



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

Annual Report 2024

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**Environmental Justice
Council**

by the
**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is in a period of growth and evolution. In 2024, ODOE continued to prioritize hiring new programmatic staff, developing focused work units, and applying for federal funding to benefit environmental justice and disadvantaged communities across the state.

2024 was the last year of ODOE’s Strategic plan, which established goals; prioritized work; measured progress; and allocated limited time, resources, and attention – all while fostering organizational cohesion, shared purpose, and common values. Developing the strategic plan five years ago involved feedback and discussion with ODOE staff, peer organizations, Tribal partners, and community partners. Revisions to ODOE’s mission statement and values in 2020 – as well as specific initiatives and objectives that were implemented over four years – have helped set the foundation for meaningful engagement throughout the process and implementation.

New positions like a GIS Analyst are providing ODOE with opportunities to explore data gathering and analyses to better connect with and respond to the needs of environmental justice communities. Programs like the County Energy Resilience Grant Program, Community Renewable Energy Grant Program, and Grid Resilience Grant Program have worked to connect Tribes, community organizations, local governments, and utilities to benefits that directly support environmental justice and disadvantaged communities. Annual and biennial reports such as the Biennial Energy Report, the Energy Security Plan, and progress on the Oregon Energy Strategy have continued to demonstrate benefits and challenges to providing clean and secure energy pathways for Oregonians, and shed light on opportunities and needs across the state.

ODOE recognizes the **institutional power** we have and the need to meaningfully engage with and prioritize environmental justice communities.

ODOE continues to prioritize *environmental justice communities* as defined by HB 4077 and *disadvantaged communities* as defined by the Justice40 Initiative through the Community Navigator Program and a Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst, both of which have now been in position for one year. With this support, the agency has been better able to meet the needs of environmental justice communities by prioritizing outreach, resources, and technical assistance to Oregonians and focusing on meaningful relationships that move beyond extractive and business-as-usual. The positions do this as they go to Tribes and environmental justice communities to hear about the needs and barriers that people are facing, and work to find solutions and provide consultation.

ODOE provides cohesive and intentional internal opportunities for divisions and programs to find leverage points and synergy around outreach and engagement. In an effort toward continual improvement, the ODOE Tribal Liaison recognized that many staff members were looking for ways to learn more about the nine federally recognized Tribes and provide better communication and engagement. The Tribal Liaison began hosting biweekly Tribal Engagement Office Hours to share information, answer questions, and create a streamlined method to avoid burdening Tribes with excessive communications, in addition to creating a more meaningful outreach approach. Throughout this effort, ODOE continues to consider the statutory authority, legislative budgetary allocations, and available data in each program. This work, in combination with organizational growth and community collaboration, will inform development of ODOE’s engagement framework in 2025 that will be broadly applicable to the entire agency.

ODOE is excited for the future. There is work to do and opportunities for growth. We appreciate that the Environmental Justice Council can provide an invaluable perspective and tools that will be a part of shaping ODOE’s progress. We are committed to participating in the process and look forward to the year to come.

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AGENCY INTRODUCTION



About the Oregon Department of Energy

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.

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

Agency Leadership

Janine Benner

Director

503-378-4040

janine.benner@energy.oregon.gov

Ruchi Sadhir

Associate Director

Strategic Engagement

& Tribal Liaison

971-209-0996

ruchi.sadhir@energy.oregon.gov

Todd Cornett

Assistant Director

Energy Facility Siting

503-428-2962

todd.cornett@energy.oregon.gov

Pandian Krishnaswamy

Assistant Director

Energy Development Services

Oregon Department of Energy

503-508-1244

pandian.krishnaswamy@energy.oregon.gov

Max Woods

Assistant Director

Nuclear Safety & Emergency Preparedness

503-551-8209

maxwell.woods@energy.oregon.gov

Michael Williams

Assistant Director

Central Services

503-559-1914

michael.a.williams@energy.oregon.gov

Alan Zelenka

Assistant Director

Energy Planning & Innovation

541-228-6331

alan.zelenka@energy.oregon.gov

Environmental Justice Personnel

Lauren Rosenstein

Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst

Strategic Engagement Team

503-881-9790

lauren.rosenstein@energy.oregon.gov

Sarah Moehrke

Community Navigator

Strategic Engagement Team

503-508-2352

sarah.moehrke@energy.oregon.gov

Advisory Boards and Commissions

- [Energy Facility Siting Council](#)
- [Oregon Climate Action Commission](#)
- [Oregon Hanford Clean-Up Board](#)
- [Energy Advisory Work Group](#)
- [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program Advisory Committee](#)

AGENCY BUDGET AND REVENUE SOURCES

The Oregon Department of Energy's [Legislatively Adopted Budget](#) for the 2023-2025 biennium is \$256 million. This includes funding for ODOE programs across the agency and about 123 staff (FTE). For 2023-2025, there was an increase in General Fund and Federal Funds for several energy incentive and rebate programs. The Governor's 2025-2027 Recommended Budget funds ODOE at \$201 million and 122 FTE.

This budget supports five agency divisions (described in more detail below):

- Administrative Services
- Planning & Innovation
- Energy Development Services
- Energy Facility Siting
- Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Learn more about [how we're funded](#) and see our [budget history](#) for more information.

Information and infographics are available here, though may no longer reflect the 2023-2025 budget as this page is regularly updated to reflect the current budget: [How-ODOE-Funded.pdf \(oregon.gov\)](#)

In addition to ODOE's legislatively approved budget, the agency anticipates receiving additional funding from the federal government through the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Specific federal grants come with additional guidance from the federal government specifying prioritization in spending, program design, or other grant requirements. For example, President Joe Biden issued [Executive Order 14008](#), Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. [The Office of Energy Justice and Equity](#) describes Section 223 of EO 14008 as establishing "...the Justice40 Initiative, which directs 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments – including investments in clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure – to flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs)."

The Justice40 Initiative outlines the U.S. Department of Energy's priorities as:

1. Decrease energy burden in disadvantaged communities.
2. Decrease environmental exposure and burdens for disadvantaged communities.
3. Increase parity in clean energy technology (e.g., solar, storage) access and adoption in disadvantaged communities.
4. Increase access to low-cost capital in disadvantaged communities.
5. Increase clean energy enterprise creation and contracting (MBE/DBE) in disadvantaged communities.
6. Increase clean energy jobs, job pipeline, and job training for individuals from disadvantaged communities.
7. Increase energy resiliency in disadvantaged communities.
8. Increase energy democracy in disadvantaged communities.

For grants that ODOE has already applied for and that are under grant agreements, ODOE must ensure that at least 40 percent of benefits meets these requirements. This federal requirement is consistent with ODOE's commitment in our strategic plan to build practices and processes to achieve more inclusive and equitable outcomes. ODOE recognizes the responsibilities it has to all Oregonians and

specifically to those who have been and continue to be marginalized and excluded in environmental justice communities. With a new federal administration in 2025, we are not speculating on how ODOE’s grants might change but are committing to be transparent when we do learn more. ODOE maintains an online dashboard for the federally funded grants that are coming through ODOE: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Documents/ODOE-Fed-Grant-Timeline.pdf> and the grants that are marked as “awarded” have grant agreements associated with them.

To date, ODOE has been awarded over \$280 million in IJA and IRA grants or subgrants to administer energy programs. ODOE provides updates on our federal grants: [State of Oregon: Energy in Oregon - Recent Federal Investments in Energy and Climate](#). Further details on available federal grants related to clean energy and climate change can be found on the [IJA & IRA Opportunity Tracker](#) that ODOE staff updates weekly.

As part of the 2025-2027 Agency Request Budget, the Oregon Department of Energy submitted our DEI plan with a Racial Impact Statement Memo. Working in consultation with the Racial Justice Council, the [Racial Equity Impact Statement](#) was developed using the RJC’s Racial Equity Toolkit, which establishes a framework to assess how programs benefit or burden certain populations and geographic areas. The toolkit encourages a data-based approach to evaluating benefits and burdens, inclusive communications and community partnership, and incorporating equity into program decision making to ensure benefits go to communities who need it. We received valuable feedback through this process, including to make programs more accessible through website organization and expanding information into languages other than English, and to communicate about all available incentives together to help streamline the information for communities. We also learned that there are barriers to participation that can’t be addressed within program rules.

More information about the Oregon Department of Energy’s budget, including our Agency Request Budget for the 2025-2027 biennium, can be found here: [State of Oregon: ABOUT US - Budget](#) as it is updated throughout the 2025 Legislative Session.

AGENCY DIVISIONS AND PROGRAMS

Administrative Services

The Administrative Services Division consists of the Director’s Office and Central Services. Central Services provides core support functions such as budget development, cash flow monitoring, contract development, grants management, financial services, purchasing, and facilities management. The Director provides operational and policy leadership and direction for the department. The Director’s Office functions include internal audit, communications, human resources, strategic engagement, and government relations. The Director’s Office led the process to establish a [2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#), which has focus



areas that include “expanding and improving stakeholder engagement” and “building practices and processes to achieve more inclusive and equitable outcomes.” The most recent strategic plan update presentation materials and notes to the Energy Advisory Work Group on December 19, 2024 can be found here: [State of Oregon: GET INVOLVED - Energy Advisory Work Group](#). The Strategic Engagement Team was established in 2021 as part of implementing this strategic plan, and has built capacity to add new positions over the last three years that center environmental justice communities – the Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst and the Community Navigator. The Strategic Engagement Team includes a position that acts as the Tribal Liaison and is responsible for [annual reports](#) to the nine federally recognized Tribes and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. The team also includes ODOE’s legislative coordinator, who works with everyone at the agency in pursuing legislative changes to make ODOE’s programs more effective as well as coordinating responses to policy and legislative questions from advocates and legislators. The [agency’s legislative website](#) includes descriptions of five ODOE bills that are being introduced in the 2025 legislative session. It also includes detailed summaries of legislative activities in sessions spanning from 2017 to 2024. This transparency and responsiveness are a key part of our legislative and overall external engagement work.

Energy Planning and Innovation

The Energy Planning and Innovation (P&I) Division provides information, analysis, technical assistance, and project management to inform policies and develop programs to achieve cost effective energy efficiency, promote an equitable energy transition, expand the use of renewable and alternative energy resources, promote sustainable transportation options, support more resilient energy infrastructure, and combat climate change.

The P&I division is made up of staff who are often tasked with analyzing or meeting federal and state energy requirements while seeking opportunities to serve Justice40 and environmental justice communities. This team cares deeply about their work and how it affects Oregonians. As they collect data for analyses, dashboards, or reports, it is not simply to check a box. There is constant consideration to understand how they, and the programs, can best serve Oregonians who are most impacted by energy policies and decisions. The culture and values of the Planning and Innovation division prioritize environmental justice communities with the understanding that when the most vulnerable people and areas of the state are best served, all Oregonians will benefit.

When the most vulnerable people and areas of the state **are best served**, all Oregonians will benefit.

The team conducts research, analyzes data, and writes comprehensive policy analysis and recommendations, which can be seen through various [legislatively directed studies](#) – some of which specify outreach or engagement approaches such as forming advisory committees. While there is no overarching statutory requirement to engage environmental justice communities, the P&I team continually seeks guidance, information, and feedback to center the needs of environmental justice communities. By intentionally seeking to include environmental justice communities in policy analysis, ODOE commits to centering the needs of people and places that are the most burdened which will, in turn, have the greatest impact across the state.

The division includes four units, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, Building Codes and Standards, Energy Technology and Policy, and Climate Action.

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation** supports the advancement of energy efficiency standards and codes and also provides analysis and technical assistance to improve energy efficiency in the public, residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors.

