



CITY OF BEND



Community Climate  
Action Plan

# Community Climate Action Plan

## Executive Summary



## What is the Community Climate Action Plan?

The Bend Community Climate Action Plan is a community solution that brings us together



Photo: Elemental Energy

## Why Must We Act?

Climate change directly impacts Bend's residents, economy, and the natural environment that makes this area so special. To mitigate the most severe impacts of climate change, dramatic changes are needed internationally, regionally, and locally.

Bend residents have made themselves clear – the Bend community wants community-based action to address climate change. Bend is a community that is deeply connected to its natural resources, both for their aesthetic and economic value. For these reasons, it is especially important to protect these resources in the face of climate change. In 2016, the Bend City Council responded to the community's interest in climate action and set climate action goals. Bend's climate action goals are to reduce fossil fuel use by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050.

The Bend Community Climate Action Plan is our roadmap to reach these goals. It includes a set of strategies and actions that will guide the City and community as we work together to reduce our fossil fuel use.

***Bend must do its part to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.***

Central Oregon is already feeling the impact of climate change through more frequent and intense wildfires, hotter temperatures, higher likelihood of drought, and decreased winter snowpack.<sup>1</sup> These impacts are expected to accelerate over time.



<sup>1</sup> Mote, Phillip et al., Northwest: Climate Change Impacts in the United States: The Third National Climate Assessment, U.S. Global Change Research Program (2014): Ch1: 489.

# What is Bend's Climate Impact?

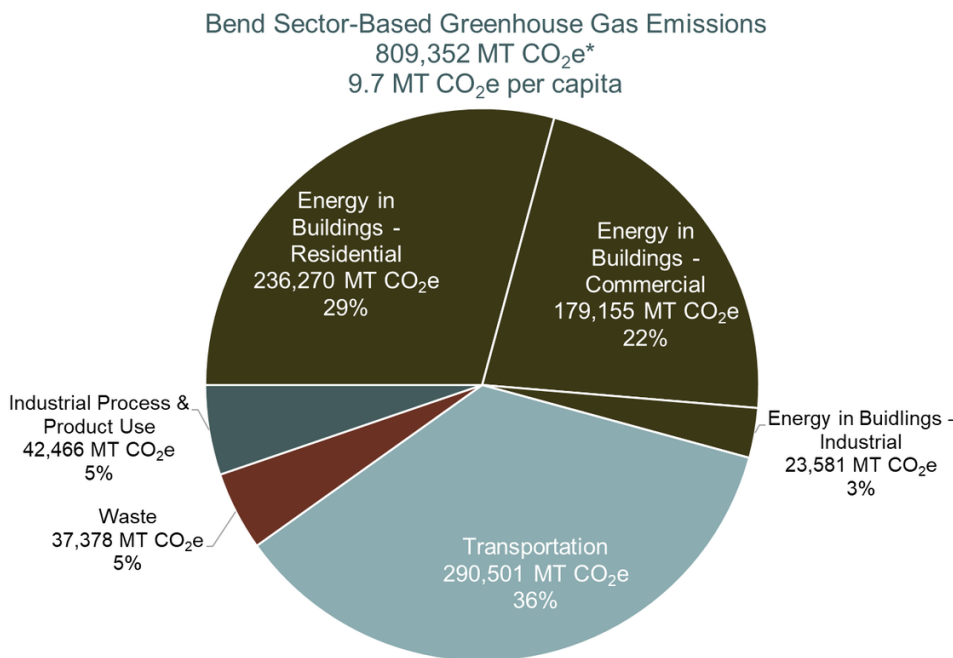
## Local Emissions

The results of a Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory conducted in 2018 show that “the Bend community generated 809,352 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) of local, sector-based emissions.<sup>2</sup> For sense of scale, this quantity of emissions is equivalent to the carbon sequestered annually by over 1 million acres of average U.S. forest – a land area about 50 times the size of the City of Bend” (Good Company 2018). Bend’s emissions are similar in many ways to other communities in Oregon. These emissions come from:

