

*The Oregon Military Department's Maj. Gen. George A. White Headquarters building in Salem, Oregon, is LEED certified.*



**Leading Oregon to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable energy future.**

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## 1.5% for Green Energy Technology in Public Buildings



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Oregon state law (ORS 279C.527-528) requires public bodies that construct a new building or complete major renovations with a total contract price greater than \$5 million spend at least 1.5% of total contract price on **green energy technology or an eligible alternative.**

Oregon Department of Energy staff are happy to help public bodies understand and comply with the 1.5% for Green Energy Technology requirement. ODOE's role is to maintain the Oregon Administrative Rules for the 1.5% Green Energy Technology requirement, track the reporting requirements from public bodies, and complete an annual report to the Oregon Legislature.

For questions about the Technical Review Panel and requirements, contact: [askenergy@oregon.gov](mailto:askenergy@oregon.gov).

Visit our website for complete program instructions and information at: [www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/GET.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/GET.aspx)

### Who is subject to the 1.5% requirement?

All public bodies in Oregon are subject. This includes:

- State agencies
- Cities and counties
- Local service districts
- School or education service districts
- Community college districts
- Public corporations created by state statute
- Other public bodies

*Members of the Oregon University System are exempt.*

### Which buildings are subject?

- New public buildings with total contract price exceeding \$5 million.
- Existing public buildings with total contract price costs exceeding \$5 million and 50% of the insured value of the building.
- Required buildings must be owned or controlled by a public body, and must be used for conducting public business or occupied by public employees.



### Green energy technologies that comply with the 1.5% requirement include:

- Solar technology, in the form of photovoltaic and solar thermal systems.
- Passive solar and daylighting systems that reduce whole building energy use by 10% or more
- Geothermal systems that provide heating or make electricity. Ground source heat pumps do not meet the requirement.
- Battery storage equipment and technology paired with solar or geothermal systems that generate electricity.

### Alternatively, public bodies may install woody biomass energy technology, and other energy efficiency technology which includes:

- A space or water heating system that uses material from trees and woody plants that are a by-product of forest management, agriculture, ecosystem restoration, or fire prevention and related activities
- Certain on-site energy efficiency improvements that reduce or offset energy consumption by 20 percent below baseline code.

*The energy produced from these systems must be used at the building site. Building owners cannot purchase "green power" from a utility to meet this requirement.*

### What if green energy technology or an eligible alternative doesn't make sense for a new or renovated public building?

If the technologies don't work at the building site, state law allows public bodies to install a green energy system at an alternate location – as long as it is more cost-effective and the energy produced is still used at the building site.

If a public body decides to install technology at an alternate site or determines that the technology is inappropriate both onsite and offsite, it must document the reason and request a review by the Technical Review Panel.

If a public body determines that the technology or an alternative is inappropriate and any state funding is used, the public body must spend the equivalent amount on a future project in addition to any 1.5% requirement for that project.

### What is the Technical Review Panel?

The review panel includes a professional engineer or architect, a member of a public body, an industry expert, and is chaired by the Oregon Department of Energy.

The panel will review submitted information on the feasibility of installing an energy system at a building site or alternate site, and will determine whether it agrees or disagrees with the public body's proposal.

### What are the reporting requirements?

Public bodies must report their energy project information to the Oregon Department of Energy, and submit details about their project using our online form: [greenenergytechnology.odeo.state.or.us](http://greenenergytechnology.odeo.state.or.us)

*Note:* Public bodies must report to ODOE regardless of whether they comply with the 1.5% requirement, install the technology at an alternate site, or determine it to be inappropriate both onsite and offsite.

## Questions?

**Give us a call at  
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