



GOVERNMENT-TO- GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

by the
**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY**

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2025 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this report, the Oregon Department of Energy provides information about efforts and actions to seek input, collaborate, and enhance relations with the nine federally recognized Native American Tribes in Oregon regarding ODOE programs, projects, and other services. This work includes energy policy and programs, energy financial incentives, nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, and energy facility siting, in addition to overarching efforts in engagement and collaboration. Below are a few highlights.

Engagement and Collaboration. The Community Navigator program was launched after ODOE's bill in the 2023 session passed as part of HB 3630. In the past year, the Community Navigator program has continued to develop relationships with the federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, including in-person visits to five of the nine federally recognized Tribes, participation in LCIS cluster meetings, and attendance at the Government-to-Government Summit. Virtual and in-person meetings have been invaluable to ODOE, ensuring that the agency is understanding and prioritizing Tribes' feedback and unique structures within our programs and policies. ODOE was also pleased to sponsor and attend the ATNI Energy Sovereignty Summit in September 2025.

Nuclear Safety. Several Tribes have expressed concerns about restricted access to usual and accustomed areas on the [Hanford Nuclear Site](#) in south central Washington state. In cases where access is permitted, Tribes are concerned about the potential for Tribal members to be exposed to hazardous waste as well as the potential for negative effects on first foods and other cultural and natural resources due to inadequate waste disposal or leaks at the Hanford site. The [Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board](#), which includes a representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, met three times in 2025. The Hanford Natural Resources Trustee Council, which is responsible for conducting the Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration at the Hanford site, actively worked on assessment and planning activities throughout 2025. The Council membership includes the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Yakama Nation, in addition to the states of Oregon and Washington, and federal agencies.

Emergency Preparedness. This year, ODOE updated the [Oregon Energy Security Plan](#), which identifies risks to electricity, liquid fuel, and natural gas/propane systems, and proposes ways to mitigate those risks. The Energy Security Plan is intended to be a living document, and perspectives and input from Tribes will continue to be incorporated into future revisions. In May, ODOE staff met with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Tribal Fire Chief at the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum annual meeting to discuss emergency planning and the resumption of Hanford Transuranic waste shipments along I-84 in eastern Oregon. In addition, ODOE continues to maintain the Oregon Fuel Action Plan, which designates priority fuel users: the nine federally recognized Tribes, 36 county emergency management agencies, and 18 Emergency Support Function Primary State Agencies. ODOE and other emergency planning partners prepare for emergencies, such as earthquakes, wildfires, ice storms, or other disasters that may affect fuel supply or distribution in Oregon.

Energy Facility Siting. Several Tribes have expressed concerns about the potential for negative effects on cultural and natural resources from transmission, solar, and wind project proposals that are evaluated through the state's energy facility siting process. ODOE's Siting Division continues to notify and coordinate with Tribal representatives regarding proposals for new and modified state-jurisdictional energy facilities and rulemakings. Tribes receiving notification for each specific project are those identified by the Legislative Commission on Indian Services as having potential interest or information on sensitive resources that could be affected by a proposed or modified energy facility. Communication

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with each Tribal government is accompanied by an offer from ODOE staff to meet with the Tribe's Council and/or staff to discuss the notice and review process, along with guidance for cost reimbursement. In response to feedback from Tribes that would like to be notified of and engaged in potential projects earlier in the process, the Siting Division has been working on a rulemaking project to further improve the quality and timeliness of energy facility developers' communication with Tribes.

Energy Planning and Innovation. In implementing HB 3409 (2023), ODOE's Climate Change team provides staff support for the Oregon Climate Action Commission (OCAC). As part of the OCAC's natural and working lands work, the Commission is specifically required to establish a process for Tribal consultation to advise the Commission on its work, including the identification of opportunities to support indigenous practices and knowledge from Tribal Nations to sequester and store carbon on natural and working lands. In 2025, this work has involved a panel of experts on current topics relating to Tribal climate priorities and strategies for strengthening relationships with Tribes, including: Direlle Calica, Director for the Institute for Tribal Government at Portland State University; Patrick Freeland, a Senior Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and Eddie Sherman, a Principal Tribal consultant with Against the Current Consulting. Also, Serina Fast Horse, of Kimimela Consulting, has spoken with six Tribes or Tribal organizations on nature-based workforce needs and presented initial findings to the Oregon Climate Action Commission. In addition, a major project at ODOE, the Oregon Energy Strategy, has involved formal letters to each Tribe with updates and an invitation to meet and discuss interest and involvement in the development of the Strategy. Follow-up to these formal letters have included staff-to-staff discussions, formal representation on the Advisory Group and Working Groups, and formal, in-person meetings with interested Tribes. The Oregon Energy Strategy was published in November 2025 and included a section synthesizing Tribes' feedback into key themes.

Energy Financial Incentives. ODOE operates both state-funded programs and federally funded programs to support lowering the cost of clean energy technologies such as heat pumps and solar. Many of these programs have been directed to specifically serve Tribes. For example, the Burns Paiute Tribe has been offered a Community Renewable Energy Grant of \$89,718 for planning to connect a local community cooperative biomass district heating system to the Tribal community center in Burns. The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians have been offered a Community Renewable Energy Grant of \$1,000,000 for a community energy resilience project with net-metered solar and battery storage with microgrid systems to power Tribal buildings during grid outages.

This report and previous annual Government-to-Government reports are available on the [Oregon Department of Energy's website](#).

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Oregon Department of Energy – Staff Directory

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<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Pages/Contact-Us.aspx>



ABOUT ODOE

Our Mission

The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.



Our Values

- We listen and aspire to be inclusive and equitable in our work.
- We are ethical and conduct our work with integrity.
- We are accountable and fiscally responsible in our work and the decisions of our agency.
- We are innovative and focus on problem-solving to address the challenges and opportunities in Oregon's energy sector.
- We conduct our agency practices and processes in a transparent and fair way.

What We Do

On behalf of Oregonians across the state, the Oregon Department of Energy achieves its mission by providing:

- A Central Repository of Energy Data, Information, and Analysis
- A Venue for Problem-Solving Oregon's Energy Challenges
- Energy Education and Technical Assistance
- Regulation and Oversight
- Energy Programs and Activities

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INTRODUCTION

In this report, the Oregon Department of Energy looks back at ways the agency has interacted with and learned from the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon in 2025. We believe that continuing to build on our long-standing relationships with the Tribes makes our agency more effective overall while supporting our work across the state and region. The recently published [Oregon Energy Strategy](#) was a two-year project that involved engaging with the nine federally recognized Tribes through formal government-to-government letters, staff-to-staff discussion, in-person or virtual meetings with Tribal leaders and staff, and presentations through the Legislative Commission on Indian Services and cluster groups. ODOE heard concerns about how existing energy systems overlook Tribal sovereignty, decision making processes, cultural knowledge, and priorities, and ODOE also heard support for Tribally owned energy infrastructure and incentive programs that can help Tribal members shift to clean energy and energy efficient opportunities. We continue to look for opportunities where our programs and projects can be improved with input from Tribes. This report provides an overview of ODOE programs and projects and the ways we have engaged with Tribal governments over the last year.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning helps our agency prioritize our work and build stronger collaboration with the people we serve. Earlier this year, ODOE shared a wrap-up report from our 2021-2024 [strategic plan](#). In late 2025 and early 2026, ODOE is working on updating the Strategic Plan to guide ODOE's focus over the next few years.

ODOE's Director sent each of the nine federally recognized Tribes a formal letter to invite collaboration in developing strategic priorities on November 6, 2025. The letter included brief background information and guiding questions that would provide valuable insight into the energy sector in Oregon and where ODOE can provide the greatest strategic value over the next four years. ODOE would appreciate feedback through any method, such as responding in writing to any of the guiding questions, setting up a virtual or in-person meeting, or other options.



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ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

ODOE staff have continued to participate in LCIS, Natural Resource Work Group, Cultural Resources Cluster, and Tribal Leaders & Governor's Office Coordination calls and meetings throughout 2025. ODOE's Director, Associate Director, and Community Navigator attended the Government-to-Government Summit, hosted by the Coquille Tribe on October 8, 2025, which provided a valuable opportunity for learning and connection. Over the past year, staff from several of ODOE's divisions have taken advantage of opportunities to participate in events and conferences that have included Tribal representatives to share information about the state's work in energy. For example, ODOE staff attended the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Energy Sovereignty Summit in September 2025, which allowed ODOE to share information about our programs and learn about Tribal energy sovereignty, partnership, and collaboration.