- 
Combustion of natural gas and electricity use in buildings
- 
Gasoline and diesel combustion in vehicles used to transport people and goods
- 
Waste, including landfill disposal of community solid waste and wastewater treatment
- 
Local industrial process and product use, including refrigerant gas loss (leaks) from buildings and vehicles, and natural gas loss from the local distribution system



**Figure 1. Bend Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions**



While these sector-based emissions represent locally generated emissions, they do not represent Bend’s entire climate impact. Bend’s climate footprint also includes emissions from the production and transportation of goods, food and services consumed in Bend. These are considered “consumption-based emissions” and, when taken into account, they effectively double Bend’s climate impact. While these emissions are not explicitly included in Bend’s fossil fuel goals, they are important to address and there are strategies in this Plan that will help reduce them.

<sup>2</sup> Sector-based emissions inventories (or in-geographic boundary inventories) include local emissions, within the City’s boundaries, from energy use by homes, businesses, and vehicles as well as emissions from landfilling solid waste and wastewater treatment.

## A Community Solution

The vision for Bend's Community Climate Action Plan is to have neighbors, businesses, and community leaders working together to preserve our natural environment while promoting economic opportunity and resilience for current and future generations. To achieve these goals, everyone must do their part to reduce their impact. To make this possible, the City co-created this plan with the community through extensive public and stakeholder engagement.

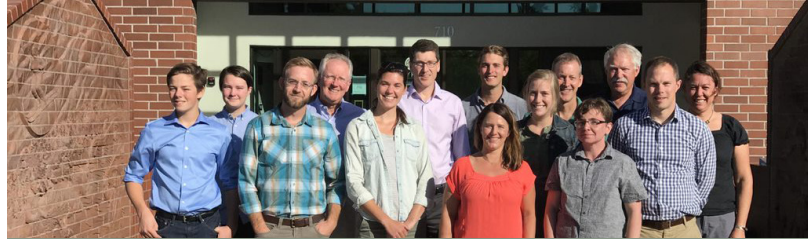
### How Was the Plan Developed?

The City of Bend appointed a 13-person Climate Action Steering Committee to develop the strategies and actions in this Plan. The Committee represented diverse interests and stakeholders across the community, including the business community, environmental organizations, government agencies and institutions, youth, subject matter experts, and at-large community members.

To gain feedback from the broader Bend community, the City and Committee:

- Conducted eight technical working group meetings with subject matter experts and interested community members to solicit ideas and expertise about potential solutions the community could implement to achieve the climate action goals.
- Solicited feedback on these ideas from the general public via two online surveys that received around 2,400 responses and more than 30 presentations to community groups.
- Worked with technical consultants to conduct more than 40 stakeholder interviews about specific strategies to gather Bend-specific data to inform the greenhouse gas modeling used for this Plan.

For more detail about how this Plan was developed, see Appendix A.



### Project Timeline

- Spring 2018**  
City hires a Sustainability Coordinator to staff the planning effort and the City Council appoints the 13-person Climate Action Steering Committee.
- Summer 2018**  
The Climate Action Steering Committee develops a vision for the Community Climate Action Plan and creates objectives for different sectors.
- Fall 2018**  
The Committee hosts working group meetings with stakeholders (both community members and experts) to brainstorm potential climate actions for further consideration. These actions describe ways citizens, businesses, and institutions in Bend can reduce their fossil fuel use.
- Winter 2019**  
Members of the general community share feedback on the working groups' proposed action ideas through an online survey.
- Spring 2019**  
The Committee and the City work with partners and technical experts to identify and quantify the impact of 15 specific strategies and actions to include in this Plan.
- Summer 2019**  
The City hosts an online open house to collect a final round of feedback and ideas for additional strategies to include in the Plan. The Committee takes the comments into account, makes final adjustments to the recommendations, and incorporates five additional strategies.
- Fall 2019**  
Committee and City staff meet with the City Council Stewardship Subcommittee to solicit feedback and receive policy guidance on certain elements of this Plan. The Committee then presents the full Plan to City Council for deliberation.



The result of this collaboration is a collection of strategies that were proposed and vetted by the community. The strategies will encourage, motivate, and assist the Bend community in reducing its fossil fuel use.

