

CITY OF BEND

2021 CLIMATE LEGISLATION PRIORITIES

SUMMARY

The City of Bend strongly encourages the adoption of state legislation to accelerate Oregon's transition to a clean energy future. In particular, we support setting an ambitious timeline for Oregon to achieve a 100% clean energy supply, the creation of community green tariff programs, and policies that ensure energy affordability through rate structure design.

The City of Bend has established aggressive [local climate action goals](#) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2050 and to provide a 100% renewable electricity supply to our community as soon as possible. The aforementioned policy goals are each critical to provide communities like ours with ambitious climate action goals with the tools needed to achieve these goals while ensuring equity and fairness for all Oregonians.

100% CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD

Establishing a 100% clean energy standard for Oregon statewide, as proposed by HB 2021, is a vital and necessary step to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. We believe HB 2021's strong emphasis on benefiting environmental justice communities and increasing opportunities for community ownership and job creation should be included in either approach.

COMMUNITY GREEN TARIFFS

In addition to setting a 100% clean energy standard for Oregon, the creation of voluntary community green tariff programs as proposed in HB 3221, SB 784 and HB 2021 will allow individual communities to achieve more aggressive climate goals and provide communities a greater level of influence and transparency in where their electricity comes from. This can help communities achieve other important goals, such as local job creation and economic development, resiliency, and disaster preparedness through energy supply decisions.

RATEPAYER PROTECTION

A flexible rate structure aimed to relieving protecting ratepayers from widespread cost increases, as proposed in HB 2475, is essential component for avoiding hardships on low-income or under-served customers as Oregon worked to achieve aggressive climate goals. This is critical to facilitating an equitable and just clean energy transition.



COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE POLICY PACKAGE

The City of Bend hopes that the best components of the HB 2021 and of HB 3221 and SB 784 and of HB 2475 can be worked into a comprehensive clean energy package for achieving a 100% clean energy supply and for establishing a community green tariff program, while providing protections for vulnerable rate-payers.

In considering these proposals, we recommend that the following outcomes be prioritized:

1. Oregon transitions to 100% clean energy as fast as possible, while maintaining affordable rates and ensuring the transition is equitable and just.
2. Oregon's clean energy transition provides additional co-benefits to Oregon residents and communities, such as local job creation and economic opportunity.
3. An equitable and just transition means it can be implemented in a way that minimizes burdens for those most impacted by climate change including low-income, rural, coastal, and BIPOC communities, and that those communities all realize meaningful benefits from the clean energy transition.
4. Communities are provided greater control and choice over their electricity supply so we can achieve our own distinct goals related to energy and pursue options that bring desired benefits to our community.
5. Communities are provided greater transparency in how rates are determined and how projects are selected.
6. Community-based and smaller scale renewable projects can be integrated into a community's electricity mix at their choice by giving them a level-playing field so they can be feasible and competitive with larger-scale projects. Community-based projects can help communities meet other goals related to resiliency, disaster preparedness, and economic development.
7. Community green tariff programs are inclusive of as many customer types as possible, including larger commercial customers, to maximize the impact of the program.
8. Community green tariff programs are affordable, simple, and easy to use.