ODOE has made procedural changes so that formal notification letters are sent in advance of agency decisions related to siting energy facilities, financial opportunities, and program rulemaking – as well as key agency activities involving data and analysis that could inform policy. The Tribal liaison and team members have developed resources to support education and information sharing to learn more about the current priorities and issues as well as history of the nine federally recognized Tribes.

ODOE has been holding bi-weekly Tribal Engagement Office hours to bring staff together creating a Cross-Divisional/Cross-Section space for connections and education to support improving ODOE's Tribal engagement for our projects and programs. Staff work together on programs seeking Tribal feedback and engagement and looking at opportunities for coordinated outreach with Tribes.

Cultural Items Task Force

ODOE has been tracking the work of the [Oregon Tribal Cultural Items Task Force](#), first established by Governor's Executive Order 17-12 and renewed by [Governor Kotek's Executive Order 24-06](#), to develop a process for surveying state agencies and public institutions regarding cultural items in their possession that may be associated with Oregon Tribes.

In 2019, ODOE conducted a survey of potential cultural items maintained by the agency, which could include objects, artworks, documents, and records such as applications, meeting notes, maps, photographs, reports, or any other document related to ODOE's programs and Native Americans. These documents or records could be directly associated with persons and places significant to Oregon's Tribes historic and/or contemporary identity. ODOE inventoried the Director's Office, Siting Division, Planning and Innovation Division, Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness Division, and Central Services Division:

Director's Office

- Speeches, letters, and presentations (1975 – forward): Some paper, mostly digital.
- Energy Site Photographs (1975 – forward): Not dated but appear to be mostly in the 1990s. Could contain view of landscape prior to energy facility construction.
- Reports (1975 - forward): Most reports for the agency are within the Program areas or Divisions, but some reports (like the Annual Report to Tribes and Agency Rulemaking Report) originate in the Director's Office. Some paper, mostly digital.

Central Services Division

- Contracts or Memorandums of Agreement with Tribes (1975 - forward): Paperwork or digital

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- Applications and inspection documentation and supporting paperwork (1979 - forward): Applications and supporting documents for the applications for Small Energy Loan Program.
- Applications and inspection documentation and supporting paperwork (2007 - forward): Applications and supporting documents for the applications for Business Energy Tax Credit Program
- Photographs (2009 - forward): Photographs of Business Energy Tax Credit energy projects. Focus of photographs was generally the energy item.
- Applications and inspection documentation and supporting paperwork (2011- forward)
- Applications and supporting documents for the applications for Energy Incentive Programs
- Photographs (2011- forward): Photographs of EIP energy projects. Focus of photographs was generally the energy item.

Energy Planning and Innovation Division

- Applications and inspection documentation and supporting paperwork (2002 – forward): Applications and supporting documents for the applications for SB 1149 Schools and Cool Schools Programs, Large Electric Customer Public Purpose Program, SEED, 1.5% Green Energy Technology Program. In agency storage or in State Records Center (Archives).
- Photographs (2002 – forward): Photographs of SB 1149 Schools and Cool Schools Programs, Large Electric Customer Public Purpose Program, SEED, 1.5% Green Energy Technology Program energy projects. Focus of photographs was generally the energy item. In agency storage or in State Records Center (Archives).
- Reports (1975 – forward): Various reports, such as the Biennial Energy Report or its precursor the Biennial Energy Plan, that may reference Tribal activities that have an energy or climate change nexus. Some paper, mostly digital.
- Oregon Global Warming Commission presentations and reports (2007 - forward): The division provides staff support to the Oregon Global Warming Commission,¹ which tracks and evaluates the impact of global warming and ODOE's Director is an ex officio member of the Commission. The Division serves as the holder of the Commission's records and proceedings, which have included presentations, testimony, and photographs from Tribal representatives.

Energy Facility Siting Division

- Application for Site Certificate (1973-current): Describes existing land uses and natural resources at and near the project site. Includes photographs and field reports.
- Responses to Requests for Additional Information (RAIs) (1973-current): Developer responses to ODOE's RAIs during application review. Some contain photographs and information from field reports.
- Confidential materials: Cultural resources survey report (2008 -current): Contains the results of surveys and records searches regarding the location of archaeological sites and objects. Photographs and field notes.
- Pre-construction site photographs (2010 - current): Photographs of landscape prior to facility construction.
- Annual report (At least 2010 - current): Pre-construction survey results. Information on natural resources (e.g., wildlife monitoring report), including photographs.

¹ Now named the Oregon Climate Action Commission.

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- Compliance report (At least 2010 -current): Photographs and field notes from site visits during construction and operation. May include information on natural resources.

Nuclear Safety and Energy Emergency Preparedness Division -

- Technical documents related to the Hanford Nuclear Site cleanup (~1986 to current): Proposed Plans; Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies; Records of Decision; Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements.
- Documents related to the Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project (1987 to 1994): Project reports, informational materials, photographs related to a study of radiation exposures as a result of Hanford environmental releases from 1944 through 1972.
- Documents related to the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (~2006 to current): Project plans, environmental studies (CTUIR is a member of this group).
- Memorandum of Understanding with CTUIR (Nov 1994): MOU describes coordination between State of Oregon and CTUIR on Hanford issues. Location: File cabinet in office
- Documents related to the environmental cleanups at two uranium mines near Lakeview and a uranium processing mill in Lakeview (~ 1988 to current): Cleanup plans, environmental monitoring results.
- Documents related to the development and implementation of the Oregon Fuel Action Plan (~2006 to current): Fuel surveys, presentation materials, first version of the Oregon Fuel Action Plan.
- Documents related to the development of an LNG emergency response plan (~2005 to current): LNG safety studies, waterway safety analysis, meeting summaries.

In general, the types of items found were reports, contracts, energy project site photographs, speeches, letters, presentations, applications for energy site certificates, and responses to requests for additional information. Most of these items were located in specific filing cabinets, servers, or at Archives. The inventory also included confidential materials related to cultural survey reports as part of the energy facility siting process, which are kept onsite in a locked file cabinet or with the State Historic Preservation Office. The oldest date for these items is 1973, but most are from the 1980s through current. Based on the inventory and research in 2019, ODOE does not have ongoing survey work or plans for survey work in 2026.

Legislative Coordination

As part of our agency [mission and vision](#), ODOE staff follows each legislative session carefully. The Oregon Department of Energy shares energy data, information, and analysis from [the Biennial Energy Report](#) and provides energy education through informational committee hearings. Legislators often make use of ODOE's venue for problem-solving energy challenges with bills to carry out [studies](#) in advance of future legislation. We track bills that make changes to regulatory roles, in addition to those that either modernize or add new programs and activities at the agency — and we provide technical advice to legislators and staff along the way.

ODOE brought several legislative concepts to the 2025 legislative session. As part of developing the legislative concept and potential budget requests (known as policy option packages or “POPs”), ODOE’s Director sent a formal letter on September 30, 2024 and staff followed up with Tribal staff and contract

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lobbyists to explore follow up discussions. Four of ODOE's legislative concepts passed into law. ODOE publishes an annual report to provide an overview of each legislative session; the 2025 legislative report is available here: [ODOE 2025 Legislative Summary](#)

- **Heat Pump Programs – Extension and Updates (HB 2567) – passed.** The Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program and Community Heat Pump Deployment Program were established by the Oregon Department of Energy at the direction of SB 1536, which was passed by the Oregon State Legislature in 2022. The two programs provide financial assistance for the purchase and installation of heat pumps and related upgrades. The legislative concept extended the Rental Home program by six years and made changes to the Community program based on feedback from participants; both programs, however, were not funded for the 2025-2027 biennium.
- **Storage Only in the Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program (SB 827) – passed.** The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program in 2019, providing rebates for the purchase, construction, or installation of solar electric systems and paired solar and storage systems. This legislative concept allows a rebate to help offset the costs of adding battery storage to homes with existing solar arrays, enabling Oregonians to access home battery technology as backup power to strengthen resilience. However, the program was not funded for the 2025-2027 biennium.
- **State Contracting with National Labs (HB 2565) – passed.** The U.S. Department of Energy's 16 National Laboratories are designed to carry out objective research and provide in-depth technical support and data – work that could be of value to state agencies working on energy and climate issues, including the Oregon Department of Energy. HB 2565 amended state contracting statutes to treat National Labs like federal agencies so that the state can contract with them, which was not possible prior to the passage of the bill.
- **Removing Redundant Reports (SB 825) – passed.** This legislative concept removed parts of the State Energy Efficient Design program that are also required by the new Building Performance Standard requirements, making more efficient and effective use of state agency staff resources. Additionally, this bill removed outdated references to previous state agency energy reduction goals and removed a reporting requirement for the Small-Scale Local Energy Loan Program, which is no longer issuing new loans.
- **Creating a Dedicated Grid Resilience Fund (SB 828) – did not pass.** This legislative concept would have allowed federal and state matching funds for the Grid Resilience Program, established by the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, to be placed in a dedicated fund. This would have prevented uncertainty in program delivery between two-year budget cycles.
- **Resilience Projects in the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program (HB 2566) – did not pass.** In 2021, the legislature passed HB 2021, which included a \$50 million fund at ODOE to provide grants for planning and developing community renewable energy projects and energy resilience projects with a renewable energy component. With the recent increase in power outages and damage from extreme weather, the need for funding for energy resilience-only projects is clear. The new federally funded Grid Resilience Program could provide funding, but for smaller utilities, the match requirements are a barrier. This legislative concept would have allowed up to 20 percent of Community Renewable Energy Grant Program funding to support energy resilience-only projects. At the end of each session, we create a report on energy legislation and legislation that will or would have affected our agency or the energy sector in general. That annual report can be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Pages/legislative-agenda.aspx>

