



OREGON SOLAR + STORAGE REBATE PROGRAM

2025 Program Report

Submitted to the
OREGON LEGISLATURE

by the
**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY**

5



YEARS of SERVICE

OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

September 2025

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

Executive Summary

The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program was established by the Oregon Department of Energy at the direction of HB 2618, passed by the Oregon State Legislature in 2019. The legislation directed the department to develop a program to provide rebates for the purchase, construction, or installation of solar electric systems and paired solar and storage systems.

The program first launched in January 2020 with \$2 million for rebates and program administration. The program proved to be very popular, and all available funding was reserved by the end of September that year. The Oregon Legislature continued its support of the program through HB 5606 in 2021, which provided an additional \$10 million and extended the program sunset to January 2024. The legislature invested \$5 million more in the program in 2022 through SB 5202. By June 2023, all funding was reserved for rebates. As ODOE turned to a new biennium, the legislature again invested \$10 million in the program through SB 5506, and extended the program sunset to January 2, 2029, through HB 3409. ODOE began accepting new rebate reservations again in July 2023; this funding was fully reserved by May 2024. No new funding was allocated to the program in 2025 and ODOE is no longer accepting applications to the program.

Program rebates are issued 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 residential customers with low or moderate incomes (LMI) and for organizations that provide services to Oregonians with lower incomes (called low-income service providers in the program). Low-income service providers are a specific group of organizations that provide assistive services to lower-income individuals and households. Throughout the life of the program, 40 percent of the rebate budget has gone to customers with low or moderate incomes and low-income service providers.

The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program advances Oregon energy policy by helping reduce the upfront costs associated with the purchase and installation of renewable energy production and energy storage systems, as well as supporting the Oregon solar installer industry.

AT LEAST **25 PERCENT OF THE REBATE BUDGET** IS RESERVED FOR LOW- OR MODERATE-INCOME RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS AND LOW-INCOME SERVICE PROVIDERS. TO DATE, ODOE HAS EXCEEDED THAT MINIMUM AND **ISSUED 40 PERCENT OF REBATE FUNDS** TO THESE GROUPS OVER THE LIFE OF THE PROGRAM.

Informed by a public input process, the rebate program features tiered incentive rates for rebates based on the income level of the project owner, the availability of other rebates to the project owner, and whether it is a residential project or a project for a low-income service provider. The largest rebate amounts are reserved for low- and moderate-income residential

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

customers and low-income service providers to expand access to those populations that may not otherwise have the financial resources to invest in solar. Eligibility for income-restricted rebates can be demonstrated by providing proof of eligibility for several low-income programs operated by the State of Oregon or by providing an Oregon Department of Revenue tax transcript. The department implemented an expanded list of eligibility options after the start of the program in response to program stakeholder feedback.

There are currently 85 contractors approved to participate in the program. A contractor must meet the eligibility requirements established under the program rules to participate in the program.

The program continues to successfully meet the legislative mandate that 25 percent of funds be reserved for low- and moderate-income projects. In the calendar year 2024, the program reserved or rebated 1,143 projects, representing over \$4 million in funds. \$1.3 million, or 33 percent of the committed funding, was for projects owned by LMI customers or low-income service providers.

TO DATE, THE PROGRAM HAS RESERVED OR ISSUED REBATES FOR PROJECTS IN **34 OF OREGON'S 36 COUNTIES**.

Of the 1,143 projects reserved or rebated in 2024, 1,125 completed installation, 162 were for LMI customers, 28 projects were for low-income service providers, and 246 were paired solar and storage projects.

ODOE estimates that in 2024, this program supported the installation of 11.83 MW of solar that displaced 5,534 metric tons of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) per year based on the carbon intensity of the electric utility serving the project.

The 2025 legislature added a new rebate type to the program for battery storage systems that will be paired at the time of installation with previously purchased and installed solar electric systems. Because program funds were fully reserved prior to the effective date of this change, the Department has not issued any rebates for batteries paired with previously purchased and installed solar electric systems.

Unfortunately, available incentive support for solar in Oregon has been significantly reduced. The adoption of solar energy technology on residences in Oregon is expected to slow due to the absence of state Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program funds, the upcoming sunset of the federal residential solar tax credit, and U.S. EPA action aimed at rescinding nearly \$87 million in already-obligated federal Solar for All program funds to Oregon. It is anticipated that these changes will also affect the solar industry in Oregon.