- **Building Codes and Standards** addresses energy use and emissions from buildings to work toward reduced greenhouse gas emissions; improve heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting systems in buildings to use less energy and improve indoor air quality and comfort; supports local workforce and jobs to improve building performance through investment in energy efficiency measures and technology; and works to implement cost-effective energy measures to reduce operating costs for building owners and tenants.
- **Energy Technology and Policy** maintains expertise on energy technologies and policies, and serves as a source of impartial and objective information for Oregonians on energy production, distribution, utilization, and conservation. The team assesses Oregon’s progress on achieving state energy goals while maintaining a resilient and affordable energy system and minimizing effects on Oregon’s environment, economy, and way of life.
- **The Climate Team** has two core focus areas: climate action and natural climate solutions. Climate action involves actions and activities to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and other human activities. Natural climate solutions involves actions to increase net biological carbon sequestration and storage on Oregon’s natural and working lands. The team also provides technical and administrative support to the Oregon Climate Action Commission (formerly Oregon Global Warming Commission).

This year, the Building Codes and Standards section and the Climate Team are new organizational units within the agency, established through HB 3409, and create more staff capacity for opportunities to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the state.

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed [House Bill 3409](#), establishing an Energy Performance Standard policy for commercial buildings, often referred to as a [Building Performance Standard](#). ODOE’s role includes rulemaking to establish the processes and energy targets to comply with the Oregon BPS as well as education, outreach, and managing compliance reporting. The Building Codes and Standards team is working to build outreach and engagement that is inclusive of environmental justice communities within the rulemaking advisory committee. Codes and standards are often technical and filled with jargon; the team has worked to address this barrier by creating resources that bring common verbiage to the material. By creating more accessible conversations, more people are able to participate, specifically those who have historically and are currently excluded from participating in processes like this. The team has also put forth an effort to bring people into the rulemaking advisory committee beyond those who already work in codes and standards by creating space for people and organizations who represent people who have experienced energy burden or are/will be living in the buildings. When people with lived experiences are meaningfully included in the process, there is a possibility of more direct benefit and reduced burden to those who experience it.

In 2024, the P&I division also formed the Climate Team. The Climate Team prioritizes low income, disadvantaged, and environmental justice communities throughout their program. This work is evident both in their reporting duties and programmatic responsibilities.

One of the Climate Team’s new natural climate solutions-related directives is to track and report on investments made through the state’s Natural and Working Lands Fund. On behalf of the Oregon Climate Action Commission, the Team is responsible for producing annual and biennial reports to the legislature summarizing the Fund’s uses. Through the adoption of HB 3409 in 2023, the Legislature established the Natural and Working Lands Fund to support investments in natural climate solutions on Oregon’s natural and working lands. The Legislature appropriated \$10 million into the Fund for distribution to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Forestry



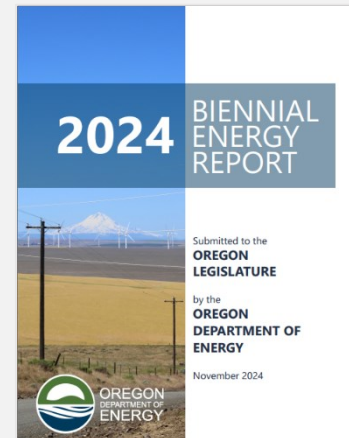
(ODF), and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The Legislature directed the four N&WL agencies to use their Natural & Working Lands Fund allocations for specific purposes:

- ODA, ODF, and OWEB shall use N&WL funds to establish and implement programs to:
 - Provide incentives to help landowners, Tribes, land managers, and environmental justice communities adopt practices that support natural climate solutions;
 - Provide technical assistance for landowners, Tribes, land managers, and environmental justice communities to support the adoption of natural climate solutions; and
 - Prioritize assistance and incentives for environmental justice communities or Tribes.
- ODFW shall use N&WL funds to:
 - Conduct research to understand the effects, climate change mitigation and resilience contributions, and community co-benefits resulting from natural climate solutions, as well as the climate, ecosystem, and carbon benefits of products from natural and working lands;
 - Secure federal matching funds or other sources of funding to support investments in natural climate solutions on natural and working lands; and
 - Ensure the benefits of natural climate solutions are equitably distributed among landowners,
 - Tribes, land managers, and environmental justice communities.

The Climate Team is also leading ODOE's contributions under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. This EPA-administered federal grant program provided two funding opportunities: planning grants and implementation grants. In 2023, Oregon was awarded a CPRG planning grant, which supported the development of a Priority Climate Action Plan and a forthcoming Comprehensive Climate Action Plan that will be completed by the end of 2025. In 2024, Oregon was awarded a competitive CPRG implementation grant totaling \$197 million to implement priority climate actions through five agencies, DEQ, ODOE, ODOT, OHCS, and OHA, as well as with the Energy Trust Oregon. This implementation grant will fund twelve measures to reduce GHG emissions from Oregon's transportation, buildings, and waste and materials management sectors. The priority measures are designed to deploy funds through existing programs that achieve near-term greenhouse gas reductions and benefit Oregon communities while prioritizing low-income and disadvantaged communities to support frontline communities and boost economic development and investments in rural and urban areas. The work of the Climate Team is just beginning with this unprecedented opportunity that will work across agencies to create and build on existing systems that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase public health benefits, and center environmental justice, low-income, and disadvantaged communities.

2024 Biennial Energy Report

The importance of prioritizing environmental justice communities can be seen throughout the [2024 Biennial Energy Report](#) in the ways ODOE reports coordinated efforts with Tribal governments, key state agencies, local governments, and the public. The report also demonstrates *how* data are used, whenever possible, to better understand effects on specific demographic communities based on income, race, disability, geography, and more. ODOE is seeking ways to increase awareness and collected data that demonstrates the impacts of each demographic community named in HB 4077’s definition of “environmental justice communities” through future reports.



The BER is an opportunity to provide a more accessible approach to highly technical material with the hopes that it may capture a person’s attention and deliver information that encourages their curiosity about Oregon’s energy systems. It is written for a non-energy expert audience and designed for reader accessibility. Written in a periodical format, readers can choose from multiple short topics that are most relevant to them. It is also divided into five sections to further guide readers to topics of interest. *Energy by the Numbers* is a data-driven section consisting largely of charts that cover Oregon’s energy production, use, costs, and effects on Oregon’s environment and economy. An online interactive *Energy Timeline* provides a history of energy in the area starting with the Missoula Floods, including short interviews, videos, and photos showcasing important events. The *Energy Resource and Technology Reviews* provide high-level overviews on the things Oregonians rely on to provide energy. The *Energy 101s* are foundational information on anything energy, with a focus on things which are currently being discussed across energy venues. For example, the 2024 report included an *Energy 101* on what was driving electric utility rate increases and the effects of climate change on Oregon’s energy systems. Finally, the report includes policy briefs that provide objective and current information about energy policy, with a focus on topics that are currently being discussed by policymakers. The report is developed every two years, with updated data for *Energy by the Numbers* and new topics for the rest of the report.

While the BER is available to everyone, the team has identified the need to better distribute and inform people of its existence. This is especially true for environmental justice communities where people may find this resource empowering in their own understanding and could provide information to take actionable steps in their own energy journey.

The focus of the 2024 report is to cover relevant aspects of Oregon’s clean energy transition. Even as we work to move to cleaner energy resources, climate change is increasingly taking a toll on our energy systems. At the same time, energy demand is growing faster than it has in several decades, led by the proliferation of data centers and industrial growth. It will require innovative technologies, economies, and investments to meet these challenges, many of which are highlighted in this or previous reports.

While the challenges are great, this report empowers Oregonians with data and information to make informed energy choices to address these challenges and take advantage of opportunities to create a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable energy future.

The work of the BER will continue into 2025 as ODOE hosts webinars and provides opportunities for organizations and communities to dive deeper into the material. More information will be provided to the Environmental Justice Council as it becomes available so they can participate in any presentations.

Staff in the P&I Division maintain [Energy by the Numbers](#), a data-forward section of the agency's Biennial Energy Report. As described in the Biennial Energy Report, the data aim to help "...Oregonians make informed decisions about their energy choices and advance solutions that will shape an equitable, clean energy transition. ODOE serves as the state's central repository of energy data, information, and analysis, and fulfills this role through rigorous data collection, production standards, and quality assurance protocols."

In alignment with the statutory requirements for the report, common data and analyses found in the report include:

- Energy consumption, expenditures, and costs
- Generation and transmission
- Production, imports, and exports
- Energy sectors, markets, and jobs
- Technologies and resources, including facilities
- Energy efficiency and conservation
- The effects of energy use, including greenhouse gas emissions

Beyond individual use, these data are available to organizations, municipalities, and the legislature to support policy making decisions that demonstrate demographic and geographic priorities that lead to energy efficiency and resiliency in communities who hold the greatest burden.

The team consistently seeks resources and tools that demonstrate the gaps of service and needs of environmental justice communities through cross-agency policy and program discussions, utilizing data found through the census and other government organizations, and collaborating with other agencies and organizations. Staff in the P&I Division try to minimize the burden set on environmental justice communities to participate in multiple programs, advisory groups, councils, and informational sessions, but also recognizes that without participation, they may miss first-hand accounts, anecdotal personal stories, and the ability to follow-up with relevant conversations. It is a complex balance, which both the team and the rest of ODOE are working to achieve.

In working to address this, in 2024, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation team hired a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst in order to better analyze data to inform policy and programs throughout the agency. The GIS Analyst is able to look through time and space and better analyze how we are serving communities, especially environmental justice communities. They can help the agency to identify patterns and gaps so that we can best create plans to move forward ensuring that benefits reach communities that have been left out.

The geospatial program at the Oregon Department of Energy brings a new perspective to problem solving, analysis, visualization, and the sharing of information. The program is founded on geospatial science. At its core, geospatial science is essentially geography, the study of human and physical dimensions through time and space. A geospatial science perspective in the modern world is essential with the emergence of "Big Data," connectivity, and vast amounts of imagery.

In developing the Geospatial Program, the new GIS analyst created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement to ensure a DEI lens is maintained throughout their work. While an environmental justice and DEI approach have some overlap, we recognize that there is nuance and difference in the language.

DEI is not used here to replace the focus of environmental justice, rather as an entry point and umbrella to start the conversation.

Geospatial analysis allows us to take a new approach in supporting ODOE’s DEI mission and goals through trends of time and space. Geospatial science offers a different analytical perspective to inform policy development and program development. We can harness geospatial analytical skills to investigate, at a broad-scale, energy questions to identify underserved communities that can benefit from targeted outreach.

The State of Oregon passed House Bill 4077 to introduce equity and inclusivity through environmental justice (HB 4077). This bill brought a renewed focus on the Environmental Justice Council and led to an environmental justice equity mapping project. HB 4077 broadly defined “environmental justice communities.” The geospatial program will continuously monitor the decisions and updates of the Environmental Justice Council and actively incorporate the environmental justice equity map produced in future products. Collectively, we possess the analytical tools to implement state and federal requirements to build towards a more equitable and inclusive Oregon energy future.

The geospatial program can immediately contribute to the integration and application of the current Justice40 Presidential Executive Order that mandates at least 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution. As the agency receives and implements programs that are mandated to 40 percent of funds, we will harness geospatial analytical approaches in our decision-making to serve disadvantaged communities and meet the Justice40 initiative. Our geospatial products will contribute to the agency’s approach for multiple methods of communication through narratives and interactive applications that provide an alternative lens that can be informative, approachable, and reach a broader audience. It is imperative that geospatial products are current and follow ADA standards and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The geospatial program is in the development of an accessibility plan and standard operating procedures to ensure all geospatial products are accessible and approachable. As we develop our accessibility plan, geospatial staff will be responsive and available to accessibility accommodations for our products.