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Questions about or interest in ODOE's legislative work should be directed to Christy Splitt, Government Relations Coordinator, at christy.splitt@energy.oregon.gov or 503-510-4473.

Community Navigator Program

The [Community Navigator program](#) was launched after ODOE's bill in the 2023 session passed as part of HB 3630. This program aims to connect environmental justice communities with energy resources and programs that help meet their needs and goals. It is designed to empower communities in accessing opportunities from the state and federal governments as well as support ODOE's understanding of community priorities to help shape programs and policies in Oregon. The Community Navigator Program has been particularly focused on Tribal, rural and coastal communities as well as communities with limited infrastructure.

In the first eighteen months, the Community Navigator program's staff have participated in meetings or events in all 36 Oregon Counties in person and met with all nine federally recognized Tribes in person on Tribal land. Since then, the Community Navigator program has continued to meet with Tribes, meeting with five Tribes in person. These in-person meetings have continued to increase ODOE's understanding of how to make programs and policies work best for Tribal governments and organizations serving Tribal members.

Questions about or interest in ODOE's Community Navigator program should be directed to Sarah Moehrke, Community.Navigator@energy.oregon.gov or 503-508-2352.



NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENERGY SECURITY DIVISION

The Nuclear Safety and Energy Security Division supports and interacts with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the Nez Perce Tribe, on a variety of topics, including Hanford Nuclear Site cleanup, restoration of injured natural resources related to the Hanford cleanup, radioactive material transport safety, enforcement of radioactive material disposal rules, emergency distribution of liquid fuels (primarily diesel, gasoline, and jet fuel) during interruption of distribution or supply, and the [Oregon Energy Security Plan](#). The Oregon Energy Security plan was first submitted in 2024, and updated in 2025. To better reflect the importance of this Plan and associated program, ODOE has changed the name of the division to Nuclear Safety and Energy Security.

Hanford Cleanup

The Hanford Nuclear Site in Washington State, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, is on land ceded by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and is among the usual and accustomed places for the Nez Perce Tribe. The State of Oregon and the CTUIR have a Memorandum of Understanding for coordination on Hanford issues. ODOE is Oregon's lead state agency representing the state's interests in the Hanford cleanup and represents Oregon in the natural resource damage assessment and restoration efforts.

ODOE's technical staff work closely with their counterparts from the CTUIR, Yakama Nation, and Nez Perce Tribe on a variety of cleanup issues, including groundwater remediation, Columbia River corridor cleanup, and closure planning. The CTUIR, Yakama Nation, and Nez Perce Tribe work with ODOE on the Hanford Advisory Board to provide informed advice to U.S. DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington Department of Ecology on policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford site.

A representative from the CTUIR sits on the [Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board](#), which is a 20-member advisory group that recommends state policy to Oregon's Governor, Legislative Assembly, and ODOE. The Board also holds U.S. DOE and its contractors accountable and brings Hanford issues to the public. The Board met three times in 2025.

ODOE staff participated in several virtual meetings of the State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG) in 2025, which brings together representatives from states and Tribes affected by U.S. DOE sites or facilities associated with the production and cleanup of nuclear weapons production. The CTUIR, the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Wanapum are among more than a dozen Tribes and Pueblos that are members of STGWG. In recent years, STGWG has focused on priority issue areas, represented by four committees: long-term stewardship; waste management; natural resource damage assessment and restoration; and Tribal affairs.

Restoration of Injured Natural Resources

ODOE represents Oregon as one of eight natural resource trustees that participate in the [Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council](#). The other trustees are the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the State of Washington, and three federal agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Energy. The trustees work together to determine the extent of natural resource injury caused by releases of radioactive materials and chemicals into the environment and response actions to

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those releases. After the extent of the injury has been determined and quantified, the HNRTC will establish actions necessary for restoration of the injured resources.

This past year the focus has been on data analysis, developing an understanding of baseline (conditions but for the release of hazardous substances), planning groundwater restoration projects, inventorying physical disturbance to aquatic and riparian habitat, and identifying injury in aquatic nearshore habitat. This work focuses on assessing and recovering monetary damages for injury to near-shore aquatic ecosystems of the Columbia River, groundwater, terrestrial ecosystems, and loss of Tribal services.

The full HNRTC met ten times in 2025, in addition to workshops and monthly technical work group meetings, to assess injury to natural resources due to Hanford operations. The senior trustees met twice in 2025 for updates. Meetings have varied between virtual and in-person.

Radioactive Materials and Waste Transport Safety

ODOE regulates the transport of radioactive materials and waste in and through Oregon. Approximately 300 to 500 shipments of licensed radioactive material move through Oregon each year. One of the primary transportation corridors in Oregon for radioactive material and waste transportation is

Interstate 84 through northeast Oregon, which runs through the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's reservation lands. Other primary transportation corridors are I-5 and SR 97. ODOE compiles an annual report on radioactive material transport through the state. The 2025 report is [available on our website](#).

Oregon Fuel Action Plan

ODOE is the lead agency representing the fuel sector for energy emergencies and emergency contingency planning. ODOE is responsible for helping ensure adequate fuel supplies to maintain emergency and essential services, and to restore critical infrastructure. This includes developing and maintaining the [Oregon Fuel Action Plan](#). ODOE and other emergency planning partners prepare for emergencies, such as earthquakes, wildfires, ice storms, or other disasters that may affect fuel supply or distribution in Oregon.

The Oregon Fuel Action Plan was developed to address this need. It is designed to coordinate supply of bulk fuel supplies into the state from outside the region to support the state's ongoing emergency response and recovery efforts until the regional infrastructure can be restored. The Oregon Fuel Action Plan designates priority fuel users: the nine federally recognized Tribes, 36 county emergency management agencies, and 18 Emergency Support Function Primary State Agencies. The plan can be activated for local emergencies, but was designed to support response efforts for a 'worst case' disaster, which is likely a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. ODOE supported fuel distribution efforts during Olympic Pipeline shutdowns in fall 2025.

ODOE staff regularly meet with and participate in meetings of the Tribal Emergency Managers Coalition, which includes the emergency managers and staff from the nine Tribal Governments, as well as staff from Oregon Health Authority. The TEMC meets regularly both virtually and in person.

Oregon Energy Security Plan

ODOE developed and submitted the state's first [Energy Security Plan](#) in 2024, and prepared an updated edition in 2025. The Energy Security Plan was supported with federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and included engagement and coordination with Tribal Governments as well as

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key partners and the public. The Energy Security Plan is intended to be a living document, and perspectives and input from Tribal Nations will continue to be incorporated into future revisions.

Relatedly, HB 3630 (2023) directed ODOE to create a grant program to support Oregon counties with energy resilience planning. Specifically, the [County Energy Resilience Grant Program](#) funds up to \$50,000 per county to develop an energy resilience plan, which can provide more granular details to the State's Energy Security Plan described above. 19 counties elected to participate in the program, and County plans will be submitted by the end of 2025. Tribes can also request [no-cost, non-competitive technical assistance](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs to complete energy resilience planning.

Nuclear Emergency Response Coordination

ODOE is the state's lead agency for nuclear emergency response coordination. The region's only operating nuclear power plant is near Richland, Washington, about 35 miles north of Umatilla, Oregon. ODOE regularly conducts exercises with the power plant operator and state, local, and federal partners to prepare for potential emergencies from the plant. In 2025, ODOE participated in multiple radiological emergency response exercises for the power plant along with partners from state, local, and federal government.