This report is available electronically on the Oregon Department of Energy's website: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Pages/Reports-to-the-Legislature.aspx>.

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

Table of Contents

About the Program	1
Program Background	1
Program Operations	2
Program Challenges.....	4
Program Goals and Recommendations	4
Program Metrics.....	7

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

About the Program

Program Background

The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program was established by the Oregon Department of Energy at the direction of HB 2618, which was passed by the Oregon State Legislature in 2019. The legislation directed the department to develop a program to provide rebates for the purchase, construction, or installation of solar electric systems and paired solar and storage systems.



Program rebates are issued to participating contractors and are passed on to customers as a reduction in the price of the installed system. To claim a rebate, a contractor must first request a reservation of funds prior to the start of project installation. Once a project has been completed, a contractor then applies to have the project's reservation converted into a cash rebate, which is issued as a check to the contractor. The legislature directed the department to make at least 25 percent of the rebate budget available for projects installed for residential customers with low or moderate incomes and for organizations that provide services to Oregonians with lower incomes (called low-income service providers in the program). Low-income service providers are a specific group of non-residential customers that provide assistive services to low- or moderate-income individuals and households.

The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program advances Oregon energy policy by helping reduce the upfront costs associated with the purchase and installation of renewable solar energy production and solar energy storage systems, as well as supporting the Oregon solar installer industry.

HB 2618 directed the department to provide a report to the legislature by September 15 of each year the program is in effect that includes the number, size, and location of solar electric systems installed for residential customers and low-income service providers, as well as the number and storage capacity of paired solar and storage systems installed, for which a rebate was claimed. The report is to include the estimated amount of greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided due to the installation of the completed systems. The bill also directed that the report should address whether the goals of the rebate program are being met and include recommendations on whether the rebate amount limits or the funding levels reserved for LMI and low-income service provider projects should be modified.

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

Program Operations

The Oregon Department of Energy developed program rules informed by targeted outreach with 26 different stakeholder groups, held three public meetings in Salem and Portland, and wrote letters to Chairs of Oregon Tribes. The department filed final program rules on December 19, 2019. On May 28, 2020, ODOE filed updated administrative rules that made it easier to demonstrate qualification for a low- and moderate-income rebate by adding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Oregon Health Plan, and the Children's Health Insurance Program to the list of programs under which a project owner would be eligible. In addition, ODOE added the ability of a residential project owner to prove eligibility by providing a current tax transcript from the Oregon Department of Revenue. The department further amended program rules on April 15, 2022, with changes designed to encourage more participation from low-income service providers, such as affordable housing organizations. The feedback and suggestions provided through ODOE's outreach and engagement were very valuable in the development of the program's rules.

The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate program features a tiered incentive rate for rebates based on the project's electric utility and financial capacity of the project owner. The largest rebate amounts are reserved for residential customers with low and moderate incomes and low-income service providers to expand access to those populations that may not otherwise have the financial resources to invest in solar. The smallest rebate amounts are available for non-LMI residential customers that have access to existing financial incentives through their electric utility.

"Great program!! Without the incentives, the price of our project would have been prohibitive."



Program Participant

- Projects for low- and moderate-income households can receive a rebate of \$1.80 per watt (DC) of installed capacity, up to 60 percent of the project net cost or \$5,000, whichever is less.
- Low-income service provider projects can receive a rebate of \$0.75 per watt of installed capacity, up to 50 percent of project net cost or \$30,000, whichever is less.
- Projects for non-LMI residential customers who are not eligible for a utility incentive can receive a rebate of \$0.50 per watt of installed capacity, up to 40 percent of net project cost or \$5,000, whichever is less.
- Projects for non-LMI residential customers who are eligible for a utility incentive can receive a rebate of \$0.20 per watt of installed capacity up to 40 percent of net project cost or \$5,000, whichever is less.

For solar electric projects with paired energy storage, the program offers an additional rebate for the storage component, which is also tiered based on the type of project owner:

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

- Low-income service provider projects are eligible for a rebate of \$300 per kilowatt hour of installed storage capacity, up to 60 percent of net project cost or \$15,000, whichever is less.
- Projects for LMI customers are eligible for a rebate of \$300 per kilowatt hour of installed storage capacity, up to 60 percent of project cost or \$2,500, whichever is less.
- Projects for non-LMI residential customers are eligible for a rebate of \$300 per kilowatt hour of installed storage capacity, up to 40 percent of net project cost or \$2,500, whichever is less.