Energy Development Services Incentives Programs

The Energy Development Services (EDS) Division administers energy incentive programs for households, businesses, and the public sector to save energy and improve efficiency, support clean energy, and increase energy resilience for Oregonians. These programs are both legislatively directed and state funded, as well as federally funded through grants from the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies. While P&I staff have been leading efforts to engage and hear feedback on program design before submitting federal grant applications, the EDS team plans, implements, and administers the federally funded programs once grants are awarded.

The Oregon Department of Energy currently hosts five active state-funded incentive programs: the Oregon Solar + Storage



Rebate Program, Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding Incentive, Community Renewable Energy Grant Program, Community Heat Pump Deployment Program, and Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program.

Upcoming programs funded by federal grants through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act must comply with Justice40 Initiative requirements to direct 40 percent of benefits to “disadvantaged communities” as defined by the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#) (CEJST). ODOE must also follow any federal guidance or legislative direction that further outlines funding allocation requirements. It is ODOE’s intention to meet and work to surpass federal requirements where possible to meet the needs of Oregon’s environmental justice communities.

Throughout ODOE’s state and federally funded incentive programs, staff develop outreach and engagement plans before launching a program by hosting webinars and sending written communication. Many programs were developed and launched during the pandemic, which made it difficult if not impossible to gather in person. ODOE’s Community Navigator Program provides more of an opportunity to visit people where they are to gather information and report back to program staff. In the future, as new programs launch, ODOE will continue to host opportunities for program feedback so that we are better situated to provide appropriate and culturally relevant communications and information sharing. Additionally, the EDS team continues to find ways to reduce barriers to participation and increase incentives for environmental justice communities such as hosting virtual office hours for the [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#) to assist applicants with specific challenges and answering questions so they were best prepared to submit applications.

The state funded programs have had high participation over years and have yielded benefits in the state. Due to budget constraints, many of these programs may not be re-funded in the 2025 legislative session.

- [Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program \(2024-OSSRP-Legislative-Report.pdf \(oregon.gov\)\)](#) was established by ODOE at the direction of HB 2618 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. While “environmental justice” communities were not referenced, HB 2618 requires that 25 percent of rebates be reserved for low- or moderate-income residential customers and low-income service providers. In the calendar year 2023, the program reserved or rebated 2,705 projects, representing over \$10.4 million in funds. \$5.1 million, or 49 percent of the committed funding, was for projects owned by low- and medium-income owners or low-income service providers. This program includes follow-up engagement to better understand how to serve environmental justice communities and potential gaps by sending an anonymous survey to participants to learn more about demographic data, including race or ethnicity and if someone in the household has a disability. ODOE is exploring ways to create more inclusive communications and program outreach to ensure environmental justice communities have access and can participate in programs.
- [Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding Incentive Program](#) was developed after more than 5,000 structures and over 1 million acres were burned in the wildfires that devastated Oregon communities over Labor Day weekend in 2020. HB 5006 allocated about \$10.8 million in General Fund dollars to ODOE to incentivize energy efficient rebuilding of residential and commercial structures that were destroyed by wildfires in 2020. This program prioritizes environmental justice communities by providing higher incentives for low- and moderate-income households.
- [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#) was authorized in HB 2021 to create a \$50 million fund at ODOE to provide grants for planning and developing community renewable energy and

energy resilience projects (the Legislature allocated an additional \$20 million to the program in 2023-2025). The program rules were created through feedback and support of the [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program Advisory Committee](#), which includes representatives of environmental justice organizations. The Community Renewable Energy Grant Program is open to Oregon Tribes, public bodies, and consumer owned utilities. At least 50 percent of the grant funds must be awarded for projects that serve environmental justice communities, as defined in legislation. There were [34 awardees](#) of this grant in 2024, including Tribes, schools, and governments that qualify as Justice40's disadvantaged communities. The Governor's Recommended Budget for 2025-2027 allocates an additional \$25 million for this program. [Heat Pump Incentive Programs](#) were created in response to the heat dome event of 2021, during which at least 100 Oregonians died of heat-related illness—often in their own homes. The legislature passed SB 1536, which directed ODOE to develop a \$10 million [Community Heat Pump Deployment Program](#), create a \$15 million [Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program](#) for installation of heat pumps by landlords, fund a \$2 million grant for a community cooling center program for extreme heat events, and conduct a [cooling needs study](#) to identify existing cooling—as well as barriers to cooling access—in government supported housing.

The heat pump programs, like other incentive and reimbursement programs, demonstrate that the non-income restricted funding is more quickly reserved, where the low- to moderate-income funding requires more community outreach. To date, the Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program has received applications for more than 4,200 projects, representing approximately \$17 million in funds in 24 of Oregon's 36 counties. Of these, 3,019 projects have been completed and just over \$12 million in rebates and grants have been paid, supporting over \$23 million in total project costs. Approximately 25 percent of available funding has been reserved for low- and moderate-income (LMI) customers and 25 percent of available funding reserved for affordable housing providers (AHP). To date, just under 1,200 LMI and AHP projects have been installed. Beyond the data, feedback received from contractors and affordable housing property owners indicates the program has been successful at introducing lifesaving cooling to renters, some who have never lived in a home with air conditioning.

The Community Heat Pump Deployment Program prioritizes households relying on bulk fuels (like wood or heating oil) and electric resistance heating and households without functioning heating or cooling systems. As directed in statute, funding to environmental justice communities was prioritized in contract development for administrators selected after the first opportunity announcement. For administrators selected after the second opportunity announcement, the definition of environmental justice communities, which includes communities of color, raised equal protection concerns, if used for project prioritization. ODOE is continuing to work to address this challenge to ensure environmental justice communities across Oregon continue to be prioritized throughout the program in an equitable way.

Community Renewable Energy Grant Program

The Community Renewable Energy Grant Program was established by the Oregon Department of Energy at the direction of HB 2021, passed by the Oregon State Legislature in 2021. The legislature directed ODOE to develop a competitive grant program that offsets the cost of planning and developing community renewable energy and energy resilience projects, makes community renewable energy projects economically feasible for qualifying communities, promotes small-scale renewable energy projects, and provides direct benefits to communities across this state.

ODOE assembled a program Advisory Committee, which provided guidance as ODOE drafted program administrative rules. Final rules were adopted in February 2022, and the program launched in March 2022 with an initial \$50 million budget for grants for planning and developing community renewable energy and energy resilience projects outside the city of Portland and for ODOE’s program administration. An additional \$20 million was deposited into the program fund by SB 5506 in the 2023 legislative session.

The first round of opportunity announcements opened in March 2022. To date, three rounds of opportunity announcements have been held. Across these three rounds of opportunity announcements, ODOE received 195 eligible applications and awarded 50 planning projects totaling \$4,387,990 in grants and 44 construction projects totaling \$37,454,977 in grants. Projects have been awarded in 28 of Oregon’s 36 counties.

The program has been successful in meeting the legislative mandate that a minimum of 50 percent of program funds be reserved for projects that serve one or more environmental justice community. In fact, so far 93.6 percent of awarded grant funds are supporting projects that serve one or more environmental justice communities. The program has also been successful in meeting the mandate that 50 percent or more of the funding go to grants to plan or construct renewable energy systems that also strengthen energy resilience — 66 percent of the program grant funds have been awarded for planning or constructing community energy resilience projects.

The program is accomplishing its objective to offset the cost of planning and developing community renewable energy projects. Based upon total project costs submitted in grant applications and awarded grant amounts, program funds offset 68 percent of total planning project costs and 36 percent of total construction project costs.

Once completed, program-supported construction projects are projected to offset an estimated total of 19,655 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (greenhouse gas emissions) based on the carbon intensity of the electric utilities serving the projects. Construction projects will contribute 44,317 net megawatt hours per year in renewable energy generation and 22,194 kilowatt hours of available energy storage capacity to support community sites, critical public services, emergency shelters, and first responders.

A 2024 report to the legislature is available on the Oregon Department of Energy’s website: <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Pages/Reports-to-the-Legislature.aspx>.



The City of Ontario’s [Verde Light Oregon Community Solar](#) project was the first completed Community Renewable Energy Grant-supported project.

Energy Facility Siting

The Energy Facility Siting Division works with energy developers proposing new facilities and current operators of energy facilities to meet the state’s energy needs by ensuring large electrical generating facilities, transmission lines, and natural gas pipelines and other large energy facilities are built, operated, and retired consistent with Oregon’s energy policy, as well as air, water, land use, cultural resource, natural resource, safety, and other policies. This division provides staff support to the seven-member Governor-appointed and Senate-confirmed [Energy Facility Siting Council](#) (EFSC), coordinates the energy facility siting process, oversees compliance with existing facility site certificates, and coordinates key federal energy siting projects for the state. The Division coordinates input about proposed new facilities or amendments to existing facilities from Tribes, other state agencies, local governments, contractors, and the public.

The Oregon Department of Energy facilitates the Energy Facility Siting Council facility siting process, which consolidates the statutes, rules, ordinances, regulations, policies, and permits of state agencies, local governments, and Tribal governments (collectively known as Reviewing Agencies) into a single review process for the state. Potentially affected Tribal governments are identified after consultation with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services. While Tribal governments are considered Reviewing Agencies in the EFSC process, ODOE also recognizes that the federally recognized Tribes are sovereign nations and directly communicates with each Tribal government uniquely. Reviewing Agencies are notified and requested to review and provide comments throughout the process, and they are eligible to receive reimbursement for any time spent reviewing and providing feedback.

The Review is a [standards-based process](#) that includes the following steps:

1. Notice of intent (high level overview of the proposed project) submitted by developer
 - a. Notice with public comment period
 - b. Public informational meeting in the vicinity of the project
 - c. Memo to Reviewing Agencies and a request to review and comment
2. Project order (list of the applicable requirements that must be included in the application) completed by Siting Division staff
3. Application for site certificate submitted by developer
 - a. Review of preliminary application by the Department and Reviewing Agencies
 - b. Notice to the public when application is deemed complete
 - c. Public informational meeting in the vicinity of the project
4. Draft proposed order (Department’s first recommendation of whether proposed project meets all requirements) completed by Siting Division Staff
 - a. Public and reviewing agency notice with comment period



ODOE has been publishing a series of [energy facility siting “spotlights”](#) on the agency blog to help the public better understand Oregon’s process.

- b. Public hearing in the vicinity of the project and in front of EFSC
5. Proposed order (Department’s second recommendation of whether proposed project meets all requirements, taking into consideration all comments received during the Draft Proposed Order stage) completed by Siting Division staff
6. Contested case proceeding (run by an independent third-party hearing officer)
7. Final order (and site certificate if the project is approved) approved by Energy Facility Siting Council
8. Appeal to Oregon Supreme Court (who has six months to issue their final opinion)

Siting is a standards-based process which means there are formalized rules, governance, and legislation that dictates what requirements must be met. It is the applicant’s burden to prove through a preponderance of evidence that they meet all requirements. [Siting standards](#) include soil protection; land use; protected areas; fish and wildlife habitat; historical, cultural, and archaeological resources; wildfire prevention and risk mitigation, and more. Many of these standards intersect with environmental justice communities geographically as well as with environmental justice concerns at large – though at the time of the standards’ creation, ‘environmental justice’ was not a used framework.

The limitations of Siting’s substantive and procedural standards require the team to think linearly and in terms of legal obligations. While the standards are immovable, the team has found ways to engage environmental justice communities in the process with the goal of eliciting more participation and feedback from those who will be the most affected by a project. One way this may be seen is in the effort to provide as much lead time as possible for community participation through public comment, information meetings, and hearing processes. While the rules dictate people must be given at least 21 days to comment on the Draft Proposed Order, the Siting team will set the comment period as high as 60 days for more complicated and controversial projects. Additionally, they host meetings both in-person and virtually to support multiple methods of participation, travel to project areas to reduce location barriers, and hold hearings in the evening. In 2024 there were three public informational meetings about proposed projects:

- April – Summit Ridge Renewable Energy Facility – Dufur
- June – Sunstone Solar Project – Boardman
- October – Buckley Solar Facility – Grass Valley

There were twelve [Energy Facility Siting Council meetings](#):

- Two in Hermiston
- One in Boardman
- One in Clatskanie
- One in Madras
- Five in Salem
- Two virtual

While the Siting team collects information, analyzes standards, and hosts meetings, the Energy Facility Siting Council is the decision-making entity. The Council is not legally required to attend Draft Proposed Order hearings, though because they so strongly value hearing directly from affected communities, being present for these hearings is now a standard part of the process.