ENERGY FACILITY SITING

Energy Facility Siting Council

The Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) is a seven-member volunteer board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. EFSC is responsible for reviewing and making decisions on applications for site certificates for all state-jurisdictional energy facilities. ODOE provides staff support to EFSC and administers the state energy facility siting process, which consolidates state agency and local government regulations into a single review process.

Over the last year ODOE and EFSC have sought to find a replacement for Council Member Perry Chocktoot of the Klamath Tribes, to ensure Tribal values and interests continue to be represented on EFSC. Based on the recommendation of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Governor Kotek appointed Patricia Perry, CTUIR Planning Director. Ms. Perry was confirmed by the Senate and began her first term on EFSC starting in October 2025.

EFSC meets regularly throughout the year in locations geographically near proposed facilities. A summary of the latest information on energy projects under state jurisdiction is updated monthly and posted on [ODOE's website](#). The November 2025 Project Update (current as of the date of this report and updated monthly) is [also available online](#).

Energy Facility Siting Division

The Energy Facility Siting Division at ODOE provides staff to EFSC, helping it complete its review of proposed energy facilities and amendments to approved facilities. This effort brings together project developers, state agencies, Tribal governments, local and regional governments, key partners, and interested members of the public, to make sure proposed projects are evaluated, permitted, built, operated, and decommissioned consistent with all applicable standards, laws, and regulations. For

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example, state standards include protections for historic, cultural, and archaeological resources; threatened and endangered species; and fish and wildlife habitat. A summary of EFSC's standards is [available online](#).

The division also provides ongoing compliance oversight for facilities that are under construction or in operation.

Project Notification

Energy facility siting rules require the Siting Division to provide notices and requests for input to Tribal governments, the public, local governments, and state agencies at designated steps throughout the site certification application and amendment processes. Through these notices and requests, the Siting Division provides details of proposed energy facilities to the Tribes and invites the Tribes' participation in the site certificate application review process. Specifically, during review of each proposed facility or amendment, the Siting Division seeks the Tribes' input and expertise on potential effects on Tribal historic and cultural resources. In addition to the formal notices, Siting Division staff offer to meet with Tribal representatives to discuss both the EFSC process and specific site certificate application issues.

Early in the review process, the applicant is required to identify Tribes that may have an interest in a proposed facility or amendment by communicating with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services.

Not all energy projects are evaluated by the state's EFSC; many are evaluated by decision makers at the county or federal level. Legislation passed in 2023 changed the types of renewable energy projects that are evaluated through the state process. Local jurisdictions reviewing projects with the higher thresholds must apply all existing state and local land use procedural and substantive requirements, and upon receipt of an application must notify federally recognized Tribes that may be affected by the project. Below is a summary table.

Renewable Energy Project Type	Primary Permitting Authority					
	County	County with HB 2329 , HB 3179 & HB 3409	EFSC	Oregon Water Resources Commission	Oregon Department of State Lands	Federal Government
Solar Photovoltaic						
High Value Farmland	< = 100 acres	> 100 acres & < = 240 acres	> 240 acres	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arable Farmland	< = 100 acres	> 100 acres & < = 2,560 acres	> 2,560 acres (4 sq. miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Land	< = 320 acres	> 320 acres & < = 3,840 acres	> 3,840 acres (6 sq. miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Onshore Wind	N/A	< = 150 MW	> 150 MW	N/A	N/A	N/A
Geothermal	N/A	< = 55.5 MW	> 55.5 MW	N/A	N/A	N/A
Biomass	< 6 BBTU/day	N/A	> 6 BBTU/day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Offshore (wind and wave)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	< = 3 Miles Offshore	> 3 Miles & < = 200 Offshore (Bureau of Ocean Energy Mgmt)
Battery Storage	All projects	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hydroelectric	N/A	N/A	N/A	Projects in waters of the state	N/A	Projects in waters of the US (FERC)
Pumped Hydroelectric	N/A	N/A	N/A	Certain projects	N/A	All projects (FERC)

Opportunities for Energy Project Review Cost-Reimbursement for Tribes

In 2015, ODOE proposed and the legislature passed Senate Bill 259, which amended ORS 469.360 and ORS 469.421 to add authority for EFSC to compensate the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon for their review of historical and cultural resources and related Tribal Codes during the Notice of Intent and application review phases of the EFSC process. Applicants for a site certificate fund the compensation, which is paid through a reimbursement agreement between ODOE and each Tribal government.

To date, ODOE has entered into reimbursement agreements with the Coquille Indian Tribe, Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Klamath Tribe resulting in over \$33,593 in reimbursement. Staff continues to reach out to other Tribes that could be affected by EFSC jurisdictional projects in an effort to establish reimbursement agreements.

Questions about or interest in reimbursement agreements for Oregon Tribes should be directed to the Siting Division's financial analyst, Sisily Fleming, at sisily.fleming@energy.oregon.gov or 503-559-7081.

Siting-Related Project Outreach to Tribes

Throughout the year, Siting Division staff coordinated with Tribal governments' natural resource and archeological staff to request feedback and guidance on potential impacts from certificate holder proposed changes to approved energy facilities and a proposed energy facility located around the state. Generally, Siting Division communications to Tribal governments consist of a notice or memorandum requesting review and feedback during the following application phases: Receipt of Notice of Intent under OAR 345-015-0120, Receipt of Preliminary Application for Site Certificate under OAR 345-015-0180, and Determination of a Complete Application for Site Certificate under OAR 345-015-0200

In 2025, the Oregon Department of Energy and the Energy Facility Siting Council reviewed and approved applications for site certificates and certificate holder requests for site certificate amendments (changes to approved site certificates) for three solar PV energy facilities and one wind energy facility. These

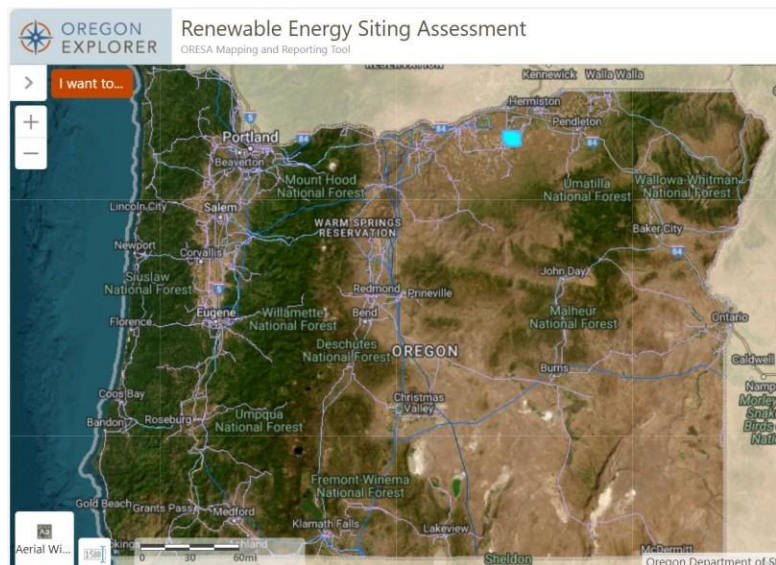
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facilities include [Madras Solar Energy Facility Amendment 1](#) (Jefferson County); [Obsidian Solar Center Amendment 2](#) (Lake County); [Leaning Juniper IIB Wind Power Project Amendment 3](#) (Gilliam County); and [Sunset Solar Project Amendment 1](#) (Wasco County). Several other new applications and amendments were in various stages of review in 2025 but did not receive formal approval from Council during the calendar year. Of note is the [Cascade Renewable Energy Transmission System](#), still in an early review stage, which proposes a 100-mile transmission cable in the bed of Columbia River between The Dalles and Portland.

ODOE distributed detailed memorandums or notices to each of the potentially affected Tribes (as identified by the Legislative Commission on Indian Services) during the review phases for the above-referenced facilities to offer information and request Tribal government input. Based on the Department's review, request, and outreach to Tribal governments for the referenced facilities, all issues and interests identified by Tribal contacts were addressed based on comments received.

In some cases, Tribes may elect to seek resolution of their concerns about a proposed energy facility outside of the EFSC process. If applicable, Siting Division staff would request a formal response from the Tribe to document the Tribes' determination that potential impacts to Tribal resources from a proposed or modified facility were adequately evaluated and mitigated. The Department recognizes that each Tribe has its own history, present-day experience, preferences, and legal rights; accordingly, Siting Division staff seek to continually educate themselves in order to best coordinate with each Tribe. We are grateful to Tribal staff who have taken the time to participate in phone conferences and provide comments in response to the Department's request throughout the siting process.

