



Building Back Better and Cleaner: 100% Clean Power + Electrify Everything

2021 Oregon Legislative Priorities

As our state struggles with the health and economic harms of the deepening climate crisis, racial injustices, and the COVID-19 pandemic, we have a unique opportunity to address all of these issues together by building back more sustainably and equitably. We can draw down our use of fossil fuels and avoid locking in harmful climate pollution for the next generation, while creating good jobs that drive a sustained economic recovery across the state. These legislative priorities ensure we reduce our climate pollution and rebuild our economy, while supporting frontline communities experiencing the worst impacts.

Enact statewide commitment to 100% clean energy for all ([HB 2021](#))

Oregonians deserve cleaner air, energy independence, and community resilience. Fossil gas (from gas power plants and direct uses like heating and industry) is currently Oregon's second-largest source of climate pollution. Legislation that requires our electric utilities to transition from fossil gas and coal to 100% clean and carbon-free power from sources like wind, solar and storage over the coming decades will help protect the air we breathe and our climate. A zero-emission electric sector will serve as the clean energy backbone to power our buildings, transportation, and industries. This policy, already passed by seven other states, will also generate economic development opportunities and family-wage jobs for clean energy, storage, and transmission projects.

Advance toward cleaner, healthier, more efficient buildings

Currently, many of the buildings in which we live and work waste energy, generate excessive pollution, and harm our health. We must ensure new buildings are super energy-efficient, powered by clean electricity instead of fossil fuels, and create good-paying jobs for the local workforce. Largely driven by local climate action goals, cities and counties are increasingly looking for ways to advance energy efficiency in buildings being constructed in their jurisdiction.

- **Energy efficient local building codes ([HB 2398](#); "Reach code"):** Authorize cities and counties to adopt the state Reach Code as their mandatory building code, ensuring new buildings are being built with stronger energy efficient standards.

- **Appliance efficiency** ([HB 2062](#)): Increase energy efficiency standards for new appliances consistent with other West Coast jurisdictions, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and saving money.
- **Extend ETO** ([HB 3141](#)): Extend the public purpose charge to ensure utility and Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) programs for renewables and energy efficiency continue.
- **Consumer Choice** ([HB 3106](#)): Enable utility customer incentives for purchasing high efficiency electric appliances.

Accelerate transportation electrification

The transportation sector is Oregon's biggest source of climate pollution. Air pollution from this sector disproportionately harms low-income and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. We must rapidly electrify our transportation sector in order to achieve our climate goals and improve public health for all Oregonians, as well as create good jobs.

- **EV incentives** ([HB 2165](#)): Extend state EV incentive program (set to expire in 2023), including low-income incentives for new and used EVs (Charge Ahead program). This policy also enshrines utilities' role in installing EV charging infrastructure.
- **EV-ready building codes** ([HB 2180](#)): Require new residential, commercial and multi-family developments be built ready to support the installation of EV chargers.

Facilitate a Just Transition to a clean energy economy

As we transition to a clean energy economy, our critical priorities are creating good family-wage jobs and economic opportunities across Oregon; addressing longstanding injustices; and ensuring that frontline communities are represented at all decision-making tables, prioritized, and benefit from clean energy investments.

- **Energy affordability** ([HB 2475](#)): Establish energy bill protections for low income utility ratepayers, and support frontline organizations' engagement at the Oregon Public Utility Commission.
- **Healthy Homes** ([HB 2842](#)): Increase efficiency and weatherization of homes for low income families.
- **Buy Clean/Buy Fair** ([HB 2688](#)): Ensure public projects utilize sustainably-manufactured products.
- **Equity and Climate in Land Use** ([HB 2488](#)): Amends Statewide Land Use Planning Goals to 1) address climate change and reduce emissions, and 2) promote the participation of disadvantaged and historically underserved communities.