

Meeting Minutes

Environment and Climate Committee



CITY OF BEND

Location: Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street

Date: October 9, 2025

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) was called to order at 11:04 a.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2025, in the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

1. **Roll Call:** Amy Leedham, Kavi Chokshi, Kenneth Davies, Laura Tabor, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Nick Millar, Ray Hartwell, Robyn Breynaert, Rory Isbell, Scott Nordquist (online)

Absent: Sasha Sulia (ex officio)

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

9/11/2025 ECC Meeting Minutes

Approved with no additions or corrections.

3. Public Comment (2 minutes each)

Visitors can use "Raise Hand" feature when prompted to provide public comment

James Teeter, Bend Bikes: Expressed concern that the current Climate Action Partner Grant Program excludes active transportation projects unless they align with specific Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) actions that name community partners. He cited Bend Bikes' proposal for a pedestrian-focused redesign of 12th Street, which was deemed ineligible due to its lack of alignment with CCAP strategy T2. He urged the ECC to consider revising the eligibility criteria for future grant cycles to better support walking and biking infrastructure and to prioritize mode shift away from vehicular travel.

4. Staff Updates | Cassie Lacy

Presented by Senior Management Analyst Cassie Lacy.

Slides included:

- Staff Updates

- 10/22 Council Work Session to discuss policy goals and preliminary data findings from work with consultant
- Advisory Body Summit: January 2026
 - All committee members invited. Date TBD
- Engagement updates
 - Attended Sun Day Solar Fest
 - Attended 250Deschutes Clean Energy Conference and 2025 Mountain Towns Summit
 - Updates Climate Guide checklist

5. **City Council Update** | Councilor Megan Norris

- Human Rights and Equity Commission (HREC) Workplan: Approved and will apply an equity lens across all Council divisions and goals.
- Temporary Safe Stay Areas: Council is working with County Commissioners to address safety and cost concerns while maintaining a commitment to provide shelter through December 2026.
- Midtown Crossings: Council is reviewing design options for Greenwood, Hawthorne, and Franklin corridors. Hawthorne's initial cost estimates were high, prompting consideration of a trestle design to reduce costs while maintaining uniqueness.
- Development Updates: Council approved the Emblem Project via Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in Southeast Bend and commercial development in Juniper Ridge.
- Council is taking a holistic approach to infrastructure planning, emphasizing multimodal connectivity and equity

6. **Climate Action Partner Grant Program Funding Recommendations** | Megan Lee, *Management Analyst* Decision

Presented by Management Analyst Megan Lee.

ECC members recused due to affiliations with applicant organizations:

- Member Chokshi – The Environmental Center
- Member Nordquist– Habitat for Humanity
- Member Leedham – OSU-Cascades
- Member Hartwell - OSU-Cascades
- Member Baunsgard – The Environmental Center

Lacy clarified that the staff recommendations were intended to guide ECC discussion, not dictate outcomes. Selkirk further added that the ECC's role is to make funding recommendations to the City Manager, who holds final approval authority. Staff recommendations are non-binding and serve as a starting point. Staff developed recommendations to provide structure, given the volume of applications and limited time for full committee review.

Lacy addressed Bend Bikes' concerns, noting that infrastructure projects in the right-of-way are typically city-led and not eligible under current CCAP partner actions. Selkirk added that the legal interpretation of the program guidelines confirmed that applications must be tethered to CCAP actions with identified community partners.

Slides included:

- **Deliberation Process**

- Staff will present their funding recommendations
- Will go around and each ECC member will have 5 minutes to make their case and recommend any changes
- Lunch
- ECC will have 30 minutes to deliberate as a group and make a final decision and vote

- **High Level Takeaways**

- Stoked about the level of interest!
- 17 total applications, 13 unique organizations
- \$832,238 total funding requested
- \$150,000 total in available funding
- Incredibly hard to recommend who got funding and at what amount – lot of incredible applications – highly competitive
- Received applications from a wide variety of non-profits and government entities
- Lots of lessons learned for next year