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 EFSC, the Council Secretary and Assistant Director of Siting sends formal letters to the 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.

A goal of the Energy Facility Siting Division is to provide **culturally responsible and respectful communications and opportunities** for participation throughout the process.

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 recently 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 Oregon 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 Oregon Tribes. 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 2025-2027 and provide additional input on rulemaking priorities for the coming year at its meeting on January 17, 2025. The rulemaking schedule contains several new and previously approved rulemaking projects that may affect tribal interests, including a review of the Council’s compliance rules and updates to 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.

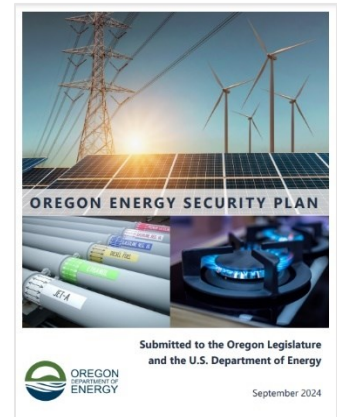
It is the goal of the Energy Facility Siting Division to provide culturally responsible and respectful communications and opportunities for participation throughout the process. An identified need this year, which the team will be working on throughout 2025, is creating a more inclusive process that accounts for people’s level of technology access and ability as well as providing information in multiple languages. The team has also determined that more informational and educational resources may be helpful so that people can more meaningfully participate throughout processes. These are areas they are continuing to explore while still fulfilling legal standard requirements.

Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The [Nuclear Safety & Emergency Preparedness](#) (NSEP) Division works to protect the environment and Oregonians from exposure to hazards by monitoring and engaging in radioactive waste cleanup activities at the Hanford Nuclear Site; preparing and testing nuclear emergency preparedness plans; and implementing Oregon’s radioactive waste disposal regulations. The Division also leads the agency’s

work on energy emergency preparedness; in the event of a fuel shortage either state-wide or locally, the division will implement the state’s Oregon Fuel Action Plan to manage fuel supply to emergency and essential services.

In 2024, ODOE staff in NSEP developed and submitted the state’s [Energy Security Plan](#), which assesses threats and risks to all energy systems in Oregon and proposes measures to mitigate identified risks. The Energy Security Plan was supported with federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and includes engagement and coordination with Tribal Governments as well as government entities interested organizations, and the public. ODOE staff presented at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board conference in June at Grand Ronde. During the ESP development, ODOE met with the Tribal Preparedness Coalition at CTUIR offices on May 16. The ESP is intended to be a living document, and perspectives and input from Tribal nations will continue to be incorporated into future revisions.



Relatedly, in 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3630, which 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. The program is operational now; counties must request the funding and commit to developing the County Resilience Plan as directed by legislation to secure funding. Counties that accept the funding are required to engage with environmental justice communities to identify and map communities that experience social vulnerabilities as part of the Plan. The State’s definition of environmental justice communities includes the nine federally recognized Tribes, and ODOE appreciates county planning efforts that include coordination with Tribes. Tribes can 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.

There are further opportunities for the County Energy Resilience Grant Program to increase and strengthen meaningful engagement within environmental justice communities by providing more substantive direction for engagement, moving beyond the mapping requirement, and providing additional funding specifically for engagement efforts. Additionally, the program could be expanded to include funding for Tribal Governments to develop a Tribal Energy Resilience Plan. These changes would have to be implemented through legislative action.

The goal of the team is not to speak for any Tribe or environmental justice community, but to **understand the needs of the communities** to provide support in removing barriers and lead action.

Throughout the team’s work, an emphasis is placed on Tribal engagement and ensuring formal Tribal representation on advisory boards, councils, and commissions. The goal of the team is not to speak for any Tribe or environmental justice community, but to understand the needs of the communities to provide support in removing barriers and lead action.

The NSEP team is also responsible for representing Oregon’s interest in the clean-up of the Hanford Nuclear site. The NSEP team supports the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, which includes a representative of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and met three times in 2024. The May meeting was held at the CTUIR Wild Horse Resort and Conference Center, and included meetings and tours with the CTUIR’s Energy and Environmental Sciences Program.

The Hanford Natural Resources Trustee Council, which is responsible for conducting the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) and Restoration at the Hanford site, actively worked on assessment and planning activities throughout 2024. 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. NSEP division staff represent Oregon on the Trustee Council.

The protection of the Columbia River and surrounding land is of the utmost importance for Oregon’s Hanford cleanup policy and NRDA program. The efforts to protect this land are rooted in Indigenous and Tribal ecological and cultural practices with the goal to return the area to a place where people can conduct traditional practice, as the Hanford site includes areas of religious significance in addition to hunting, fishing, and gathering practices. To meet this goal, ODOE supports and encourages US DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State, and other partners to center cultural humility and listen to the needs of the Tribal communities who are the most impacted. Building engagement and collaboration is done by meeting with Tribal leadership, in-person whenever it is possible, to find a path forward that brings the area to a level of remediation that supports the cultural practices of Tribes since time immemorial.

The work of the Division to collaborate with Tribes in the clean-up efforts of the Hanford Nuclear Site is a model for the team’s desire to continue this level of engagement throughout all programs with all environmental justice communities. In support of the Division’s work on emergency fuel preparedness and energy security planning, ODOE staff regularly meet with and engage with Tribal Government staff to share information, understand each party’s needs, and work to find solutions.

Environmental Justice Highlights

- ODOE provided honorarium funding for the Oregon Energy Strategy’s Environmental Justice and Equity Working Group members.
- ODOE has been working throughout 2024, and will continue in 2025, to build a Hub for Incentive Programs in Oregon that will include an incentives finder tool, and information about heat pumps and other energy efficiency measures for homeowners, renters, and contractors. This tool strives to make it simpler to find tools for reducing energy costs in one place, and will directly benefit environmental justice communities.
- In 2023 the Strategic Engagement Team recognized a need to gather staff across divisions to have more conversations about barriers, benefits, and communication between the agency and environmental justice communities. This work continued throughout 2024 and surfaced the need for a better understanding and approach to Tribal outreach and consultation by ODOE. ODOE’s Tribal Liaison hosts biweekly office hours to address staff questions, provide resources, and develop appropriate outreach and consultation plans that honor state policy and the capacity of Tribes.
- ODOE convened an environmental justice roundtable in 2022 to inform legislative concept and funding ideas, which led to ODOE’s bill for a Community Navigator program (which launched in

The screenshot shows the 'Hub for Incentive Programs in Oregon' website. The main heading is 'Use the calculator to check out available financial support for electrification, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects in your area.' Below this are two buttons: 'For Homeowners + Renters' and 'For Contractors'. To the right is a form titled 'Your household info' with a 'Reset' link. The form has the following fields: 'RENT OR OWN' (dropdown menu), 'HOMEOWNER' (dropdown menu), 'ELECTRIC UTILITY' (dropdown menu), 'TAX FILING' (dropdown menu), 'ZIP' (text input), 'HOUSEHOLD INCOME' (text input), and 'HOUSEHOLD SIZE' (dropdown menu). A 'View results' button is at the bottom right of the form. At the bottom of the page, it says 'Calculator by Resilient America - Privacy Policy - Terms'.

The Hub for Incentive Programs in Oregon website is in beta testing as of January 2025:

<https://incentives.oregon.gov/>

2023). The Community Navigator Program serves Tribes, environmental justice communities, rural communities, and communities with limited infrastructure. In 2024, The Community Navigator visited all nine federally recognized Tribes across the state and Oregon’s 36 counties. \$18 million in Federal and State Funds have been awarded to environmental justice communities through direct connections to Community Navigator program.

- The Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst has spent their first year in the position providing support to ODOE staff members in developing outreach and engagement approaches to environmental justice and disadvantaged communities, reviewing and providing feedback to program Community Benefits Plans, participating in advisory groups or committees that center environmental justice and disadvantaged communities, leading the Oregon Energy Strategy Environmental Justice and Equity Working Group, co-leading and facilitating environmental justice-centered ODOE working groups, and participating in environmental justice and energy equity-centered advisory groups and committees.
- In August 2023, ODOE and the Coalition of Communities of Color began co-hosting the Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup for Federal Funding for organizations that serve environmental justice communities to share information and provide more transparency throughout the federal grant funding process. The organizations that participated found the share-outs helpful and wanted more opportunities to provide feedback. The Coalition for Communities of Color (the Coalition) was awarded separate foundation funding to co-host future workshops and provides \$10,000 of funding to qualifying, participating organizations who joined the workgroup. With this funding, ODOE and the Coalition formalized the approach to prioritize the voices of environmental justice communities who are the most impacted. The goals of this “Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup” are to: (1) share information about energy-related federal funding opportunities, (2) match opportunities to needs, (3) ensure metrics and data are demonstrating benefits flowing to disadvantaged communities, and (4) create a forum to share experiences across organizations. This workgroup met ten times in 2024 and discussed:
 - The Justice40 Initiative
 - HB 4077
 - Grid Resilience Grant
 - ODOE Community Navigator Program
 - Energy Security Plan
 - Oregon State Energy Strategy
 - Northwest Environmental Justice Center as the region TCTAC
 - Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hubs
 - ODOE’s agency request budget and process
 - Solar for All
 - Workforce and Economic Development
 - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Community Navigator Program

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature directed ODOE to create a new Community Navigator program through HB 3630. This program was inspired in part by the significant federal funding coming from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation reduction Act, in addition to other state energy programs. was inspired in part by the significant federal funding coming from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation reduction Act, in addition to other state energy programs.

ODOE’s Community Navigator program is designed to empower local communities throughout the state of Oregon in their pursuit of energy solutions. We believe that everyone deserves access to the resources and knowledge needed to create a more safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable future.

The Community Navigator Program works to:

- **Connect Communities:** We act as a bridge between state and federal funding opportunities, technical assistance programs, and local needs.
- **Foster Collaboration:** We facilitate communication and collaboration between communities, tribal governments, local organizations, and utilities.
- **Empower Local Solutions:** We provide the tools and support communities need to develop and implement their own energy projects, through building consensus and supporting their energy initiatives.
- **Data and Resources:** We provide access to valuable data and resources to inform decision-making processes.

With a focus on:

- **Environmental Justice Communities:** We prioritize assisting underserved communities that have been historically and are currently left behind in energy advancements. These are defined in ORS as:
 - Communities of Color
 - Communities experiencing lower incomes
 - Tribal communities
 - Rural communities
 - Coastal communities
 - Communities with limited infrastructure
 - Communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards



On the Road in Oregon

Community Navigator program staff have been writing a blog series, "[On the Road in Oregon](#)," that takes you on a journey through the heart of Oregon's diverse communities. In this series, we explore the work of the Community Navigator Program as its staff fosters connections and collaboration across the state. [Join us](#) as we uncover the stories, challenges, and triumphs of communities across Oregon, showcasing the power of community engagement and sustainable initiatives.

Pictured above, then-RARE Member Alice Weston joined Sustainable Northwest’s Upper Klamath Basin Listening Session. [Learn more.](#)

- **Renewable Energy Development:** We support the growth of clean energy projects in environmental justice communities.
- **Energy Efficiency:** We promote programs and initiatives that help communities save energy and reduce their carbon footprint.
- **Energy Resilience:** We assist communities in development plans and strategies to prepare for and respond to power outages and other energy disruptions.

