

Energy Resilience Planning Grants for Oregon Counties

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3630, which allocated financial assistance to Oregon counties to develop and adopt an energy resilience plan that would be incorporated into the county's natural hazard mitigation plan. **Each county is eligible for \$50,000 in technical assistance grants from the Oregon Department of Energy** to support the development of such plan.

Energy Resilience Planning Grants are issued through a non-competitive grant program available to every county in Oregon. To receive the grant, counties must apply for a technical assistance grant through the Oregon Department of Energy. Counties can use the grant money to pay for county staff to develop the plan or to hire/contract with a technical assistance provider to prepare the plan. Additionally, counties can coordinate and combine grant funding, if desired.

In accordance with HB 3630, plans developed under this grant program must:

- Be based on a plan for short-, medium-, and long-term power outages.
- Identify and map energy infrastructure, natural hazard risks, and – in consultation with representatives from local environmental justice communities – areas that experience social vulnerability.
- Identify potential locations for community resilience centers, prioritizing areas that experience social vulnerability.
- Inventory the energy consumption needs of critical public services facilities.
- Identify critical public service facilities that could enhance community resilience if served with backup power systems.
- Identify opportunities to align energy infrastructure development with critical public service facilities.
- Identify schedules, priorities, and potential funding sources for developing energy resilience
- Identify other actions and resources needed to implement the energy resilience plan.

The Oregon Department of Energy will launch the program this spring and will reach out to Oregon counties with more information.

What is an Environmental Justice Community?

In 2022, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 4077, which defined environmental justice communities as: communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, Tribal communities, rural communities, remote communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure, and communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards

What is Social Vulnerability:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines Social Vulnerability as the susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards, including disproportionate death, injury, loss, or disruption of livelihood.