Consistent with the direction provided in HB 2618, the department worked closely with Oregon Housing and Community Services to develop program rules regarding eligibility for LMI households. Informed by OHCS's experience in providing benefits to low-income individuals, ODOE determined that individuals and households could have their projects qualify for low- and moderate-income restricted rebates if the individual or household was eligible for services offered by OHCS through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the Oregon Energy Assistance Program, or the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program. Rebate program participants are also eligible for the LMI rebate if they are eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Oregon Health Plan, or the Children's Health Insurance Program. Participants can also prove eligibility through an Oregon Department of Revenue tax transcript demonstrating that they earn less than or equal to 100 percent of state median income adjusted for household size. This type of eligibility system allows ODOE to reduce the number of primary income verification steps, which is both resource intensive and outside the scope of the department's program experience.



The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program issues rebates directly to solar contractors as reimbursement for cost savings, which must be passed on to the project owner at the time of project installation. The program does not often work directly with project owners, other than occasionally providing information via phone or email, or during compliance inspections. For a solar contractor to receive a rebate through the program, the contractor must meet the program's contractor eligibility requirements and must have applied for a reservation of rebate funds prior to commencing installation of a project. There are currently 85 contractors eligible to participate in the program.

In 2024, the program reserved or rebated 1,143 projects, representing over \$4 million in funds. \$1.3 million, or 33 percent of the committed funding, was for projects owned by LMI residential owners or low-income service providers.

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

The department is proud to administer the Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate program, which was awarded a national State Leadership in Clean Energy (SLICE) award by the Clean Energy States Alliance in 2022.

Program Challenges

The most immediate challenge facing the Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate program is that it no longer has funding; funds allocated for the 2023-2025 biennium were fully reserved in May 2024 and the agency does not expect to receive additional allocations. The adoption of solar energy technology and the solar industry will be affected by the absence of program funds combined with the upcoming sunset of the federal residential solar tax credit and U.S. EPA action aimed at rescinding nearly \$87 million in already-obligated federal Solar for All program funds to Oregon.

While the Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate program has been successful, supply chain issues have led to long wait times for battery storage. The statute required that both the PV system and battery storage be in place for a rebate to be processed for a solar + storage project. This has left contractors and homeowners waiting for the rebate, sometimes for months, after already installing the PV system. The 2023 legislature added a technical fix related to supply chain issues that allowed the agency, starting January 1, 2024, to separately process rebates for solar PV first and then for storage later when those systems are purchased together. Program funding was fully reserved before this change could be implemented.

“Great program. Please continue to support. Thank you.”



Program Participant

Since the program began, 5,945 projects have installed solar electric systems without battery storage. Battery storage can provide multiple benefits including improving energy resilience during outages; reducing the use of fossil fuel generators; and potentially providing services to the grid. Previously, those 5,945 projects would not be eligible for another rebate to add storage to their existing solar electric system. The 2025 legislature changed this by adding a new rebate type for battery storage systems that will be paired at the time of installation with previously purchased and installed solar electric systems. However, the agency will not be able to implement this change as the program is now out of funding.

Program Goals and Recommendations

The department has been asked to report on whether the goals of the program are being met and to make recommendations on some of its parameters. The goals identified by legislative supporters were to support the solar industry and its workers and to increase the use of renewable energy sources, including among low- and moderate-income households and the non-profit organizations that serve them.

First, ODOE continues to find that there is significant demand for residential solar rebates and believes the program has created economic opportunities for the solar installation industry. The

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

“I can barely believe I was able to get solar power. I’m really delighted and grateful. Thank you!”



Program Participant

emissions by 5,534 metric tons of CO2 equivalent per year.

additional funding provided in the 2023 legislative session was fully reserved as of May 2024. Second, by helping reduce the upfront costs associated with the purchase and installation of renewable energy production and energy storage systems, the program has increased the use of renewable energy throughout Oregon. In 2024, 1,125 projects were completed in 28 counties across the state. These projects are expected to reduce greenhouse gas

In 2024, low-income service providers represented just under one-third of the funding dollars for low- and moderate-income projects, with \$438,201 in allocated funding out of \$1.33 million in total funding allocated to all low- and moderate-income projects. Some of the types of organizations participating as low-income service providers in 2024 included affordable housing providers, human services providers, healthcare providers, and youth services providers, among others.

