should reach out).

Measure Developments

- **New Room Heat Pump Measure:** Currently being added to state grants. Units primarily sourced through distributors/contractors.

- **New Construction Single Family Measure:** High-level overview presented in slides.
    - *Feedback:* Expressed concern that income thresholds differ significantly between regional partner organizations and BPA requirements.
    - *Response:* BPA plans to integrate this into grants; CRH is available to provide support.
- **State Grants:** Continued streamlining of grant processes.

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3. Comfort Ready Home (CRH) Overview (Presented by Cyrus)

Scope & Services

- **Role:** Supplements agency/utility staff where onboarding or capacity support is needed; intentionally avoids discussing specific incentive dollar amounts to defer to CAPs and utilities.
- **Field Team:** Specialized technical assistance available (e.g., HPWH, Weatherization).
- **Contractor Network:** 600+ members growing at ~1% monthly. Focus on bridging contractor coverage gaps in rural areas.
- **Training & Resources:**
    - *Home as a System* diagnostics training.
    - Spanish language collateral available.
    - YouTube video library available for co-branding by utilities.
    - Marketing toolkits and new homeowner DIY education.

CRH Q&A Highlights

- **Auditor Certification:** CRH can train on BPA audit practices, but does not currently issue BPI certifications (agencies follow: *"Yes for BPA audits, no for BPI audits"*).
- **DIY Energy Audit / Weatherization Content:** Videos are underway to help offset the regional auditor shortage.

- **Contacts:**
  - Email: info@comfortreadyhome.com
  - Direct BPA Escalation: Amy Burke (aaburke@bpa.gov)
  - Field Specialist Locator: CRH Field Specialists

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4. Open Listening Session

Q1: What IQ measures are you currently offering and how?

- **Oregon Trail Electric:** Appliance and weatherization measures promoted via internal marketing.
- **YCAP:** Comprehensive "Whole Home" prescriptive approach leveraging blended funding sources.
- **Community Connection:** Full-scope EC and health/safety weatherization across 4 counties in eastern Oregon.
- **Emerald PUD:** In-house weatherization relying heavily on self-funding/customer donations due to limited EEI budgets.
- **Key Barrier Raised:** Mismatch between BPA income thresholds (federal/state low-income definitions) and local partner programs/Habitat for Humanity (Area Median Income / AMI).

Q2: What IQ measure offerings are you interested in doing more of?

- **Manufactured Homes:** Requests for larger incentives and options for post-1975 manufactured homes (Thomas).
- **Split-System HPWH:** Interest in seeing split systems added to IQ measures following the current pilot.
- **Bill Impact & Demand Reduction:**
  - Significant drop in bills (up to 75% on weatherization), though behavioral cooling in summer can raise consumption.
  - Tracking "Demand Reduction" metrics (3–10 kW/yr savings by offsetting electric resistance).
  - Top savings come from insulation, duct sealing, and air sealing.

- **True-Up / Budget Billing:** Question regarding annual levelized billing; utilities noted 6-month recalibration is standard for managing seasonal variations.

Q3: What support is needed from BPA?

- **Program Alignment:** Adjust IQ criteria to align more cleanly with regional AMI guidelines.
- **Funding Capacity:** High demand for additional general EEI dollars and state grant allocations rather than just higher per-measure incentive rates.
- **Territory Overlap Coordination:** Assistance in navigating service territories split between BPA and non-BPA utilities (e.g., Idaho Power overlaps).
- **CAP & Utility Alignment:** Need for better framework and communication pipelines between local utilities and CAP agencies.

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5. Next Steps & Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Party	Timeline
Join IQ Workgroup Steering Committee	Interested Participants	ASAP (reach out to Amy)
Request custom marketing/co-branded resources	Interested Utilities/ CAPs	Ongoing via CRH website
Complete remaining state-focused meetings	BPA Team	Fall 2026
Synthesize findings into Regional Action Plan	BPA Team	Prior to Feb 2027 meeting
Next Large All-Workgroup Meeting (Virtual)	All	**February 2027**