For more information about facilities currently undergoing ODOE/EFSC's review, please refer to the [Siting Division's Project Updates](#), which are updated monthly. All EFSC jurisdictional projects can be viewed on the [Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment](#) online mapping tool, which also contains GIS layers and data important in the evaluation of potential energy projects: military training areas, energy infrastructure, natural resource considerations, community considerations, administrative boundaries and planning, land cover and ownership, transportation, and more.



The [Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment's](#) Mapping and Reporting Tool includes GIS layers that show energy facilities and transmission lines in in Energy Facility Siting Council jurisdiction.

Energy Facility Siting Council Rulemaking

The Energy Facility Siting Council [conducts rulemaking](#) to adopt rules and standards for the siting, construction, and oversight of energy facilities and other areas within the Council's subject matter jurisdiction, including the regulation of radioactive materials and wastes. On behalf of EFSC Chair Kent Howe, EFSC Secretary and Assistant Director of Energy Siting Todd Cornett sends formal letters to the

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Chairs of each Tribe requesting input from Tribal governments during the development of proposed rules. This input could be provided through individual meetings with Tribal representatives and agency staff, involvement of Tribal representatives in rulemaking advisory committees, or participation in other rulemaking meetings and workshops.

On April 19, 2024, the Council initiated a technical “clean up” rulemaking to revise Divisions 21 and 22 of its siting rules found in OAR 345. The rulemaking was designed solely to move the rule language describing what must be submitted by the applicant to meet Council standards for siting projects (found in Division 21) to the location where the Council’s standards actually are (in Division 22). These rules were finalized on April 2, 2025.

In response to feedback from Tribes that would like to be notified of and engaged in potential projects earlier in the process, the Siting Division also kicked off a rulemaking project to further improve the quality and timeliness of energy facility developer’s communication with Tribes. On November 7, 2024, the Council sent formal letters to each of the nine federally recognized Tribes to invite them to participate in a rulemaking designed to increase communication between the Tribes and Developers early on in the siting process. Prior to this formal letter, ODOE staff participated in an in-person meeting of the Cultural Resources Cluster on July 23, 2024 to share early information and incorporate feedback. ODOE staff appreciated the questions and discussion during the CRC meeting.

ODOE staff will continue to seek input from representatives of the Tribes, and encourages and requests additional discussion with each of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. Staff will begin soon to develop draft language and continue to seek input from the Tribes throughout this rulemaking process.

The Council will review staff’s recommended rulemaking schedule for 2026-2028 and provide additional input on rulemaking priorities for the coming year at its meeting on December 19, 2025. The rulemaking schedule contains several new and previously approved rulemaking projects that may affect Tribal interests, including a review of the Council’s siting standards. As part of ongoing efforts to improve engagement with Tribes in the rulemaking process, the Energy Facility Siting Council intends to continue to send notification letters to Tribal Chairs early in the rulemaking process for all rulemaking projects that may affect Tribal interests.

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ENERGY PLANNING AND INNOVATION

The Planning & Innovation Division supports ODOE's mission by providing information, analysis, technical assistance, and project management to inform energy policy development, achieve cost-effective energy efficiency, expand the use of renewable and alternative energy resources, promote sustainable transportation options, and combat climate change. The Division's four units, Energy Efficiency & Conservation, Technology & Policy, Climate Change, and Codes & Standards collaborate with ODOE's other divisions, Tribes, state and federal agencies, local governments, and stakeholders to help support the development of clean energy resources and integrate those resources into the state's energy systems.

ODOE works with the [Northwest Power & Conservation Council](#), and the two Oregon council members are administratively supported by ODOE. ODOE staff collaborate with Oregon's council members, including Council Member Chuck Sams who is enrolled as Walla Walla and Cayuse with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Most recently he served as the 19th director of the United States National Park Service and previously served as Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for the CTUIR, in addition to Communications Director, Environmental Health & Safety Officer and Planner and Special Sciences Analyst with the Tribes.

Energy Reports

ODOE publishes a [Biennial Energy Report](#) in even-numbered years to help inform local, state, regional, and federal energy policy development, energy planning, and energy investments. Each iteration of this report includes data-driven information about the energy Oregonians consume and produce, as well as energy costs and how energy use affects the climate and the state's economy. The 2024 report included articles on enhanced geothermal electricity generation, drivers of electricity rate increases, effects of climate change on energy systems, energy resilience, and a description of how Oregon's water and energy systems are connected. The agency will release a new Biennial Energy Report in 2026.

ODOE also publishes a [Biennial Zero Emission Vehicle Report](#) in odd-numbered years. In September 2025, ODOE published our third Biennial Zero Emission Vehicle Report. The report provides information on zero emission vehicle adoption across the state, including the current state of electric vehicle adoption, EV charging infrastructure availability, the benefits of driving EVs, and the opportunities and barriers to ZEV adoption. It also includes a 101-level section on the lifecycle of electric vehicles, from the mining of materials to options for end-of-useful life for EV batteries.

ODOE staff are available to provide a presentation on the material covered in the Biennial Energy Report, Zero Emission Vehicle Report, or any of the information on our studies and reports available here: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Pages/ODOE-Studies.aspx>

Oregon Energy Strategy

In July 2023, the Legislature passed a bill (HB 3630) adopting ODOE's recommendation from the [2022 Biennial Energy Report](#) to develop an Oregon Energy Strategy. The project was further supported through funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#), which supports development of a Priority and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Oregon. The legislation directed ODOE to develop an Energy Strategy that identifies pathways to achieving the state's energy policy objectives, and to deliver a report to the Governor and Legislature. It also required a robust engagement process, calling on ODOE to engage with federally recognized Tribes, relevant state

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agencies, and public partners to inform the Energy Strategy. This included formal coordination and cooperation with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon.

Since October 2023, ODOE's Director has sent five formal letters to each of the Chairs of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, inviting each Tribe to participate in shaping the Oregon Energy Strategy. More recently, in May 2025, ODOE shared a letter summarizing themes ODOE staff had heard from Tribes and asking for feedback. In July 2025, ODOE shared a letter accompanied by an early draft of the Oregon Energy Strategy. ODOE staff followed up on the letters to understand preferred methods of engagement. Throughout the process of developing the Oregon Energy Strategy, follow-up has included email exchanges and conversations with representatives of the Burns Paiute, Cow Creek, CTCLUSI, CTUIR, Coquille, CTWS, Grand Ronde, Klamath, and Siletz Tribes.

In addition to Government-to-Government engagement, Tribes and Tribal organizations have nominated representatives, members, or staff to participate in the Energy Strategy Advisory Group and Working Groups. ODOE was pleased to have involvement in the Groups from several Tribal representatives, including CTUIR, CTWS, and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). In January 2025, ODOE presented an update on the energy strategy to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. In August, 2025, ODOE presented an update to the Cultural Resources Cluster.

ODOE appreciates the opportunities to speak with Tribal representatives, members, and staff throughout the development of the Oregon Energy Strategy. The [Oregon Energy Strategy](#) was published in early November. In the report, ODOE did not include any specific priorities of Tribes or a level of detail that would run counter to our government-to-government process. Rather, ODOE staff synthesized feedback and reflected what was heard through these conversations so it could be internalized and applied in the development of the Oregon Energy Strategy. As policymakers consider recommended policies and actions to move Oregon forward on the five pathways in the Oregon Energy Strategy, the report recommends that the following themes should be considered and incorporated into the design of programs and regulations: Energy Independence & Sovereignty, Affordable Energy Options, Access to Decision Making, Stabilization of Funding Cycles, and Consultation, Cultural, and Natural Resources Values.

The published Oregon Energy Strategy includes a policy recommendation, under the "Clean Electricity" pathway (one of five pathways to guide Oregon's energy transition) to "Consult and engage with Tribes to understand their concerns around energy development and to identify opportunities where state policies, funding, and programs can support Tribal priorities while minimizing the effects of development on environmental and cultural resources." In addition, the strategy includes a recommended action to "Establish a Tribal Energy Block Grant Program to support Tribal energy priorities, cultural values, and community needs through alignment with their own energy planning processes or the Oregon Energy Strategy." Tribal priorities are reflected in other recommendations in the report as well. ODOE recognizes the importance of continuing to work with Tribes to advance their priorities, and looks forward to continued coordination and collaboration as we work to implement the Energy Strategy.