Demand for solar rebates, by number of reservations and rebates, is higher in the non-LMI category, but the program has been successful at driving program funding (33 percent in 2024) to low- and moderate-income homeowners and low-income service providers.

In early 2021, ODOE published its [strategic plan](#) and [mission](#), which places a greater emphasis on equity in our programs and services — a strategic objective that is increasingly shared across state government. (ODOE is now working on an updated Strategic Plan, expected in late 2025 or early 2026.)

The Oregon Department of Energy also submitted a Racial Equity Impact Statement associated with the rebate program as part of its 2023-2025 Agency Request Budget, through which ODOE requested additional funds to continue this valuable program. The 2023 legislature ultimately allocated \$10 million for the program for 2023-2025. Through the REIS process, ODOE strengthened its engagement activities with environmental justice organizations to better understand the diverse needs of communities for a program like this, enhanced the program’s website to better serve potential participants, developed a flyer in Spanish, and completed a rulemaking effort that adjusted the definition of *low-income service provider* to further expand eligibility to affordable housing organizations.



To identify potential gaps in program participation among diverse communities, ODOE has been sending an optional, anonymous survey to participants, asking about demographic data, including race or ethnicity and if someone in the household has a disability. To date, the

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

department has received a total of 1,660 survey responses; in calendar year 2024, ODOE received 476 responses. Of those who responded, participants in the program overwhelmingly identify as white.

Self-Identified Race/Ethnicity*	Calendar Year 2024	Program to Date
Asian	31	88
Black or African American	2	18
Hispanic or Latino/a/x/e	14	52
Middle Eastern	0	8
Native American/Alaska Native	8	31
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4	13
White	411	1,463
Two or More Races	23	64
Self-Describe	17	43

*In an effort to allow respondents to self-identify their race or ethnicity, they are able to check more than one box or self-identify in a comment box. As a result, the total number of responses to this question varies from the total number of overall respondents. Questions are also optional, so some respondents skipped this question.

To date in the program, 254 participants said they or someone in their household has a disability. In calendar year 2024, 66 participants reported that they or someone in their household has a disability.

While not necessarily scientifically valid, the survey results show that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and people with disabilities are likely under-represented in the program. Similarly, there are also some parts of the state that are under-represented in the program (see Metrics section below).

As mentioned in previous reports, ODOE changed its approach for sending the surveys to improve participation and the resulting data since the program launched in 2020. ODOE began sending direct emails with a survey link to program participants in August 2022 and has seen a marked uptick in survey responses.

“Thank you! I’m proud to become part of a cleaner, more distributed, and more resilient grid and housing stock.”