Eighteen months after program launch, the Community Navigator has traveled to all 36 of Oregon’s counties and met with Tribal leaders of all nine federally recognized Tribes in person. They have traveled over 16,000 miles to meet with Tribal leaders, non-profit organizations, city managers, community colleges, irrigation districts, solar developers, economic development professionals, utilities, and so many more people who deeply care about their communities. Through these meetings, the Community Navigator program has connected communities in Oregon to over \$18 million in federal and state funding since May 2023.

While connecting to federal and state funding is key to the program, it is also important to recognize the role of the position in education and outreach. The Community Navigator program has participated in workshops, webinars, conferences, informational sessions, listening sessions, and small cities meetings all over the state. Education is a two-way street, and while the program informs communities on energy solutions, the Community Navigator is also learning as they listen to the needs, concerns, questions, and expertise of people across the state to help better inform the program development process for federal funding.

While meeting with organizations and governments, the Community Navigator learned about internal capacity constraints, while also understanding ODOE’s programmatic gaps that made it challenging for environmental justice communities to access ODOE’s current programs. To address some of these issues, they worked with C-REP program staff to create additional support for applicants by offering open office hours to applicants during the opportunity announcement phase. Participants also identified administrative burdens in the C-REP payment schedule. To support removing this barrier, the Community Navigator supported development of legislation that allows payments during construction, easing the financial burden on communities with limited flexibility. This legislation was ultimately passed as SB 1525 (2024).

Additionally, after two rounds of open opportunity announcements with ODOE’s Community Heat Pump Deployment program and recognizing a lack of engagement from Tribes, the Community Navigator worked with ODOE staff to develop legislation and rule changes that transferred remaining Community Heat Pump Deployment program (meant for homeowners) funds to the Rental Home Heat Pump Program, specifically earmarked for Tribal members. This allowed Tribal housing entities to use the funds for the rental properties that they manage. The community navigator also identified the need to allow Tribal Housing entities the ability to certify Tribal members as low-income, allowing the process to work more quickly through our incentive program system.

It is vital to meet with, talk to, listen to, and build meaningful relationships with environmental justice communities throughout Oregon for ODOE’s programs to work effectively for all Oregonians, and the Community Navigator Program has proven that a dedicated person is invaluable to this work.

ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES (ORS 182.550 SECTION 1)

The Oregon Department of Energy began to develop a strategic plan in 2019. Through the process, ODOE centered diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in both the research and writing of the plan as well as the implementation occurring through the end of 2024. By ensuring that DEI is rooted throughout each phase of the Strategic Plan, ODOE could view efforts through an equitable and inclusive lens both internal to the agency and external-facing programs. While DEI and environmental justice are not the same, ODOE emphasizes DEI in procedures and policies and incorporates environmental justice into agency operations and decision-making. By creating practices that prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion, we ensure that communities who have been historically and are currently excluded and defined as environmental justice communities are uplifted through meaningful engagement. Throughout this work, ODOE must consider the statutory authority, legislative budgetary allocations, and available data in each program. With this knowledge, ODOE can then begin to overlay understanding where the most affected environmental justice communities are and find intersectionality to best deliver programs that meet the needs of Oregonians.

To best understand ODOE’s process for incorporating environmental justice factors into agency operations and decision-making, it is important to first recognize the concepts and commitments outlined in the strategic plan, which are further highlighted and built upon in the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Plan and Strategic Approach](#) in June 2023:

- Acknowledgement that our organization and processes do not yet fully represent the dimensions of diversity in people and viewpoints in the state.
- Recognition that it will take more resources to ensure equity in the energy sector.
- DEI needs to be integrated throughout our strategic plan and we want ODOE to be held accountable to being a better partner.
- We need to build trust and develop relationships that will enable us to meaningfully engage with diverse communities.
- ODOE will show up with a spirit of openness, learning, and humility, and will commit to following up, sharing our lessons learned, and offering support through partnerships and action.

In the strategic plan there are five “imperatives” or focus areas. One of the imperatives is to “Build Practices and Processes to Achieve More Inclusive and Equitable Outcomes.” This is further outlined in the following initiatives that were progressed or restructured through 2024:

- Conduct assessment of current agency decision-making and advisory bodies to identify opportunities for more diverse representation.
- Develop a communication plan and engagement process collaboratively with historically and currently underserved populations and communities that includes actively listening, being responsive, and incorporating feedback in the development of programs, policies, and other areas of work.
- Build on existing Tribal engagement efforts by expanding internal responsibilities and resources, and reaching out to Tribes to assess and amplify shared interests and priorities.
- Enhance ODOE’s internship program to provide benefits to interns, such as paid positions and greater access to educational credits, to help build a more diverse network of ODOE and energy industry employees.

- Develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan in partnership with historically and currently underserved populations and communities.
- Create inclusive, multi-lingual communications to increase accessibility of agency program information and services.
- Conduct agency-wide DEI assessment and training to measure and increase employee knowledge, awareness, and skills.
- Collect and analyze demographic data to better inform ODOE’s work and to identify barriers to achieving equitable energy outcomes.

Additionally, ODOE must incorporate environmental justice factors into agency programs as required in Justice40 and HB 4077. HB 4077 provides a clear definition of environmental justice communities, which is also referenced in ODOE’s programs that are state funded, as “communities of color, communities experiencing low incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, Tribal communities, rural communities, remote communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure, communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards.” Justice40 uses the terminology “disadvantaged communities” for ODOE programs that are federally funded.

The Justice40 initiative is required by federal agencies in using grant funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This means that ODOE must demonstrate that at least 40 percent of the federal funding we receive for programs is benefiting communities who have been identified as “disadvantaged communities” in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Through a strict grant and federal reporting process, all decision-making is rooted in serving Oregon’s disadvantaged communities. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) “... uses datasets to identify indicators of burdens and shows these burdens in census tracts. Census tracts are small units of geography. Census tract boundaries for [statistical areas](#) are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau once every ten years.”

ODOE also recognizes that the CEJST tool is already outdated. Since 2010 when the census tracts were created and census data was collected in 2020, many communities have been devastated by wildfires and catastrophic weather events, experienced drought, suffered from economic loss, and other substantial incidents that may change the environmental impacts to their communities. A recognized challenge is the CEJST map does not completely align with environmental justice communities considered by the State.

For programs and activities that are not federally funded or do not have a specific reference to the HB 4077 definition, ODOE relies on the agency’s strategic plan focus on currently and historically underserved communities and populations, Tribal governments, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and building agency practices and processes for more inclusive and equitable outcomes. To stay informed of community impacts, ODOE relies on other agency mapping tools such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development [eligibility mapping tool](#) and census data as a resource, though not for decision-making.

With an evolution of guidance from the federal government and the continued efforts of the state, ODOE recognizes that this work is adaptive and ongoing. A new staff position, the GIS Analyst, will help track environmental justice issues that have been identified.

Internal to the agency, there are efforts to share information about environmental justice issues that have been identified through funding opportunities, community need as determined by those who are affected, and the development of new programs, reports, or other projects. This information sharing

occurs within teams as well as across the agency through processes like internal engagement roundtables and office hours that center on learning about organizations and the communities they serve, internal presentations at team meetings, and providing feedback on draft reports and plans.

As noted earlier, the Energy Facility Siting division provides a look at an area of ODOE's operations where environmental justice is not an explicit statutory consideration. The statutory considerations are what the Council must use in making decisions about proposed energy projects. Developers may propose projects in rural parts of the state, which are considered environmental justice communities in HB 4077 and are also often within a Justice40 disadvantaged community as determined by the CEJST map – but are not framed this way in the siting process. The siting process and information required to demonstrate compliance with the siting standards is informed by Tribes and environmental justice communities that provide input through the process. This is an example of an intersection of work rather than an intentional, legislative requirement. New energy facilities must meet standards that protect natural and cultural resources, ensure public health and safety, and protect against adverse environmental impacts. A full list and further links to siting standards can be found here: [State of Oregon: Facilities – Siting Standards](#). Throughout the siting process there are times for community input demonstrated in this infographic: [EFSC-Process-Flowchart.pdf \(oregon.gov\)](#) and further described in detail in this public guide: [EFSC-Public-Guide.pdf \(oregon.gov\)](#). By hosting multiple opportunities for public participation, the Energy Siting Division incorporates environmental justice factors into its operations where possible and in line with the siting standards.

Solar Development and Farmland

In November 2024, the state's largest solar farm was approved on nearly 10,000 acres of active farmland in Morrow County, a rural area of Oregon that is an environmental justice community according to the definition provided in HB 4077, as well as a disadvantaged community according to the Justice40 definition. With almost 4 million solar panels that can produce up to 1,200 megawatts of power, there are potential negative economic impacts to the local economy as so much agricultural land is utilized.



In addition to all other state and local requirements, solar projects that propose to remove more than 12 acres of high-value farmland from production must also meet the requirements of a State Land Use Goal Exception. Specifically, they must justify multiple valid reasons for removing high-value farmland from production, which is protected by Land Use Goal 3 (Agriculture Lands). The company responsible for the proposed solar farm, Sunstone, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pine Gate Renewables, LLC (Sunstone), collaborated with the community and local government to address the potential long term economic burdens to the surrounding dryland wheat producers – and through their action were able to justify an exception to Goal 3 by setting up a new agricultural mitigation fund with Morrow County. Through this fund, Sunstone will contribute \$1,179 per acre for the 9,400 acres in use at the start of construction. The fund, which will be administered by the county, will give money to dryland winter wheat farming projects.

As far as ODOE staff is aware, Sunstone is the first solar development company in Oregon that has taken action to address the economic impact of their project in this way. They went beyond a one-time offset and instead determined what the net benefit could be and translated that in a dollars-per-acre solution that is acceptable to them and to the community. Throughout the process, ODOE has communicated with Sunstone to better understand the process and will share information in 2025 for other solar developers to follow as a best practice that will benefit environmental justice and disadvantaged communities through meaningful engagement and end results.

As noted above, the Energy Facility Siting division also serves as staff to the [Energy Facility Siting Council](#). The council has [seven members](#) who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate. Members are selected to understand, evaluate, and deliberate complex issues associated with proposed facilities and how those facilities affect people, habitat, and communities. Appointees are also selected to ensure broad geographic representation. Council meetings are open to the public, and public involvement is built into the council's review. While the Council may not always expressly name environmental justice factors, several standards of review may overlap with environmental justice and are in place to protect communities.

An example of this intersectionality is seen in 345-022-0090, Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources. This standard often requires communication and collaboration with Tribal governments. Tribal governments are encouraged to enter into inter-governmental agreements with ODOE so that Tribal government staff can be compensated for their time in reviewing information about proposed projects and potential impacts. Through government-to-government communication and culturally specific practices, the Energy Facility Siting Division can work within the process to support environmental justice efforts. As described above, in 2024, Siting Division staff began exploring a new rulemaking idea that could improve notification and collaboration with Tribes and expects that rulemaking discussion to continue in 2025.

At present, ODOE is committed to building community outreach tools, methods, and practices that create root-cause solutions that prioritize environmental justice communities. Through developing communication plans and accessibility plans, for instance, we will be better situated to hear from environmental justice communities who are most affected by energy policies and decisions. By addressing barriers, ODOE will be better situated to center an inclusive and equitable engagement approach to best identify the priorities in environmental justice communities.

While ODOE does create communication plans and engagement processes, it is challenging to do so collaboratively with historically and currently underserved populations because there is not an enterprise-wide method or mechanism for compensating people for their expertise, time, and insight rooted in their lived experience.

ODOE has not created as many multi-lingual communications as desired or needed because there is a barrier to funding that is required for translation and interpretation services. An enterprise-wide solution that provides access to all agencies, thereby increasing accessibility of communications, would greatly benefit environmental justice communities in understanding how to access agency programs.