**13** Climate Action Steering Committee Meetings

**8** technical working group meetings

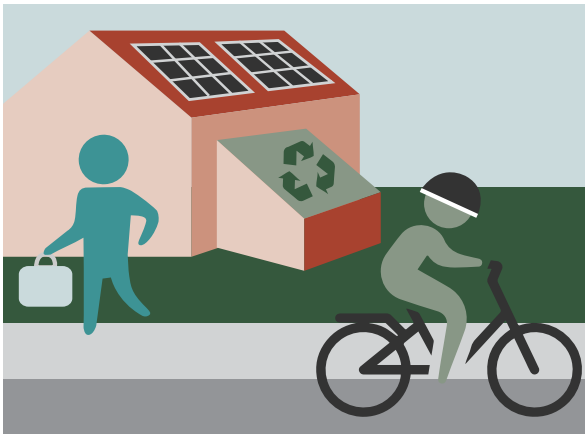
**181** written public comments on draft strategies

**Approx. 2,400** survey responses and online open house views

**Approx. 30** community presentations

**Over 40** stakeholder interviews

# How Will We Get There?



To achieve our climate action goals, we must work together to reduce our emissions. The community helped create this Plan, and the community has a key role in implementing it. This means that the City must partner with other public agencies, the private sector, and community organizations to implement plan strategies. In addition, residents and businesses will need to utilize the new programs and investments suggested in this Plan to reduce their own emissions.

This Plan is organized into four distinct sectors that drive emissions in different ways. The Plan includes specific strategies and actions for each sector that will help us meet our climate action goals. The chart below lists the strategies for each sector:



## Energy Supply

- Provide 100% renewable electricity supply to community
- Contract for a natural gas offset program for community gas use
- Expand distributed commercial and residential solar photovoltaics
- Explore a biodigester at the wastewater treatment facility
- Install solar panels on public buildings



## Energy in Buildings

- Support policies that increase the energy efficiency of buildings
- Improve uptake of voluntary energy efficiency projects in buildings
- Implement benchmarking and disclosure programs for energy performance
- Promote smaller homes and denser housing options through incentives



## Transportation

- Support the transition to electric vehicles with an electric vehicle readiness plan
- Increase bike and pedestrian trips
- Increase transit ridership
- Promote ride sharing
- Convert City and other public agency fleets to electric and alternative fuels



## Waste & Materials

- Improve non-food waste recovery
- Promote use of low carbon concrete in new development
- Improve food waste recovery
- Improve construction and demolition waste recovery
- Promote reducing consumption through outreach and education
- Develop programs that encourage preventing food waste



*Want to dive deeper?*

See Chapter 6 for more details on the specific strategies, actions and metrics for each climate action sector.