Program Participant

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

Program Metrics

Figure 1: Number of Projects Reserved and Rebated by County in 2024

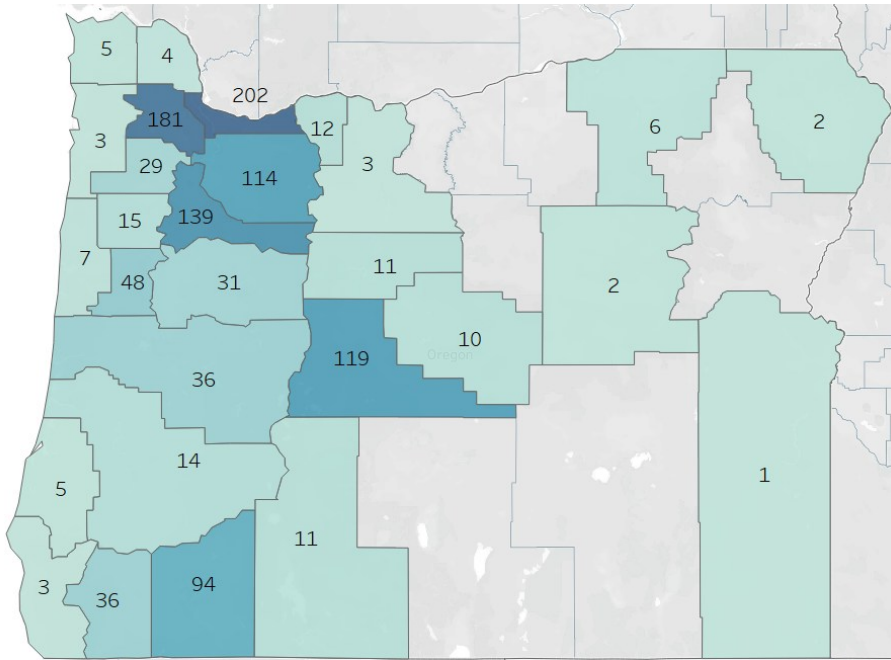
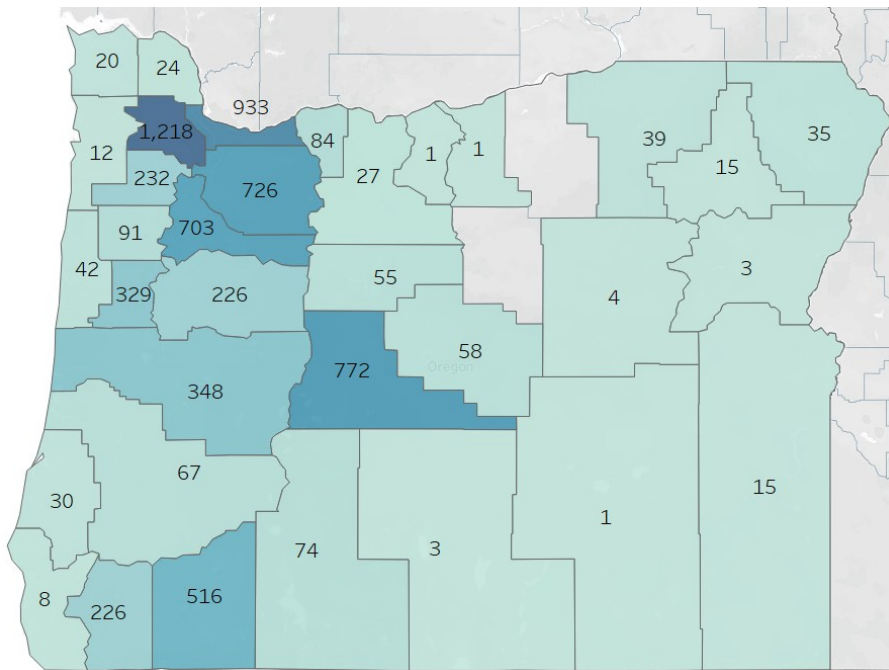


Figure 2: Number of Projects Reserved and Rebated by County for All Years



Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

Figure 3: Number of Low- and Moderate-Income and Low-Income Service Provider Projects Reserved and Rebated by County in 2024

