



Climate-Friendly Areas

The Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities rules facilitate the development of walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods in Oregon's eight metropolitan areas.

What is a Climate-Friendly Area?

A climate-friendly area is an area where people are able to meet most of their daily needs without relying upon a car. They are urban mixed-use areas that contain, or are planned to contain, a mixture of high-density housing, jobs, businesses, and services. These areas are served, or planned for service, by high quality pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure to provide frequent and convenient connections to key destinations within the city and region.



Why are Climate-Friendly Areas important?

To help the state meet its climate pollution goals, more development will need to occur in urban areas where residents, workers, and visitors are less dependent upon single vehicle trips. Over the last 100 years planning practices have served to separate activities, creating greater inequities within cities and widespread dependence upon the automobile to meet daily needs. Climate-friendly areas will help to reverse these negative trends.

Metropolitan Cities to Designate and Plan for Climate-Friendly Areas

The new rules require cities (and some urbanized county areas) with a population greater than 5,000 in metropolitan areas to adopt regulations allowing walkable mixed-use development. Areas within cities and urbanized counties with a population greater than 10,000 will be sized to accommodate a portion of the community's housing, jobs, and services. Local governments will determine where these areas will be located, and many of these areas will likely be established in existing downtowns that may currently allow for mixed uses and higher densities. Associated requirements will ensure that high quality pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure is available within these areas to provide convenient transportation options. As the Portland Metro region has already similar requirements, the rules operate differently in that region, reinforcing the existing Climate Smart Strategy program.

The rules provide a process for local governments to first designate climate-friendly areas, then later to adopt development standards for those areas. The rules provide some minimum requirements for climate-friendly areas, with a set of clear and objective standards that may be adopted, or a process for local governments to craft their own standards. Cities of 10,000 or more will monitor housing production within these areas over time and develop strategies to facilitate desired development.

Rules Language is available at <https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/CL/Pages/CFEC.aspx>

Questions?

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