# Achieving Our Goals

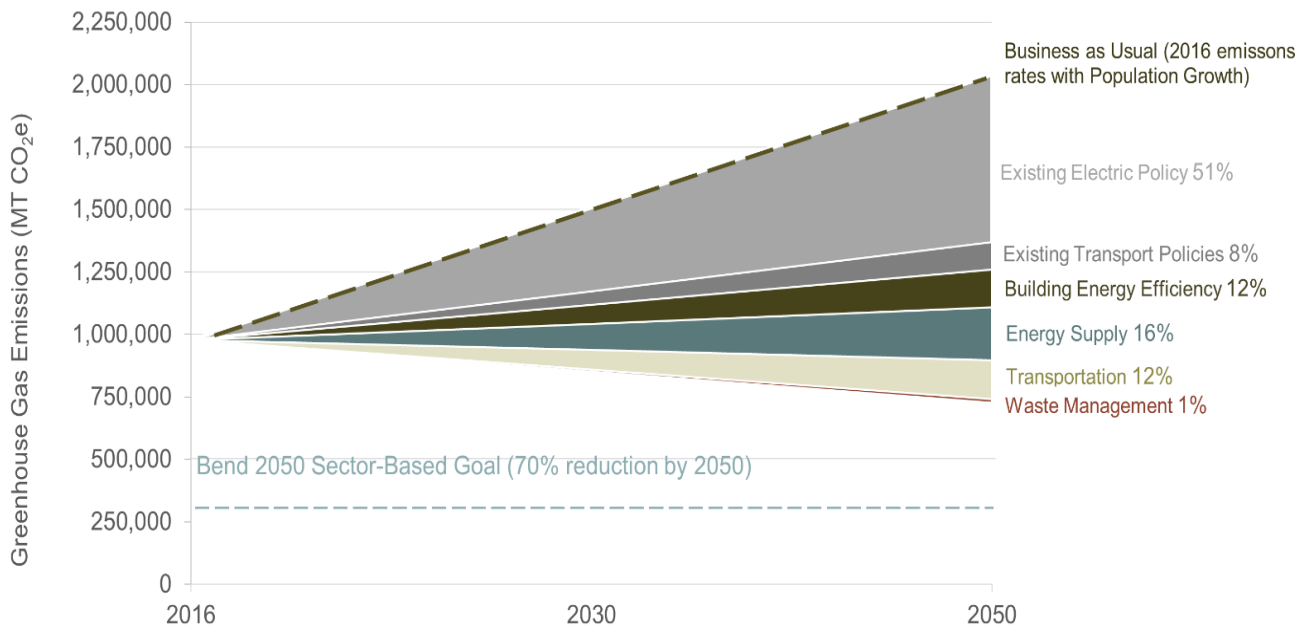
If this Plan is implemented and the strategies achieve their maximum emissions reduction potential, this Plan can help Bend reduce its community fossil fuel use by 49% by 2030 compared to the 2016 baseline year, **surpassing** the 2030 climate action goal.

However, we'll need to do more to reduce our fossil fuel use by 70% by 2050 – Bend's 2050 climate action goal. These strategies maintain a 49% fossil fuel use reduction by 2050. This reduction offsets the additional emissions we expect from population growth but does not achieve the larger reductions we aspire to achieve by 2050. The City and community must commit to climate action over the long term, and identify additional, more aggressive strategies to achieve the 2050 climate action goal. As our understanding of our emissions improves and technologies change over the coming years, we should be able to continue making progress to achieve a 70% reduction by 2050.

Figure 2 shows the contribution of the strategies towards the reduction by sector.



**Figure 2. Forecast emissions reductions by sector**



## The Co-Benefits

In addition to helping us reach our fossil fuel use reduction goals, our climate action strategies will result in additional “co-benefits.” These are the extra positive benefits that each strategy will create beyond its impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The specific co-benefits that were evaluated for this Plan include:

- Economic vitality
- Affordability
- Supports the natural environment
- Social equity
- Community health and safety
- Security and resilience



**Interested?**

See Chapter 5 of the Plan for a description of co-benefits, and Chapter 6 for details on the co-benefits within each climate sector.

## What's Next?

Ongoing oversight and coordination of the Community Climate Action Plan will require a creative and collaborative approach to facilitate community implementation and ownership. Additionally, the City and community must commit to updating this Plan every three to five years to continue making progress and to identify new actions to meet the 2050 goals.



***With the adoption of this Plan, the City will take the following steps to begin implementation:***

- **Evaluate and allocate** staffing and resource needs for overall Plan coordination and the execution of specific strategies.
- **Establish a governance structure** that helps facilitate implementation of the strategies and provides opportunities for citizen and stakeholder input into the implementation process.
- **Measure the progress of these strategies** by conducting a community greenhouse gas emissions inventory update in three to five years.
- **Update this Plan in three to five years** to identify new climate action strategies and update existing climate action strategies. The next Plan update should include a focus on adaptation and resiliency, in addition to mitigation. The Plan update should also have a greater focus on consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions and on fossil fuel reduction through water conservation.

Creating this Plan is just the start of a long process of addressing Bend's contribution to climate change. Now that we have developed these strategies, the City and community must work together to implement them. The City looks forward to partnering with other entities, residents, and businesses in the Community to implement, inform, and promote the Community Climate Action Plan. No single entity can address climate change alone, but by acting together we can ensure that Bend remains a livable, sustainable, and equitable place for generations to come.