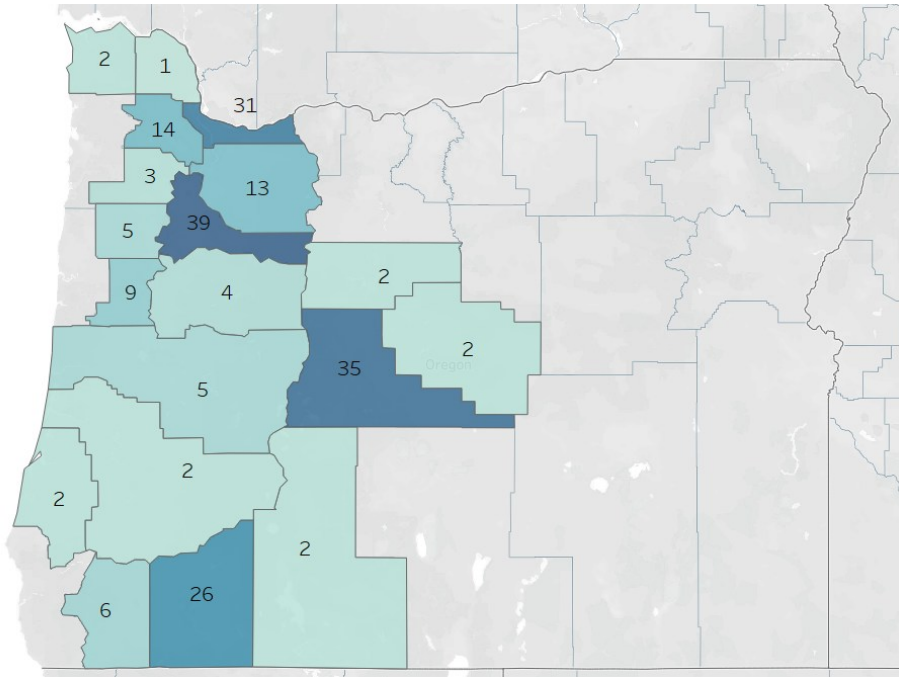
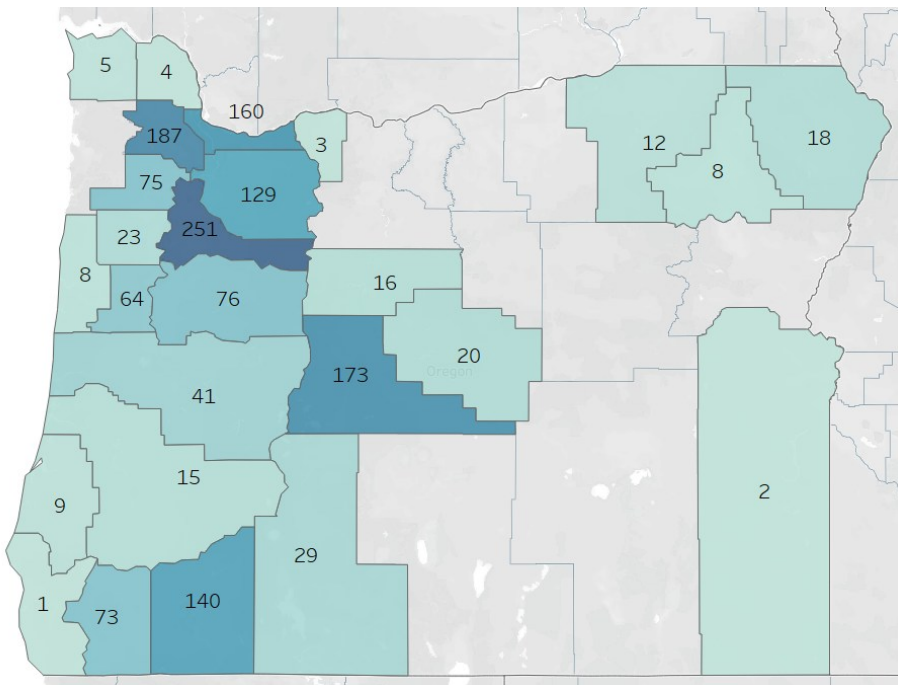


Figure 4: Number of Low- and Moderate-Income and Low-Income Service Provider Projects Reserved and Rebated by County for All Years



Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program 2025

Table 1: Total Residential Reservations and Rebates Issued in Year 2024

Customer Type	PV			Storage			Total Committed Funds
	# of Projects	Funds Committed	Nameplate Capacity (kW)	# of Projects	Funds Committed	Storage Capacity (kWh)	
Non-LMI	940	\$2,156,415	9,989	212	\$520,592	2,405	\$2,677,007
LMI	162	\$804,060	1,382	36	\$90,000	437	\$894,060
Totals	1,102	\$2,960,475	11,370	248	\$610,592	2,842	\$3,571,067

Table 2: Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions* for Projects Completed in 2024

Installed Projects	Total kWh Production (Annual)	Metric Tons CO2e Reduced (Annual)
1,125**	14,984,586	5,534

*The greenhouse gas emissions reduction estimate is calculated by multiplying the estimated annual kWh electricity production of a completed project by the estimated carbon intensity multiplier (lbs CO2e per kWh) of the electric utility providing service to the project. Utility carbon intensity multipliers are maintained on ODOE's [Electricity Resource Mix dashboard](#).

** Off the grid projects excluded as they have no utility CO2 data.

“The rebates finally brought solar power to the point I could afford it. I hope to use future rebates to convert to all electric and to add a battery storage. Thank you!”



Program Participant

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Oregon Department of Energy
550 NE Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-378-4040 | 800-221-8035
askenergy@oregon.gov
www.oregon.gov/energy