Energy Efficiency Training Grants

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed [House Bill 3409](#), establishing this program in Sections 4 and 5. The grant program is intended to prioritize workforce and contractor training and education as well as awareness among contractors and homeowners of programs, rebates, and the need for heat pumps and other energy efficiency upgrades. House Bill 3409 appropriated \$2 million in dedicated funding for this purpose. On October 29, 2024, ODOE filed OAR 330-290, to establish the program. As part of the

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rulemaking process, ODOE sent formal notification letters to each Tribe for feedback and input on processes for publishing an opportunity announcement, evaluation and selection of awardees, negotiating performance agreements, reporting, and compliance. The rule allocates 40 percent of grant funds to education and training programs that train participants from or provide services to disadvantaged communities. Additionally, the draft rules would require ODOE to give preference for the remaining 60 percent of grant funds for education and training programs that provide economic development benefits to participants from disadvantaged communities or environmental justice communities as defined in Oregon statute (ORS 469A.400), of which the nine federally recognized Tribes are part of these definitions and could benefit from the allocation and prioritization. The [Energy Efficiency Technologies Information and Training Fund program](#) awarded grants to the Warm Springs Construction Enterprise for \$176,000 and NW Native Chamber for \$400,000 to develop Tribal energy efficiency training programs, as well as other groups.

Building Performance Standard

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed [House Bill 3409](#), establishing a Building Performance Standard policy for commercial buildings. This addresses energy use and emissions from existing commercial buildings, which account for nearly 20 percent of energy use in Oregon. It requires many large buildings to enhance energy management practices and implement efficiency measures to meet energy use targets and is modeled after [ASHRAE Standard 100](#). ODOE's role includes rulemaking to establish the processes and energy targets to comply with the Oregon BPS, administering program operations, and managing compliance reporting. Throughout program development, ODOE has reached out to Tribes to ask for input about BPS program implementation:

- September 12, 2024, letter from Director Janine Benner to Tribal Chairs to request input on the initial program design and rulemaking.
- October 15, 2024, ODOE staff presentation and discussion with Tribal leaders during a Legislative Commission on Indian Services meeting.
- June 2, 2025, letter from Director Janine Benner to Tribal Chairs to request input on an incentive program rulemaking.

During program development ODOE sought to better understand how Tribal building stock and ownership structures affected BPS program applicability – for example, how applicability differs depending on if buildings are on Federal Indian reservations, buildings are on off-reservation Tribal trust land, or buildings are off-reservation but on non-trust land.

On June 27, 2025, Director Benner sent letters to Tribes with an update on agency findings regarding BPS and Tribal applicability. ODOE's prior September 2024 letter noted that buildings on Tribal reservation lands or buildings on Tribal Trust land would likely not be subject to the Building Performance Standard. Subsequent research and analysis confirmed this position and ODOE does not plan to enforce the BPS for buildings on federal Indian reservations, buildings on trust land, or buildings owned by a Tribe or Tribal member acting in official capacity for the Tribe on land outside of a reservation or off trust land. Please see summary table below and BPS Guidance Document 011 – Application to Tribal and Federal Buildings available on our website here: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/save-energy/Documents/BPS011-Tribal-Federal.pdf>

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Land Type	Number	Scenario	BPS Enforcement
On-Reservation	1	Buildings owned by Tribal members on Tribally owned land on Federal Indian reservations	No
On-Reservation	2	Buildings owned by non-members on Tribal land within a federal Indian reservation	No
On-Reservation	3	Buildings owned by non-members on non-Tribally, non-member owned land within a federal Indian reservation	No
Trust Land, Off-Reservation	4	Buildings on off-reservation Tribal trust land	No
Not on Trust Land, Off-Reservation	5	Buildings owned by a Tribe or Tribal member (member acting in an official capacity for the Tribe) that are not on a reservation or trust land.	No
Not on Trust Land, Off-Reservation	6	Buildings owned by a Tribal member <i>not</i> acting in an official capacity for the Tribe that are not on a reservation or trust land.	Yes

In addition, on November 20, 2025, Director Benner sent a formal letter to share that a new incentive program for applications will open in early 2026. Incentives will be available through the Building Energy Reduction Incentive (BERI) program to support voluntary compliance with the state’s new BPS. The Department will offer a first round of funding specifically for Tribes, which can use the funds to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy and costs for building owners and tenants. The letter provides contact information in case Tribes have questions or would like to learn more.

Oregon Climate Action Commission

ODOE provides staff support to the [Oregon Climate Action Commission](#), which was originally created in 2007 as the Oregon Global Warming Commission to be the state’s first venue for a whole-of-government response to climate change. HB 3409 (2023) modernized, changed the name to the Oregon Climate Action Commission (OCAC), and increased the size from 25 members to 35 members. It directed state agencies to provide regular reports to the OCAC on their efforts and progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the effects of climate change. There is also a directive for the OCAC to prepare detailed forecasts of expected GHG emissions reductions to better evaluate progress moving forward. In addition, the Commission’s earlier work on climate solutions in natural and working lands also inspired legislators to encourage state agency efforts on natural climate solutions, and to establish the Natural and Working Lands Fund in the new law. As part of the natural and working lands work, the Commission is specifically required to establish a process for Tribal consultation to advise the Commission on its work, including on the identification of opportunities to support indigenous practices and knowledge from Tribal Nations to protect, sequester and store carbon on natural and working lands. As these new changes are implemented, the Commission and staff have been, and will be, seeking new ways to learn from and consult with the nine federally recognized Tribes.

In March 2025, OCAC Chair Catherine Macdonald sent a formal letter to the Chairs of the nine federally recognized Tribes inviting a future conversation and collaboration among commissioners and Tribal representatives on strategies and opportunities to address climate change and its impacts. The letter also encouraged interested individuals with Tribal expertise and knowledge to apply for a seat on the Commission. The Governor continues to be interested in considering applications from individuals with

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Tribal expertise and knowledge. Executive appointments are listed here: [Governor of Oregon : Boards & Commissions : State of Oregon](#). Please reach out to the Commission at OCAC@energy.oregon.gov or <mailto:Geoff.Crook@energy.oregon.gov> for more information about the OCAC or questions on how to apply.

In September 2025, Director Benner and OCAC Chair Macdonald sent a formal letter to the Chairs of the nine federally recognized Tribes providing an update on Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) work items led by ODOE and extending an offer to participate in the process to advise the Oregon Department of Energy and Oregon Climate Action Commission on natural climate solutions deliverables, including a Land-based Net Carbon Inventory, a NCS Workforce and Training Program Needs Study, and the adoption of NCS Goals and Metrics to increase net carbon sequestration and storage on the state's natural and working lands over time. ODOE staff were able to talk to the Coquille Tribe in response to the letter. They provided guidance that ODOE consider how the work is connected to their resilience program and the activities the Tribe is already undertaking. ODOE staff plan to review all available climate resilience documents from the federally recognized Tribes in Oregon to implement this recommendation as we aim to deepen our engagement on this topic with Tribes in 2026.

Also in September 2025, ODOE collaborated with Shana Radford, the Governor's Director of Tribal Affairs, and Tribal experts to develop a discussion panel on Tribal issues at the September 12 meeting of the Oregon Climate Action Commission. The agenda topic was designed for commissioners to hear from a panel of experts on current topics relating to Tribal climate priorities and strategies for strengthening relationships with Tribes. The panel of speakers included: Dirlle Calica, Director for the Institute for Tribal Government at Portland State University; Patrick Freeland, a Senior Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and Eddie Sherman, a Principal Tribal consultant with Against the Current Consulting. More than 120 people attended the September 12 virtual meeting, including Commissioners, state agency directors and staff, and the public. A recording of the discussion is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvloFNKTilc&feature=youtu.be>.

In Fall 2025, Serina Fast Horse of Kimimela Consulting spoke with six Tribes or Tribal organizations on nature-based workforce needs. She presented initial findings at the Oregon Climate Action Commission meeting November 14. The information is very helpful and would not have been illuminated without the work of Kimimela Consulting. ODOE staff are working to incorporate this knowledge into its final report on workforce needs and next steps for 2026.

Oregon Rural and Agricultural Energy Assistance Program

ODOE received a grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture to create a [Rural & Agricultural Energy Assistance Program](#). The funding supports energy audits for Oregon rural small businesses and agricultural producers statewide, including Tribally owned rural small businesses and agricultural producers. ODOE uses the grant funding to pay for 75 percent of the cost of an energy audit (payable to the auditor); program participants will be responsible for the remaining 25 percent of the cost. Eligible agricultural producers or rural small businesses in Energy Trust of Oregon territory, however, may receive a reimbursement of the remaining 25 percent cost. The ODOE team applied for additional grant funds from USDA in 2025 to continue offering this program to rural, small businesses and agricultural producers across the state through 2027, depending on the number of projects that apply.