One way that the ODOE Communication's team has made information more available to people with visual impairments can be seen in the Biennial Energy Report's [Energy by the Numbers](#). The Oregon Energy Flow Diagram is a Sankey chart, with many layers, colors, columns, and rows. It is complex information and made even more challenging if a person has a visual impairment. This year the Communication's team created a [YouTube video](#) that verbally explains what the Sankey is and what it demonstrates.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT (ORS 182.535 SECTION 2)

The [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Plan and Strategic Approach](#) takes time to acknowledge that communities across the state have different communications and engagement needs—there is no one-size-fits-all approach. This is an important consideration when communicating and engaging with environmental justice communities. Some communities experience specific barriers to receiving messages from our agency or being able to engage with us. As a governmental agency, we recognize that we have power in our position and so it is our responsibility to provide space, time, and reduce barriers to meaningful engagement. Strategic planning has been important in creating a process for promoting community participation in agency decision-making processes as it leads to a root-cause analysis and lasting solutions that are embedded throughout the agency.

We have power in our position and so it is **our responsibility** to provide space, time, and reduce barriers to meaningful engagement.

While these high-level statements and approaches have been helpful, we are also creating tools to make specific actions applicable to specific programs and teams. As described in the 2023 Environmental Justice Report, ODOE is in the process of creating an Engagement Framework that will be broadly applicable to the entire agency. It will intentionally leave space for each program to adapt and apply the framework for the varying types of work that are tied to statutory direction and budget. The Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst is tasked with prioritizing environmental justice and disadvantaged community participation and will be working to finalize ODOE’s Engagement Framework. ODOE’s strategic plan had an initiative that called on ODOE to “develop a communication plan and engagement process collaboratively with historically and currently underserved populations and communities that includes actively listening, being responsive, and incorporating feedback in the development of programs, policies, and other areas of work” – but we recognized that it was not practicable and would not be meaningful to develop one “plan” and “process” for all of ODOE, since our work and associated authorities and budgets differ by divisions, sections, and teams. The actions in service to implementing this strategic plan initiative have been transformational for the agency, including the establishment of a monthly Engagement Roundtable and bi-weekly Tribal Engagement Office Hours, as well as the drafting of the Engagement Framework that emphasizes a consistent and inclusive path to engagement and centralizes templates, procedures, and other resources for ODOE programs and projects. The agency has a goal of finalizing the Engagement Framework in 2025 so that representatives of community-based organizations and environmental justice organizations, with financial support, can have time to review the draft and collaborate with ODOE in finalizing it. To create the draft, a group made up of staff from each section of the agency that are likely to be engaging externally worked through pilot projects and developed themes. The draft framework was also shared and discussed with an Equity Committee made up of representatives from other state energy offices (NASEO).

The Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst also participates in related advisory groups, councils, and workgroups to center the voices of environmental justice and disadvantaged communities throughout all ODOE’s work. Pivotal to the Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst’s work is consulting internally as staff build community outreach and benefit plans to help support meaningful feedback in decision-making in ODOE’s projects and programs.

An example of required public participation can be seen in the development of the Oregon Energy Strategy. This project must “...*be[ing] informed by robust stakeholder engagement and help[ing] Oregon achieve emissions reductions in line with state energy and climate policy goals.*” To accomplish this

legislative directive, the Energy Strategy team formed an advisory and multiple working groups to include Tribes, community members, organizations, government entities, utilities, and more. There have also been informational webinars, listening sessions, and a comment portal to create opportunities for meaningful conversations and hear about concerns or barriers people have identified. The team recognized that phase one of the project needed the input of people with data and technical understanding of modeling assumptions specific to two proprietary models. The “EnergyPATHWAYS” model calculates energy demand in the economy and the “Regional Investment and Operations platform (RIO)” model optimizes the energy supply options to meet the EnergyPATHWAYS demand. Phase two is focused on policy ideas to fill gaps or leverage opportunities surfaced through the modeling results and needs the input of people who have been working on policies and programs in communities and with industry. Rather than create a blanket group, ODOE meaningfully engaged with multiple parties based on their expertise, in the ways they needed, in order to both build relationships and create the best outcomes in the groups.

The Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst has been responsible for the Environmental Justice and Equity Working Group and has been leading and facilitating the discussions and follow up during the Oregon Energy Strategy project. As the lead, the analyst brings together advocates and organizations who are in or support environmental justice communities to ensure their voices are heard and they can provide feedback to the process and analyses. The Environmental Justice and Equity Working Group has been central to the development of the Energy Wallet, Geospatial Mapping, and Air Quality analyses, which provide information on some of the environmental, consumer energy costs, and health effects of different modeled energy pathways. The group has contributed data sources, lived experiences, professional critique, and ranked importance to prioritize environmental justice communities’ needs in the strategy. Imperative to the success of people’s participation was creating a pathway to provide honorarium for environmental justice organizations. This work is iterative and will continue through 2025.

Further engagement processes have been developed through the Community Navigator Program, where the program’s staff is focused on building relationships and visiting areas across the state to engage in conversations and better understand community needs with Tribal governments, organizations serving communities, and local governments. Through an intergovernmental agreement, the Community Navigator Program includes a Resource Assistance for Rural Environments ([RARE](#)) Member located in Southern Oregon. The RARE member is helping to develop deeper relationships across the state through gap analyses to better inform ODOE’s programs and services to equitably reach rural Oregonians.

In the 2023 Environmental Justice Report, ODOE outlined four culturally specific strategies and needs to best engage with environmental justice communities. While there has been progress in these areas, it is worth continuing to list them as works in progress:

- Continue to strengthen communication and engagement with Oregon’s Tribal governments. Systemic racism in the energy landscape particularly negatively affected Tribal communities in Oregon. ODOE has worked to strengthen our partnerships with Tribal governments in our communications and engagement work through a Tribal Liaison, regular communications with Tribal leadership, and participation in Legislative Commission on Indian Services meetings and events as well as seeking opportunities to highlight events and information from Tribes, such as through the [Oregon Energy History Timeline](#). Oregon’s energy system has evolved based on the state’s natural resources and in response to events like technology development and energy crises. Native American Tribes, as the original inhabitants of Oregon, have had their land base significantly diminished or completely removed – this altered the way natural resources were

traditionally managed and has resulted in an enduring change in the landscape that influences the options for our energy system today.

- Consider Oregonians and families whose first language is not English when developing communications materials. The agency tries to provide translated or translatable materials when possible. While ODOE’s information is primarily available electronically, the agency does provide some printed brochures and flyers in our office. Our Community Navigator Program staff keeps printed brochures and flyers on-hand for in-person events and meetings. Incentive flyers are translated into Spanish regularly, as are brochures specifically about the Hanford Nuclear Site and emergency preparedness activities. Materials about Hanford are also provided to Oregon counties within the emergency planning zone for display at their on-site offices. ODOE has a general agency brochure available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, and Russian. Some translation barriers remain, however. As noted above, it has been challenging to secure live translation services at in-person public meetings and the cost of translation and interpretation services is a barrier.
- Acknowledge and address, when possible, how the energy system continues to be affected by systemic racism. Historically, energy policy decisions and programs – such as tax credits – were more likely to benefit white and higher-income Oregonians. This topic was covered in a [policy brief in the 2020 Biennial Energy Report](#). Recent programs designed by the legislature have expanded ODOE’s reach, but barriers still remain, especially for Oregonians with low or moderate incomes. Trust in government also remains a barrier, as past government decisions negatively affected certain communities. It will take time and deliberate action on the part of state government to earn back trust from racial justice communities and environmental justice communities.
- Target communications toward Oregon’s rural communities to ensure they know about ODOE activities and programs. There continues to be barriers to participation among rural communities, especially for organizations or community groups that lack the time or capacity to engage in programs or policy discussions. ODOE’s engagement efforts are supporting this strategy through the Community Navigator and the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps Member in the [Community Navigator Program](#). ODOE’s Community Navigator program is designed to empower local communities throughout the state of Oregon in their pursuit of energy solutions.

In the 2023 Environmental Justice Report, ODOE outlined four Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance strategies to engage and promote participation with environmental justice communities. While there has been progress in these areas, it is worth continuing to list them as works in progress:

- Format materials with adequate font selection and font size, as well as contrasting colors, to help those with visual impairments. A good example is the agency’s Biennial Energy Report. We produce a printed version of the book that includes readable font sizes and strategic color choices when possible. Some report sections are also available as interactive webpages and YouTube videos, and each section is also available as downloadable PDFs that could be used with screen readers. In online versions, ODOE included alt-text to describe figures and illustrations so that people who use screen readers had the opportunity to better understand the visuals used to enhance the report.
- Design ODOE’s website with ADA considerations in mind. ODOE’s website has ADA-compliant and ADA-friendly features but has room for improvement. The agency will be updating to the latest SharePoint template in 2025 and plans to contract with Tyler Oregon for the work. The

new template is expected to have improved accessibility and reviewing its ADA compliance will be part of the Tyler Oregon work contract, including best practices for headers, font use, alt text for images, and other features.

- Offer hybrid in-person and virtual meetings and events to expand access geographically and among those needing ADA accommodation. COVID-19 led to ODOE’s public meetings going virtual. As the state recovers from the pandemic, ODOE continues to offer hybrid in-person/virtual or completely virtual meetings. A benefit of this approach has been built-in closed captioning and live translated transcription options for online meetings. The agency also posts videos to YouTube or the ODOE website for later viewing, where users with hearing impairments can use closed-captioning features.
- Include language in public hearing or meeting notices about how Oregonians can request accommodations to participate.

Through the Strategic Engagement Team, ODOE works to coordinate ongoing organizational analysis, outreach and engagement mapping, and organizational profile databases to help provide guidance to develop a measured and targeted approach that does not overwhelm external groups, especially those with limited capacity.

ODOE does not have a formal agency-wide public engagement policy, rather, teams rely on legislative or federal direction that may specify groups, advisory committees, and/or demographics of people to reach out to as well as internal procedures and checklists to support engagement. ODOE recognizes the burden placed on Tribes, organizations, individuals, and other government entities when we ask them to participate in projects and processes without cross-agency coordination and seeks to coordinate internally to determine how to engage efficiently and effectively.

As ODOE expands the way we meaningfully engage with environmental justice communities, there are times that required public participation occurs through advisory bodies and commissions described earlier in this report: the Oregon Climate Action Commission, the Energy Facility Siting Council, the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, and the Energy Advisory Work Group. Formal public participation is also required by legislation, such as the overall siting process or development of specific energy reports, as well as administrative rulemaking processes.

All federally funded, Justice40 covered programs are required to engage with disadvantaged communities to ensure that community partners are meaningfully involved in determining program benefits. Covered programs are also required to report data on the benefits directed to disadvantaged communities.

Beyond what is required, ODOE is working to build engagement and public participation into the fabric of the work to better understand community needs, impact, burdens, and measurements of success to continually build process improvement feedback loops. This effort can be seen with the development of federally directed Community Benefit Plans for programs like HOMES and HEAR as well as new positions such as the GIS Analyst.

Part of creating feedback loops is finding ways to follow-up with communities. ODOE views participation from community groups as ongoing and long-term. As an agency, we are always working to build two-way relationships that center listening to communities and then putting what we hear into practice when it is possible. If it is not possible, ODOE evaluates the barriers and provides context to community members. The goal is to

ODOE is working to build engagement and public participation **into the fabric of the work** to better understand community needs, impact, burdens, and measurements of success to continually build process improvement feedback loops.

constantly evolve and up-level to implement more useful and timelier evaluations.

AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPACTS (ORS 182.550 SECTION 3)

ODOE measures the effects of agency decisions on environmental justice in Oregon communities and is seeking to better understand them with more data. The types of agency decisions are varied and can range from funding decisions by ODOE’s Director to recommendations from ODOE’s Siting Division staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council for their ultimate decision on a specific energy facility application. ODOE’s Strategic Plan fleshed out the need to prioritize data collection, review, analysis, and sharing that shapes the recommendations made by the agency. In 2024 we worked toward those priorities through hiring a GIS Analyst, creating the Climate Team, and developing an iterative engagement process for the Oregon Energy Strategy. There is still work to be done in this realm to better understand the intersectionality of ODOE’s work and impact on environmental justice communities. As an agency, we are working to develop more mechanisms to collect and analyze data with a holistic approach.

Not only is providing data analysis and information one of ODOE’s key statutory responsibilities, it was also identified by staff and agency partners as an important ODOE service during outreach to inform development of our strategic plan. This is why serving as a “central repository of energy data, information, and analysis” is one of ODOE’s core position statements (what we do) identified in phase one of our plan. The agency is focused on strengthening our skills, systems, and structure for research, working with data providers, vetting analytical assumptions, and producing unbiased data and information that can serve as a foundation for the agency and for public use.

The strategic plan acknowledges the importance of data to the work that we do, both in terms of collecting that data and then turning it into information that is informative and useful. It will help us produce better reports, more quickly and accurately answer questions, and provide trusted, unbiased information to inform conversations, solve problems, provide educational resources, and administer programs.

A key element of this part of our strategic plan is to, where possible, collect demographic data to inform our work. The agency does not currently have a formal written policy or practice regarding the collection of race or ethnicity data, although where we do request this information for our programs, we include a statement about how the information will be used. For example, in our survey of existing agency advisory and decision-making bodies, our request for demographic data includes the statement:

“ODOE’s [2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#) highlights focus areas to expand and improve our stakeholder engagement and to build practices and processes to achieve more inclusive and equitable outcomes. We are asking these demographics-related questions to help us understand if our work is reaching diverse Oregonians.”

The demographic data that we voluntarily request from program and advisory body participants includes disaggregated race and ethnicity data in the following communities: Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic/Latinx, Middle Eastern or North African, Native American or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Slavic, white, or two or more races. The survey form also includes a “self-identify” category that the respondent can fill in.

It is our goal to use the demographic and community-specific data that we gather to inform policy development and program design. For our incentive programs, this information can also help us tailor our engagement strategies to better reach certain targeted populations and environmental justice communities. In addition to quantitative data about the populations we serve, ODOE seeks to use our

research and analysis tools as a platform to surface energy challenges faced by communities. For example, our Biennial Energy Report includes information on energy burden, which can help inform advocacy and policy making on behalf of energy burdened communities.

During outreach and engagement to inform our strategic planning process, ODOE was reminded that we can and should use the agency’s power and position to make changes and shift narratives, even where we may not have direct control over the outcome. We recognize that we have a responsibility to lift and amplify the voices of environmental justice, underrepresented, and marginalized communities. We are aware that the information and data we share can help others make changes and shift narratives.

AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRESS (ORS 182.550 SECTION 4)

Environmental Justice is built into ODOE’s [Strategic Plan](#). The development of the plan involved revising our mission statement to include, for example, “resilient and affordable,” “equitable clean energy transition,” and “current and future generations.”ⁱ The plan also clearly outlines objectives and initiatives that are rooted in “increasing engagement in historically and currently underserved populations and communities year-over-year” and: building practices and processes to achieve more inclusive and equitable outcomes throughout all programs and services offered.” ODOE outlined these and other imperatives, objectives, and initiatives that would help our agency better deliver on our mission. ODOE maintained [progress dashboards](#) to share information about how implementation of the initiatives and objectives were progressing over the four-year period.

Through the process of creating the Strategic Plan, ODOE identified an initiative to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan with historically and currently underserved populations, which is explicitly inclusive of environmental justice communities. ODOE has been working on implementing this initiative with the resources available, and in June 2023 published a [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Plan and Strategic Approach](#) in response to a request from Governor Kotek’s office. This DEI Implementation Plan and Strategic Approach further lays out how to center environmental justice communities into agency planning and action. Both of these guiding documents set a standard of culture within the agency.

ODOE deliberately considers environmental justice in policymaking, though there is not always a requirement to do so. For rulemaking, there is a statutorily required equity analysis, which can sometimes provide perspective about benefits, burdens, and barriers for environmental justice communities. Additionally, ODOE is required by the Governor’s office to share an equity analysis for agency-led legislation. In addition to doing the analysis, ODOE reaches out proactively to partners in the environmental justice community to get input on policy and legislation.

Consistent with the strategic plan, ODOE seeks to increase fluency of ODOE employees to build cultural humility that will lead to a greater understanding of the needs within environmental justice communities. This may require developing more in-depth community relationships, roundtable discussions, and further internal training. When employees have more knowledge of the diverse cultures of Oregonians, then they are better resourced to create inclusive practices and policies.

ⁱ ODOE’s Mission Statement in full reads: “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.”

ODOE’s approach to program development will be better served with input from environmental justice communities. As we have increased the amount of engagement with and requests for feedback from environmental justice communities, we can see that these communities are often resource- and capacity-constrained. To support their engagement, we look for ways to compensate people for their time and involvement. Where possible, we offer stipends to participants in our processes, such as the external evaluation committees that are established to help provide a competitive review of Community Renewable Energy Program grant applications. We also partner with organizations and consultants who can help with the process of providing compensation or honorarium as we have with the Environmental Justice Leaders Workgroup for Federal Funding and the Oregon Energy Strategy Environmental Justice and Equity Working Group. To further develop and implement environmental justice policies at ODOE, we need community participation in the process, and the community needs to be compensated for their time, energy, expertise, and sharing their lived experiences.

To further develop and implement this type of work that informs policy to address these systemic issues, ODOE needs to continue to explore processes and seek funding to equitably fund participants through the procurement or contracting as well as continued support from the Environmental Justice Council in creating a statewide tool.

AGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING TOOL INVOLVEMENT (ORS 182.550 SECTION 5)

ODOE has a dedicated staff person, the Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst, assigned to the Environmental Justice Council as an agency liaison. The Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst attends all Environmental Justice Council sessions to understand the progress of the Council and report back to relevant ODOE staff members and offer any useful information to Council members from the perspective of ODOE. The Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst also attends relevant subcommittee meetings such as the Environmental Justice Mapping Subcommittee and the Environmental Justice Annual Report Workshops to collaborate and share information with agency partners. There are additional staff that have expertise in data and GIS mapping that have attended mapping subcommittee meetings and responded to requests as well. ODOE staff works with other natural resource agency partners to provide ODOE’s data, mapping tools, and other relevant information for the Environmental Justice Council to best develop an environmental justice mapping tool.

ODOE is excited to continue working with the Environmental Justice Council and agency partners in 2025 to share ideas. Right now, ODOE is heavily reliant on the CEJST mapping tool created under Justice40. The CEJST mapping tool is not up-to-date and does not fully reflect the needs of Oregonians who are the most impacted and vulnerable within environmental justice communities. ODOE would like to continue to share data, analysis, and gaps so that the Environmental Justice Council is able to consider the very tangible need for an accurate and present-day tool that will benefit Oregonians by providing funding and programmatic opportunities that lead to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable future. The Environmental Justice Council is also in a unique position to see each agency report through a de-siloed lens that will provide an opportunity to bring agencies together in this work.

Legislation that includes language regarding meaningful engagement for ODOE is found in:

HB 3409 Section 2 (e): Consistent with applicable federal and state laws, consulting with the Oregon [Climate Action] Commission and the Environmental Justice Council and using, when appropriate, the environmental justice mapping tool developed under section 12, chapter 58,

Oregon Laws 2022, when considering or evaluating for development or implementation the policies and actions described in this subsection.

HB 3409 Section 63: The Oregon [Climate Action] Commission shall establish a process for consultation with representatives of federally recognized Indian Tribes in this state to advise the commission on the performance of its duties under sections 53 to 63 of this 2023 Act, including the identification of opportunities to support indigenous practices and knowledge from tribal nations to sequester and store carbon on natural and working lands. Nothing that meets the definition of “meaningful involvement” as defined in this document.

HB 3630, Section 1: The State Department of Energy shall establish a program to provide assistance related to energy projects and activities to environmental justice communities, as defined in ORS 469A.400. At a minimum, the program must provide environmental justice communities with information regarding: (1) Funding resources. (2) Technical assistance. (3) Other support that may be available.

In implementing this language from HB 3630, ODOE developed the Community Navigator program and Community Navigator position to purposefully work to build meaningful engagement and long-term, mutual relationships with environmental justice communities.

HB 5016, the Department of Energy agency budget bill, included funding for the Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst. This bill does not specifically outline meaningful engagement; however, this position was designed to support HB 4077 and the Justice40 Initiative. Both HB 4077 and the Justice40 Initiative require direct and meaningful engagement with environmental justice and disadvantaged communities.

When multiple agencies are listed in legislation, there is usually one agency that is listed first as the lead agency. Depending on the language in the bill, the other agencies listed can act in cooperation or coordination, which may look like co-leadership or close collaboration. In most instances, agencies work in consultation with a lead agency or agencies. The level of collaboration or engagement between agencies is dependent upon each agency’s capacity to participate. When ODOE is the lead agency, we proceed mindfully and communicate from the beginning of the process to hear what will work for other agencies in either a coordination or consulting role.

Visit ODOE's website to follow [our budget process and legislative session priorities](#) in 2025.

LOOKING AHEAD

ODOE has worked to develop a culture that values diversity of thought, inclusivity, and equitable outcomes. There has been significant progress to guide these efforts by creating a Strategic Plan and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Plan and Strategic Approach. By examining the mission and values and attaching tangible outcomes, ODOE has laid the groundwork for a meaningful future. To continue to evolve this work, ODOE has included a policy option package in our Agency Request Budget that creates a new position dedicated to internal diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging to foster an inclusive and welcoming workplace through initiatives that value and celebrate DEIB among all employees. While this is not directly connected to environmental justice, ODOE believes that when we purposefully create an agency that prioritizes and values the unique differences of employees, that sentiment will be carried forward into external facing programs. This can have a direct benefit to better support environmental justice communities across the state.

ODOE recognizes that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach, rather a **need for a mindful approach** that works to connect Oregonians to their specific energy needs, addresses concerns, and uplifts their interests.

There is a lot of work to do with an influx of federal funding that must adhere to Justice40 requirements, and ODOE wants to do more than check a box. Because time has been taken to develop an ethos of care, empathy, reflection, inclusion, curiosity, and collaboration, ODOE staff are excited to fulfill the mission and build toward solutions that center equity. ODOE recognizes that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach, rather a need for a mindful approach that works to connect Oregonians to their specific energy needs, addresses concerns, and uplifts their interests.

The Oregon Energy Strategy’s final written report is due to the Governor and Legislature November 1, 2025. ODOE will continue its progress and outreach to federally recognized Tribes, relevant agencies, and environmental justice organizations across the state throughout the process. It will further build on state laws, policies, and targets regarding energy and greenhouse gas emissions; existing energy and integrated resource plans; and energy-related studies and data analysis.

ODOE is preparing for a federal administration change. To date, it is unknown what the exact changes will be to the Justice40 Initiative and relevant federal partners. ODOE is clear in its mission and will continue to uphold its prioritization of environmental justice communities throughout its work as it remains possible through statute, legislative program design, and funding. As more information becomes available, we are happy to provide context to the Environmental Justice Council.

Environmental Justice in ODOE’s Strategic Plan

Both the 2021-2024 [Strategic Plan](#) and the [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Plan and Strategic Approach](#) have been mentioned throughout this report as guiding documents. For a further summation of the strategic plan with infographics, please use this link: [2021-ODOE-Strategic-Plan-Summary.pdf \(oregon.gov\)](#). ODOE is in the process of developing its new strategic plan, which will be developed with review and recommendations from the [Energy Advisory Work Group](#) as well as input and feedback from others. The development of the new plan will be a focus of the 2025 Environmental Justice Council Report.