Figure 1: All Eligible Applications

Project Title	Organization Name	Amount Requested	Funding Extent	Funding Amount	Total Points
Climate Resilience: Clean Air and Cooling Upgrades for Income-Qualified Homeowners.	Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity	\$ 50,000	Full	\$ 50,000	98
POWER (Preparing Oregon's Workforce for Energy Resilience)	Central Oregon Community College - Center for Business and Industry	\$ 14,240	Full	\$ 14,240	95
Electrification Access & Education: Zero-Interest Loan Program for Low-to Moderate-Income Households	The Environmental Center	\$ 32,065	Partial	\$ 20,760	89
Waste-Wise Events Initiative	BendNEXT Foundation (the philanthropic arm of the Bend Chamber)	\$ 50,000	Partial	\$ 30,000	87
Reuse Bend: Composting, Cups, and Culture Shift	The Environmental Center (Rethink Waste Project)	\$ 33,550	Partial	\$ 20,000	85
Better Building Academy	The Environmental Center	\$ 10,500	None	\$ -	84
School Pool	Commute Options	\$ 25,000	Partial	\$ 15,000	82
Grow & Give: Reducing Food Waste, Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Feeding Bend	High Desert Food and Farm Alliance	\$ 37,372	None	\$ -	81
Equity in Waste: A Feasibility Study for Multi-Family Recycling - Designing practical, scalable solutions and effective education for multi-family recycling	Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste	\$ 25,347	None	\$ -	79
Central Oregon Tool Library	Central Oregon Tool Library	\$ 25,000	None	\$ -	77
Income Qualified Solar Program	Central Electric Cooperative Inc.	\$ 150,000	None	\$ -	76
OSU-Cascades Energy Innovation Center Launch Support	Oregon State University	\$ 74,956	None	\$ -	73
Income Qualified Whole Home Energy Retrofit	Central Electric Cooperative Inc.	\$ 150,000	None	\$ -	72
Cooking and Climate	High Desert Food and Farm Alliance (HDFFA)	\$ 30,000	None	\$ -	70
Professional Pathways: Clean Energy Careers	350 Deschutes	\$ 22,052	None	\$ -	67
ReCoUp (REgenerative COmmunity UPcycling)	ReCoHere Cooperative	\$ 52,156	None	\$ -	63
Plant Rescue Program	High Desert Horticultural Center	\$ 50,000	None	\$ -	55
TOTAL		\$ 832,238		\$ 150,000	

Figure 2: Staff Funding Recommendation

Project Title	Organization Name	Amount Requested	Funding Extent	Funding Amount	Total Points	CCAP Focus Area(s)
Climate Resilience: Clean Air and Cooling Upgrades for Income-Qualified Homeowners	Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity	\$50,000	Full	\$50,000	98	Energy
POWER (Preparing Oregon's Workforce for Energy Resilience)	Central Oregon Community College - Center for Business and Industry	\$14,240	Full	\$14,240	95	Energy
Electrification Access & Education: Zero-Interest Loan Program for Low-to Moderate-Income Households	The Environmental Center	\$32,065	Partial	\$20,760	89	Energy Transportation
Waste-Wise Events Initiative	BendNEXT Foundation (the philanthropic arm of the Bend Chamber)	\$50,000	Partial	\$30,000	87	Materials & Waste
Reuse Bend: Composting, Cups, and Culture Shift	The Environmental Center (Rethink Waste Project)	\$33,550	Partial	\$20,000	85	Materials & Waste
School Pool	Commute Options	\$25,000	Partial	\$15,000	78	Transportation
TOTAL		\$150,000		150,000		

Chair Buckley asked if there was anything of note or nuance about why staff selected the recommended projects. Lee responded that the selected projects aligned well with CCAP goals and strategies, advanced Council goals, and represented a mix of climate mitigation and resilience. They were considered feasible, cost-effective, and impactful within the constraints of available funding. The projects also addressed a range of CCAP focus areas and demonstrated strong equity impacts.

Lacy added that the recommendations were rooted in the scoring matrix, with project impact being the most heavily weighted criterion. While scoring was somewhat subjective, staff prioritized projects with the greatest direct or indirect impact. Regarding partial funding, staff considered applicants' responses to how they would scale their projects. All but one applicant indicated they could proceed with partial funding, which informed staff's allocation decisions.