ENERGY FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

The Energy Development Services Division has managed [energy incentive programs](#) at the Oregon Department of Energy for over 40 years, helping Oregonians conserve energy, install energy efficient equipment, and develop renewable energy projects. After a pause, this Division has been operating with both state-funded programs and federally funded programs since 2019. Many of these programs have been directed by the Oregon Legislature to serve Tribes and, for federally funded programs, must comply with the Justice40 Initiative that directs that 40 percent of all benefits from federal funds flow to disadvantaged communities. Disadvantaged communities were identified at the census tract level on the Climate and Environmental Justice Tool (CEJST) map, which included Tribal reservation boundaries and used datasets that identify climate, environmental, and other burdens on communities. On January, 20, 2025 the CEJST map and all data was removed and is no longer accessible. ODOE continues to follow any contracts and grant agreements that included the Justice40 Initiative and is committed to serving disadvantaged communities.

State-funded programs started with ODOE's launch of the Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate program, with an initial \$2 million budget in 2019. The Legislature allocated an additional \$10 million for this rebate program in 2021, \$5 million in 2022, and a further \$10 million in 2023. Also in 2021, the Legislature created a new \$10.8 million Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding Program at the agency, as well as a new \$50 million Community Renewable Energy Grant Program. An additional \$20 million was allocated for the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program in 2023. In 2022, the Legislature directed \$25 million to the Oregon Department of Energy for two heat pump incentive programs that launched in 2023: the Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program and the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program. ODOE's Director sent formal letters to the Chairs of the nine federally recognized Tribes about these programs as they were developed, and will continue to send formal letters when funding opportunities become available and when amendments to the program administrative rules are being considered. No additional funding was allocated to these programs in the 2025 legislative session, the expected revenue for the next biennium is not likely to allow for re-funding for most of these programs.

ODOE has also been involved in pursuing federal funding opportunities through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to support initiatives that benefit Oregonians. ODOE's Director sent formal letters to the nine federally recognized Tribes to share these opportunities and explore interest in working with ODOE on federal funding opportunities with IIJA and IRA passed. ODOE maintains a [dashboard](#) on the status of federal funding grants that the agency is applying for on behalf the state. ODOE has also created a [federal funding tracker](#) with energy-related funding opportunities through the IIJA and IRA. It has sortable columns for program type, eligible recipients, available funding, relevant links, and more. ODOE staff updates the tracker weekly with the latest information and highlights changes from the previous week in yellow. There are also a few opportunities for Tribes that currently open through the federal government that can be explored here: [Current Funding Opportunities | Department of Energy](#). With policy and program changes in the federal government as well as the passage of HR 1, most of the grant programs have been dramatically cut or eliminated.

Community Renewable Energy Grant Program

The [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#) provides grants to offset the cost of planning and developing community renewable energy and energy resilience projects. The program's aims include making community renewable energy projects economically feasible, promoting small-scale renewable

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energy projects, and providing a variety of direct benefits to communities across the state. The program limits eligible applicants for grants to public bodies, including Tribes, cities, counties, and ports (among others). The nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon may submit applications, or be a partner on applications, for a grant to plan or develop a project. One of the program's focuses is to ensure environmental justice communities are involved in, and benefit from, projects. Fifty percent or more of the initial program fund is allocated for grants to fund projects that primarily serve at least one environmental justice community. The program aims to increase the involvement of Tribal communities in the siting, planning, designing, and evaluation of proposed community renewable energy projects by assessing Tribal communities' involvement in, and leadership of, relevant projects during the competitive review of the applications.

Following amendments made to the program during the 2024 Oregon legislative session, the department initiated an administrative rulemaking process in the summer of 2024. The amendments included, but were not limited to, allowing for an additional release of grant funds during the performance period of a construction grant and to include partner costs as part of the project planning and construction costs. The ODOE Director sent a formal notification letter to each Tribe requesting Tribal government input on the program rulemaking.

The first round of competitive applications opened in 2022, with the [first grant awardees announced](#) in October 2022. The second round of applications opened in late December 2022, with [the awardees announced](#) in June 2023. Three Tribal projects were selected for funding in the first round.

- The Burns Paiute Tribe will receive up to \$89,718 for planning activities to design a centrally located, Tribal district biomass energy heating system resulting in greater energy savings across multiple Tribe community buildings, increased resilience, displacement of imported fossil fuels with locally abundant renewable fuels, and go further to strengthen a home-grown, Tribally owned and operated renewable energy business.
- The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians will receive up to \$1,000,000 for a community energy resilience project with net-metered solar and battery storage with microgrid systems to power Tribal buildings during grid outages.
- The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation will receive up to \$1,000,000 for a community renewable energy project, in partnership with Tutuilla Solar's Oregon Community Solar site. This project consists of the completed net-meter solar system at the Tribe's Timine Way North Apartment community. Additional funding support will be used to complete a Community Solar site located on Tribal property, resulting in subscriber benefits for many Tribal members to receive renewable energy rate reductions via power generated by the Oregon Community Solar site.

The third round of competitive applications opened in 2024, with the [third round grant awardees announced](#) in September 2024.

- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde received a pair of grants totaling up to \$1.9 million to install 148 kW rooftop solar and paired energy storage at the Tribe's Child Development Center and Resident Resilience Center. The RRC will serve as a safe space for nearly 2,500 community members to shelter and support during climate events.
- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received up to \$1 million to install a 108-kW solar PV system generating 272,195 kWh annually, including a 240-kW energy storage system. The project is Phase 1 of Indian Head Casino's goal to be the first Tribal casino in the state to achieve net-zero energy status, while simultaneously providing essential community resilience services.

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The fourth round of applications for C-REP closed September 19, 2025. Six Tribes have submitted applications, four construction project applications and two planning project applications. Competitive evaluations for round 4 will be completed by the end of 2025 and award notifications made in January 2026. The additional \$25 million in the Governor's Request Budget for the 2025 legislative session was not included in the final legislative budget and ODOE does not expect additional funding in this program due to revenue shortfalls in the state.

Solar + Storage Rebate Program

The [Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program](#) issues rebates to participating contractors, who pass the savings on to eligible customers as a reduction in the price of the installed system (ODOE's program staff do not work directly with the customers). To claim a rebate, a contractor must first apply for a reservation of rebate funds prior to the start of project installation. Reservations are converted into cash rebates once a contractor certifies a project complete. The legislature directed the department to make at least 25 percent of the rebate budget available for projects installed for low- or moderate-income residential customers and low-income service providers. Low-income service providers are a specific group of non-residential customers that provide assistive services to lower-income individuals and households.

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Coquille Indian Housing Authority have both applied as a low-income service providers and have completed projects to install both solar renewable energy generation and battery storage. They received rebates totaling \$268,560 for renewable energy generation and battery storage. Funding for the program is fully reserved and ODOE is currently not accepting applications.

Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding Incentive Program

This program provided [incentives for energy efficient rebuilding](#) of residential, commercial, and public buildings destroyed by wildfire between August 1 and September 30, 2020. The program provided incentives to encourage building owners to rebuild to current energy code building standards or above. To date, about \$5.8 million in Wildfire incentives have been rebated or reserved. ODOE collaborated with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and counties to identify all damaged and destroyed structures in the 2020 wildfires, specifically evaluating if any residential or commercial structures suffered major damage or were destroyed on Tribal government lands. No structures were identified. As of June 1, 2025, the Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding Incentive Program is closed.

Heat Pump Programs

ODOE established two new heat pump programs in 2023. When developing administrative rules for the programs, ODOE sent a formal letter to each Tribe requesting input on the rulemaking.

The \$10 million Community Heat Pump Deployment Program (CHPDP) was established by [SB 1536](#) and provides financial assistance (loans, grants, rebates, or incentives) toward the purchase and installation of heat pumps in residences. The legislation requires this funding to be shared between regional administrators for 11 regions in the state and the federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. Regional administrators may partner with other organizations in the implementation of their programs, but only one entity can be the lead applicant. Regional administrators may use up to 15 percent of the amount awarded to administer their program. ODOE has awarded grants to administrators for each of the 11 regions and two Tribes. Funding for Tribes that elected not to pursue serving as regional administrators through CHPDP has been transferred to the Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program and is available

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for use in rental housing in which Tribal members reside. Though seven Tribes do not have specifically allocated funding in CHPDP, Tribal members who are homeowners may apply to the program through their regional administrator.