Environmental Justice Barriers

In presenting this list of barriers, ODOE hopes that the Environmental Justice Council is able to approach this work holistically by connecting agencies and offering support in overcoming these challenges.

- **Staff capacity and training:** increase staff capacity to better understand environmental justice with the necessary training. Many natural resource agencies would benefit from staff dedicated to environmental justice to set and articulate a vision for environmental justice, develop agency level policies and procedures, and support practices across teams. Providing new and existing staff with enterprise-wide, required training on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging concepts will establish a level setting foundation. This would enable agencies to build off this foundation with more advanced training in environmental justice (e.g. identifying communities, environmental justice assessments, environmental justice engagement strategies, etc.) and related training such as facilitation, conflict management, plain language, and culturally relevant communication.
- **Increase funding and budget support:** increased funding is crucial to support environmental justice efforts. This includes budget support for staff positions, community engagement

activities and events, community compensation for participation, legal costs, training, translation services, tools, and specific program initiatives.

- **Enterprise-wide policies and guidance:** The establishment of enterprise-wide policies, associated funding, and clear statewide direction on contracts and contracting to address priorities such as language translation and interpretation, community engagement vendor contracting, community compensation for participation, and administrative and legal support. This comprehensive approach is essential for the effective implementation of environmental justice policies.
- **Leadership and interagency collaboration on tools and resources:** it is important for agency leadership to consistently advocate for and resource environmental justice policies, opportunities for interagency collaboration, and guidance for staff. State agencies currently participate in the DAS Office of Cultural Change quarterly DEI Cohorts, which is a current example of interagency collaboration. Agency leadership continued participation in the DAS Office of Cultural Change quarterly DEI Cohorts can support this effort, but this alone will not address collaboration needs related to environmental justice. Agencies need interagency collaboration to share resources, best practices, and tools to effectively engage with environmental justice communities including GIS and data collection tools, translation services, communication platforms, and outreach materials. Coordination of agency community engagement also addresses concerns about overburdening community-based organizations and community member capacity when seeking feedback for public processes such as rule making, listening sessions, focus groups, etc.
- **Some limitations and barriers to community participation exist**, such as the lack of resources and employee time to dedicate to staffing energy specific programs. Additionally, many environmental justice groups have complex relationships with government entities that are rooted in mistrust, in part due to a lack of follow-through from agencies throughout history and currently. ODOE recognizes the importance of slowing down to build long-standing and ongoing relationships to demonstrate commitment to our environmental justice communities who have been and are marginalized and ignored.
- **While ODOE has invested in a Community Navigator Program**, it takes time to build meaningful connections with environmental justice communities. Relationship building is not always linear or fast moving; the process does not follow a governmental workflow. This can prove challenging when programs have timelines and sunset dates.
- **Environmental justice communities may lack the capacity** (time, funding, positions) to complete grant applications necessary to receive further funding and grants rarely provide enough administrative funding. Additionally, new energy technologies require workforce training that may not be available in environmental justice communities.
- **There is a need to provide greater technical and contracting assistance** to Tribal governments, environmental justice agencies, and municipal governments from the state.
- **The [Climate and Economic Justice Tool](#)** provided by the Justice40 Initiative has geographic gaps in that leaves out some environmental justice communities as defined by the state. This is especially apparent in communities who have suffered from catastrophic wildfires and extreme weather events in recent years.
- **Many opportunities for funding are through financial reimbursement**, but it can be difficult if not impossible to initially finance a project for environmental justice communities.

Environmental Justice Opportunities

While this is not an exhaustive list, it contains key priorities and opportunities for expansion in 2025:

- For the fiscal year 2024-2025, ODOE has an AmeriCorps Member from the [Resource Assistance for Rural Environments](#) (RARE) program through an intergovernmental agreement with the University of Oregon. This position is nested in the Community Navigator Program, is located in Illinois Valley, Oregon, and is providing key aid and expertise in developing resources for and relationships in rural communities for [Solar for All](#), [Grid Resilience Grant Program](#), and [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#). During their time with ODOE, they will build relationships with Tribes, environmental justice organizations, community action organizations, local governments, and utilities across the state. The focus of all RARE Members is the prioritization of rural parts of Oregon, which allows them time to build meaningful connections with that particular area of environmental justice communities.
- ODOE was legislatively directed to develop a “one-stop-shop model,” the Hub for Incentive Programs in Oregon, to provide communities with more consistent and centralized information about energy efficiency funding and programs to support improvements to their homes. A goal in this process is to reduce the number of touches, therefore addressing capacity issues and other burdens to communities.
- ODOE recognizes that there are systemic barriers for environmental justice communities to access and benefit from programs. ODOE’s 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, which ended in December 2024, included several initiatives to expand external engagement and support environmental justice communities. ODOE expects to develop a new strategic plan in 2025 that will build on those initiatives and emphasize opportunities to empower environmental justice communities.
- The Solar for All grant requires a year of planning and engagement in 2025, which will allow the program team to better understand the needs of environmental justice, disadvantaged, and low-income communities across Oregon as well as build relationships with organizations that support those communities. This will help the team better design the program to meet community needs and deliver benefits.
- ODOE will continue its work to develop the Oregon Energy Strategy through an iterative engagement process that encourages the participation of environmental justice communities. The final report on the Oregon Energy Strategy is due in November 2025.

DEFINITIONS

Environmental Justice: (ORS 182.535 Section 3)

“Environmental justice” means the equal protection from environmental and health risks, fair treatment and meaningful involvement in decision making of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration status, income or other identities with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies that affect the environment in which people live, work, learn and practice spirituality and culture.

Environmental Justice Community: (ORS 182.535 Section 4)

“Environmental justice community” includes communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, tribal communities, rural communities, remote communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities.

Meaningful Involvement: (ORS 182.535 Section 7)

“Meaningful involvement” means:

- (a) Members of vulnerable populations have appropriate opportunities to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment or health;
- (b) Public involvement can influence a decision maker’s decision;
- (c) The concerns of all participants involved are considered in the decision-making process; and
- (d) Decision makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of members of vulnerable populations

Environmental Burdens: (ORS 182.535 Section 2)

“Environmental burden” means the environmental and health risks to communities caused by the combined historic, current and projected future effects of:

- (a) Exposure to conventional pollution and toxic hazards in the air or in or on water or land;
- (b) Adverse environmental conditions caused or made worse by other contamination or pollution; and
- (c) Changes in the environment resulting from climate change, such as water insecurity, drought, flooding, wildfire, smoke and other air pollution, extreme heat, loss of traditional cultural resources or foods, ocean acidification, sea-level rise and increases in infectious disease.

APPENDIX A: RELEVANT LAW

[House Bill 4077 \(2022\)](#)

Legislation establishing the Environmental Justice Council, the Council’s responsibility to develop an environmental justice mapping tool, develop a biannual report to the Governor, and the requirement for natural resource agencies to submit an annual report to the Environmental Justice Council.

[Senate Bill 420 \(2007\)](#)

Legislation establishing the Environmental Justice Task Force, the predecessor for the Environmental Justice Council. It also includes requirements for the Task Force to submit biannual reports to the Governor and the requirement for natural resource agencies to submit an annual report to the Environmental Justice Task Force.

[ORS 182.550 Reports by natural resource agencies](#)

All directors of natural resource agencies, and other agency directors as the Governor may designate, shall report annually to the Environmental Justice Task Force and to the Governor on the results of the agencies’ efforts to:

1. Address environmental justice issues;
2. Increase public participation of individuals and communities affected by agencies’ decisions;
3. Determine the effect of the agencies’ decisions on environmental justice communities;
4. Improve plans to further the progress of environmental justice in Oregon; and
5. Utilize the environmental justice mapping tool developed under section 12 of this 2022 Act.

ACCESSIBLE LINKS USED IN DOCUMENT:

- **Energy Facility Siting Council:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/About-the-Council.aspx>
- **Oregon Global Warming Commission:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/Oregon-Global-Warming-Commission.aspx>
- **Hanford Clean-Up Board:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/safety-resiliency/Pages/OHCB-Meetings.aspx>
- **Energy Advisory Work Group:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Get-Involved/Pages/Energy-Advisory-Work-Group.aspx>
- **Oregon Department of Oregon Budget:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Pages/Budget.aspx>
- **Executive Order 14008:** <https://www.energy.gov/justice/justice40-initiative#:~:text=Section%20223%20of%20EO%2014008%20established%20the%20Justice40,infrastructure%20%E2%80%93%20to%20flow%20to%20disadvantaged%20communities%20>
- **Nuclear Safety & Emergency Preparedness:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/safety/Pages/default.aspx>
- **ODOE Facility Siting Process:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Documents/Fact-Sheets/EFSC-Process-Flowchart.pdf>
- **ODOE Facility Siting standards:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Pages/Siting-Standards.aspx>
- **Energy by the Numbers:** <https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/energy-by-the-numbers>
- **Oregon Solar Rebate Program:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/Solar-Storage-Rebate-Program.aspx>
- **Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding Incentive:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/EEWR.aspx>
- **Community Renewable Energy Grant Program:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/CREP.aspx>
- **Heat Pump Incentive Programs:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/heat-pumps.aspx>
- **Community Heat Pump Deployment Program:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/CHPDP.aspx>
- **Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Incentives/Pages/ORHHPP.aspx>
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Plan and Strategic Approach:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Documents/2023-ODOE-DEI-Implementation-and-Approach.pdf>
- **Energy Facility Siting Council members:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/facilities-safety/facilities/Documents/General/EFSC-members.pdf>
- **United States Census Bureau:** <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/geography-acs/geography-boundaries-by-year.html>
- **USDA Eligibility Mapping Tool:** <https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do;jsessionid=OiNpklYb1HA2YPCbVHTeelhU>

- **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST):** <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/about#3/33.47/-97.5>
- **Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE):** <https://rare.uoregon.edu/>
- **ODOE Advisory and Stakeholder Groups:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Get-Involved/Pages/Advisory-Stakeholder-Groups.aspx>
- **Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:** https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2021/01/f82/SEP-fact-sheet_2021.pdf#:~:text=The%20State%20Energy%20Program%20%28SEP%29%2C%20part%20of%20the,advance%20state-led%20energy%20initiatives%2C%20and%20increase%20energy%20affordability
- **Inflation Reduction Act:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/inflation-reduction-act-guidebook/>
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act:** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/02/updated-fact-sheet-bipartisan-infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act/>
- **Justice40 Initiative:** <https://www.energy.gov/justice/justice40-initiative>
- **ODOE Energy Info, By the Numbers:** <https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/energy-by-the-numbers>
- **2021-2024 ODOE Strategic Plan:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Pages/Strategic-Plan.aspx>
- **ODOE Strategic Plan Progress Dashboard:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Documents/2023-Q3-SP-Progress-Dashboard.pdf>
- **2021 ODOE Strategic Plan Summary:** [oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Documents/2021-ODOE-Strategic-Plan-Summary.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/energy/About-Us/Documents/2021-ODOE-Strategic-Plan-Summary.pdf)
- **HOMES and HEAR:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Documents/Federal-Home-Energy-Rebates-FAQ.pdf>
- **Community Navigator Program:** <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/resources/Pages/Community-Navigator.aspx>
- **Justice40 Initiative | Department of Energy:** [https://www.energy.gov/justice/justice40-initiative#:~:text=Section%20223%20of%20EO%2014008%20established%20the%20Justice40,infrasture%20%E2%80%93%20to%20flow%20to%20disadvantaged%20communities%20\(DACs\)](https://www.energy.gov/justice/justice40-initiative#:~:text=Section%20223%20of%20EO%2014008%20established%20the%20Justice40,infrasture%20%E2%80%93%20to%20flow%20to%20disadvantaged%20communities%20(DACs))

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

