Q1 2026 RETAC Meeting Notes

March 11, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Pacific)
Microsoft Teams Webinar

Meeting Attendees

Dick Stroh, Bonneville Power Administration
Kathy Yi, Bonneville Power Administration
Keshmira Engineer, Bonneville Power Administration
Jim White, Chelan PUD
Robert Bogataj, City of Seattle
Scott Spielman, Ecotope
Kenji Spielman, Energy Trust Oregon
Ammi Amarnath, Electric Power Research Institute
Juan Serpa Munoz, Eugene Water & Electric Board
Todd Greenwell, Idaho Power
Ritika Kumbharkar, MN Center for Energy & Environment
Kevin Smith, Northwest Power & Conservation Council
Hayden Reeve, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Cheryn Metzgar, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Edward Louie, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Lauren Kerr, Portland General Electric
Andrew Pultorak, Puget Sound Energy
Christopher Boroughs, Puget Sound Energy
John Davey, Puget Sound Energy
Michelle Wildie, Puget Sound Energy

NEEA Staff: Noe Contreras, Wendy Preiser, Alisyn Maggiora, Deborah Sunada, Adam Gage, Mark Rehley, Mike Smith, Chuck Karras, Lynne Mosley

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Announcements	Mark Rehley	NEEA
Bonneville Power Administration	Keshmira Engineer	BPA
Round Robin	All	
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	Cheryn Metzger Hayden Reeve	PNNL

Resources

- Agenda and Packet Materials: Q1 2026 RETAC Agenda Packet - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA)
- Slide Deck: Q1 2026 RETAC Meeting Slides - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA)
- Q1 2026 Emerging Technology Newsletter: Q1 2026 Emerging Technology Newsletter - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA)

Meeting Notes

Public Summary

The Q1 2026 RETAC meeting brought together regional utilities, research institutions, and energy efficiency partners to share updates on emerging technologies, market developments, and opportunities for collaboration across the Pacific Northwest.

Bonneville Power Administration: Dairy and Industrial Energy Opportunities

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) shared updates on advancing energy efficiency opportunities in agricultural and industrial settings, with a focus on heat recovery and electrification technologies. The discussion highlighted the potential of integrated systems that capture and reuse waste heat in dairy operations to support sanitation and water heating needs. Participants discussed the value of demonstration projects and regional collaboration to support technology validation, develop tools, and build market understanding that can inform future program design.

The group also discussed broader trends in industrial heat pump development, including ongoing research efforts aimed at expanding viable applications for higher-temperature process heat. Participants emphasized the importance of continued innovation, testing facilities, and partnerships with manufacturers and research organizations to support the maturation of these technologies.

Regional Utility Updates and Market Developments

Utilities from across the region shared updates on a range of program areas, pilots, and regulatory developments. Topics included advanced lighting and controls, demand response initiatives, pay-for-performance approaches, managed charging for transportation electrification, and evolving code and policy landscapes.

Several utilities highlighted efforts to better integrate technologies across building systems, explore new customer engagement strategies, and improve measurement and verification approaches. Participants also discussed the importance of coordination across states and utilities as policies and market conditions continue to evolve.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory: Research and Collaboration

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) provided an overview of its research capabilities, facilities, and current projects relevant to emerging technologies and market transformation. Presentations covered work in HVAC and water heating systems, building controls, sensors, lighting quality, and workforce training initiatives. PNNL emphasized its role in field validation, applied research, and technical support for regional and national efforts.

The discussion underscored opportunities for continued collaboration between utilities, NEEA, and national laboratories to advance promising technologies, share knowledge, and support real-world deployment.

Looking Ahead

The meeting concluded with discussion of future collaboration opportunities, including targeted technical exchanges, product councils on timely topics, and continued coordination among regional partners. RETAC participants reaffirmed the value of the forum as a space to share insights, align on emerging trends, and support the advancement of energy-efficient technologies across the region.