The \$15 million Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program (ORHHP) was also established by SB 1536 and provides rebates and grants toward the purchase and installation of heat pumps in residential tenancies. Financial assistance is available for owners of rental units and rentals that are classified as manufactured dwellings or RVs. The rebates and grants are applied for, and paid to, eligible contractors who pass on the full value of the rebate to the owner of the dwelling. Higher levels of financial assistance are available for housing occupied by low- and moderate-income residential tenants and to support heat pumps with superior energy efficiency. To date, \$9,901,146.80 in rebates have been issued or reserved. As mentioned above, funding is available for members of Tribes that did not pursue a grant through the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program. The amount of funding that is available for members of each Tribe is the amount that was allocated to members of each Tribe in CHPDP. Details on the allocated, utilized and remaining funds for each Tribe in the ORHHP program can be found on the [ORHHP webpage](#).

ODOE conducted a temporary rulemaking during the summer of 2024 and was able to discuss these rule changes with staff of all nine Tribes. The rule amendments outline the allocation of funds transferred from the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program to the Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program, as well as the ways that Tribal membership may be verified in order to ensure that those benefitting from each Tribe's funding allocation are members of that Tribe. Additional rule amendments expand the eligibility criteria for incentives for low- and moderate-income Tribal members, improving access to the higher rebates and grants for these tenants through both Tribally allocated funds and the general program funds. These amendments to the program rules were later made permanent in January 2025.

In early 2025, ODOE opened the Heat Pump Purchase Program (HP3). HP3 is part of the state's [Climate Equity and Resilience Through Action program](#). In 2024, Oregon was [awarded \\$197 million](#) in Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funds through the federal Inflation Reduction Act to support several programs at various Oregon state agencies — including this new heat pump program at ODOE — that will help Oregon reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. On February 12, 2025, ODOE's Director sent formal letters notifying the nine federally recognized Tribes about this opportunity and seeking feedback to inform the program design. The program provides \$2,000 heat pump incentives for homeowners, rental property owners, and homes under construction. \$24 million in incentives is available through program, supporting an 2,000 rebates for owner-occupied homes, 6,000 for rental homes, and 4,000 for newly construction dwellings.

Incentives for any eligible residence are up to \$2,000 and will only be reduced if the full incentive amount combined with other incentives received for the installation exceeds 100 percent of the total purchase and installation price. Incentives are issued to approved contractors who install eligible heat pumps in homes. The full incentive amount issued to the contractor is then passed on to the customer (homeowner, rental property owner, or developer) as savings on the cost of the heat pump. As of November 2025, more than 4,000 of the available 12,000 incentives have been reserved or paid for completed projects.

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Grid Resilience

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded \$30,899,033 to ODOE via the Formula Grants to States and Indian Tribes for Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid program, which was created by section 40101(d) of the IIJA. Managed through the Grid Deployment Office (GDO), and administered by the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants program is designed to strengthen and modernize America's power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters. Each of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon have their own formula allocations under this grant(see link to allocations [here](#)).

Home Energy Rebates

On July 27, 2023, the U.S. DOE released initial guidance for the Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) and the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (HEAR, previously HEEHR), allocating \$56.9 million and \$56.7 million to the state of Oregon for HOMES and HEAR, respectively. These two programs will provide single-family and multifamily households with varying discounts for efficiency upgrades and high-efficiency home appliances and equipment. ODOE submitted its applications to U.S. DOE on March 27, 2024, and received approval and awards for both programs in September 2024.

ODOE is working in partnership with Earth Advantage and Energy Trust of Oregon to develop the programs' plans and materials, with an anticipated launch date of Spring 2026. ODOE expects the launch of these rebates to include additional outreach to Tribes based on which type of electric utility serves a household.

Solar For All

The Oregon Department of Energy, together with coalition partners Energy Trust of Oregon and Bonneville Environmental Foundation, was awarded a \$86.6 million Solar for All Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The competitive grant was designed to support clean energy programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, create bill savings and strengthen resilience, and ensure those benefits are delivered to low-income and disadvantaged communities. On August 7, 2025, the Oregon Department of Energy received a letter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stating that the EPA is canceling all Solar for All program funding. On September 5, 2025, the Oregon Department of Energy sent a letter to the U.S. EPA regarding the wrongful termination of the grant. On October 16, 2025, Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield announced Oregon is joining 23 other Solar for All awardees in a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for illegally ending the \$7 billion Solar for All program.

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POLICY ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

ODOE's Tribal Policy on Government-to-Government Relations is attached and made a part of the 2025 Government-to-Government Report.

CONCLUSION

The Oregon Department of Energy continues to engage and collaborate with the nine federally recognized Tribal governments in Oregon. These efforts have been focused on strengthening our relationships with Tribal representatives and providing services and information that is beneficial. We have also sought out tools to help our staff improve their understanding of Tribes and the importance of promoting government-to-government relations with the nine federally recognized Tribal governments in Oregon. We will continue to ensure this is part of our agency culture. We [welcome input](#) on how we can assist Tribal governments, improve our relationships, and collaborate more effectively.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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2025 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT REPORT

ATTACHMENT 1: ODOE POLICY ON STATE/TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-TO- GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Internal Policies and Procedures



Subject: State/Tribal Government to Government Relations
Policy Number: ADM-08
Policy Owner: Director
Effective Date: December 14, 2020

Approved: **[SIGNATURE ON FILE]**
Janine Benner, Director

Applicability:

This policy applies to all Oregon Department of Energy employees.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to promote government to government relations between the Oregon Department of Energy and Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

This policy is adopted pursuant to ORS 182.162-168, which requires state agencies to develop and implement tribal relations policies.

Policy:

ODOE recognizes and respects the sovereign status of Oregon's federally recognized tribes and their respective authorities on tribal lands. It is the policy of the Oregon Department of Energy to promote positive government to government relations, communications and cooperation with the tribes in areas where development and implementation of agency programs may affect tribal lands, activities, or interests.

ODOE believes that continuing to build on our long-standing relationships with the tribes makes our agency more effective overall while supporting our work across the state and region. The tribes are advancing innovative programs and projects; ODOE is committed to learning from the tribes about this work and finding opportunities where our agency programs can be valuable resources for the tribes. ODOE also continues to look for opportunities where agency programs and projects can be improved with input from the tribes. Positive government to government relations, communications and cooperation increases our collective ability to lead Oregon to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable energy future.

The Director designates a key agency contact for the purpose of serving as a liaison with tribal governments (known as the Tribal Liaison) and provides the contact information for the Tribal Liaison on the agency website and to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. The Tribal Liaison coordinates with the tribes, supports internal agency programs and projects, and participates in Tribal-State cluster meetings.

ODOE promotes strong government to government relationships at the leadership, managerial, and staff levels with the tribes. ODOE will demonstrate its commitment to positive government to government relations with the tribes through such practices as follows:

- The ODOE Director, Tribal Liaison, and Administrators or staff of each agency division, will meet regularly with each tribe to discuss issues of mutual interest and explore opportunities for greater state/tribal partnership and collaboration.

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- ODOE will identify managers and employees who are responsible for developing and implementing agency programs that affect the tribes.
- ODOE will make a reasonable effort to cooperate with tribes in the development and implementation of agency programs that affect the tribes such as early notification and engagement.
- ODOE will support and participate in cooperative efforts between tribal governments and federal, state, and/or local governments through its Hanford Clean-Up Board and the Energy Facility Siting Council, through the safe transportation of radioactive waste through the state, through the allocation of petroleum during times of shortages and disruptions, and through the development and implementation of energy policies and programs, including energy incentive programs.
- ODOE will seek and invite tribal representation on ODOE advisory boards and working groups that are of interest to the tribes.
- ODOE will support the exchange of relevant data collected by ODOE staff or by tribal governments.
- ODOE will consult with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services on matters concerning tribal government.
- ODOE staff who have regular communication with the tribes will receive periodic training on the legal status of the tribes, the legal rights of members of the tribes and issues of concern of the tribes through training provided by the Department of Administrative Services and/or other learning opportunities.
- ODOE will disseminate this policy to all ODOE employees and to new employees through new employee orientation and will maintain the policy on the Intranet.
- ODOE will submit an annual report to the Governor and the Commission on Indian Services on the activities of the agency that support ORS 182.162-168.
- ODOE will seek other opportunities to learn from and build relationships with the tribes.

History:

- November 30, 2016: Policy established.
- December 14, 2020: Policy revised to provide greater specificity and clarity on ODOE's engagement with the tribes.

References:

ORS 182.162–182.168
ORS 190.110
Executive Order 96-30

Attachments:

None