

Heat pumps at Coquille High School and new gym lighting at Mt. Angel.









Heat Pumps at Estacada Middle School

The Oregon Department of Energy has been serving Oregon public schools statewide for more than 40 years. We provide expertise to support energy efficiency practices and projects, which helps our schools create better learning environments for the next generation of Oregonians.

Our public schools are a vital part of our community, helping students learn and thrive. The Oregon Department of Energy has proudly worked with every school district across the state on energy analysis of facilities, and energy-saving ideas and projects.

Investing in energy-efficient and fleet electrification projects results in:

-  Lower utility bills
-  Increased comfort
-  Improved lighting
-  Improved air quality
-  Decreased energy-related maintenance issues
-  An improved learning and teaching environment for students and educators

What services can the Schools Team provide?

Expertise and Advice

Tell us about your district's energy usage, project needs, or what your school needs to be successful. Are your buildings too cold? Running up high electricity bills? Leaking air through outdated windows? We're here to listen and brainstorm solutions with you.

Energy Partners and Resources

The Oregon Department of Energy's team can connect you with our energy partners, including the U.S. Department of Energy and Better Buildings, ENERGY STAR Schools, Oregon utilities, and others.

Educational Opportunities

Our engineers and experts enjoy visiting classrooms at all learning levels, from joining Career Day panels to talking about basic energy concepts, energy saving tips, and supporting student "green teams."

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

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Oregon's Energy Efficient Schools Program



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What financial or incentive programs are available to my school?

Public Purpose Charge (SB 1149) Schools Program

Senate Bill 1149 (1999) requires that Oregon's two largest investor-owned utilities, Portland General Electric and Pacific Power, collect a Public Purpose Charge from customers. Ten percent of those funds are provided to public schools in PGE and Pacific Power service areas for energy audits, energy efficiency projects, fleet audits, electric vehicles, and charging stations. In cooperation with the school districts, ODOE facilitates the administration of the Public Purpose Charge (SB 1149) Schools Program.

Utility Resources

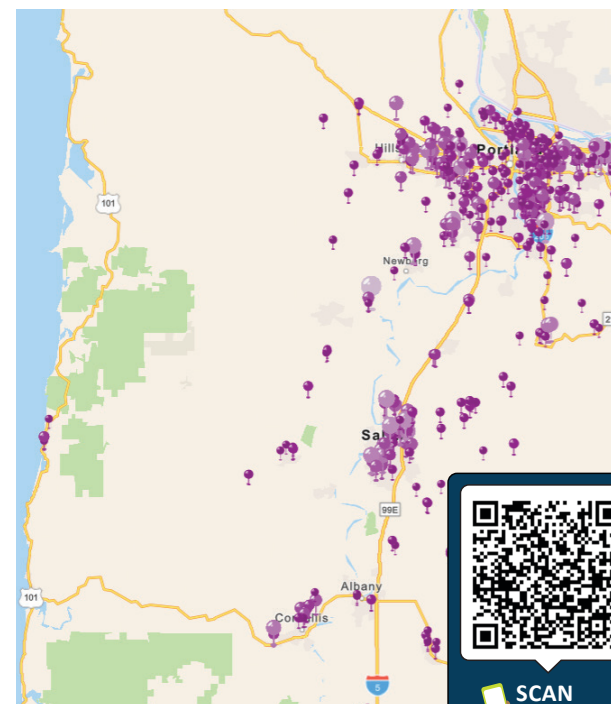
Your local utilities may have additional resources available, such as technical staff for assistance on projects and/or incentives. Our Schools Team can help connect you with your local utility or you can contact them directly to find out how they can help. Schools within PGE, Pacific Power, Northwest Natural, Cascade Natural, and Avista utility territories can work with Energy Trust of Oregon for available incentives.

The Public Purpose Schools Program has funded **more than 4,000 projects** resulting in an estimated **annual savings of over \$13 million** since it began in 2002.

Energy Saving Performance Contracting

Performance contracting uses a single procurement method to complete a package of services through an energy services company or ESCO. The ESCO can provide "turnkey" services and perform energy efficiency improvements. It guarantees energy savings and delivers a project that should pay for itself in energy savings. We offer guidance to help schools understand how to use this service.

Explore an interactive map of completed projects



Mt. Angel School District

The district, like many other school districts in Oregon, has been working toward upgrading its lighting with new more efficient LED options.

In 2024 and 2025, the district upgraded its interior lighting at all three schools to LED options with Public Purpose Charge funds and Energy Trust incentives. These lighting upgrades are estimated to save this smaller district over \$11,000 each year in energy costs.

Coquille School District

After completing several energy efficiency projects, this Southern Oregon school district had identified two schools for priority upgrades to HVAC systems: Coquille Jr./Sr. High School and Lincoln School of Early Learning. The district worked with ODOE and Energy Trust in 2024 and 2025 on upgrading the HVAC to ductless mini-split heat pumps throughout both schools.

The ductless heat pumps will provide much more efficient heating and cooling to these schools, a more comfortable learning environment, and an estimated cost savings of about \$9,000 each year back to the school district.