Member Millar observed that several projects were similar, including Habitat for Humanity's application, The Environmental Center's (TEC) electrification loan program, and two proposals from Central Electric Co-op. Lacy responded that Habitat for Humanity's project was more efficient in terms of cost per household served and included partnerships with affordable housing developers—a city priority. TEC's revolving loan program addressed a different financing gap. Lee added that CEC's proposals were limited to their customer base, whereas Habitat for Humanity and TEC's projects served the broader community.

Three workforce development proposals were submitted. Staff recommended COCC's POWER project because it offered the most tangible deliverables (a workshop) for the least funding. TEC's proposal

was more planning-focused, and 350Deschutes' application lacked clarity on speaker selection. COCC also has a strong track record in workforce development.

Guiding ECC Discussion:

- Do we agree with the staff's proposed funding recommendations? If not, what would you change?
- Are staff's proposed funding amounts appropriate? If not, what adjustments would you recommend?

Member Davies: Praised COCC's POWER project for its high value and strong deliverables. Supported TEC's revolving loan program and suggested increasing its funding. Felt High Desert Food and Farm Alliance's (HDIFFA) induction cooking proposal lacked incentives and clarity. Expressed concern about School Pool's safety components.

Member Tabor: Supported TEC's loan program and questioned why it wasn't fully funded. Noted the high number of waste-related proposals and emphasized prioritizing emissions reduction. Raised equity concerns about smaller organizations needing larger grants.

Chair Buckley: Prioritized local benefits and projects with leverage, education, and private funding components. Supported waste-related projects for their behavior change potential. Expressed concern about School Pool's reach and suggested funding for 350Deschutes' program.

Member Millar: Supported Deschutes County Solid Waste's (DCSW) multifamily recycling proposal for its broad scope. Noted that solar incentives are waning, making CEC's solar proposal timely but limited in reach.

Member Breynaert: Supported TEC's loan program and DCSW's multifamily recycling proposal. Staff clarified that the Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) requirements may cover much of DCSW's proposal, making it less urgent for grant funding.

Member Isbell: Emphasized emissions reduction impact. Supported School Pool as the only transportation proposal. Suggested reallocating funds from similar waste projects to HDIFFA's Grow & Give.

The committee recessed at 11:30 p.m. and reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

Final Adjustments proposed by ECC:

- Reallocate \$5,000 from TEC's Reuse Bend and \$5,000 from BendNEXT's Waste-Wise Events to HDIFFA's Grow & Give
- Reallocate \$5,000 from Habitat for Humanity's Clean Air & Cooling project to TEC's Revolving Loan Fund
- Members agreed to defer funding for DCSW's proposal, given potential for city/county collaboration under RMA

Member Tabor moved to recommend funding amounts in the amounts presented in Figure 3 to the City Manager

Member Millar seconded.

The voice vote passes 6 to 0.

Yes: Tabor

Yes: Buckley

Yes: Breynaert

Yes: Isbell

Yes: Davies

Yes: Millar

The ECC made the following recommendations in the table below:

Figure 3: ECC Funding Recommendation

Project Title	Organization Name	Amount Requested	Funding Extent	Funding Amount	Total Points	CCAP Focus Area(s)
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POWER (Preparing Oregon's Workforce for Energy Resilience)	Central Oregon Community College - Center for Business and Industry	\$14,240	Full	\$14,240	95	Energy
Electrification Access & Education: Zero-Interest Loan Program for Low-to Moderate-Income Households	The Environmental Center	\$32,065	Partial	\$25,760	89	Energy Transportation
Waste-Wise Events Initiative	BendNEXT Foundation (the philanthropic arm of the Bend Chamber)	\$50,000	Partial	\$25,000	87	Materials & Waste
Reuse Bend: Composting, Cups, and Culture Shift	The Environmental Center (Rethink Waste Project)	\$33,550	Partial	\$15,000	85	Materials & Waste
School Pool	Commute Options	\$25,000	Partial	\$15,000	82	Transportation
High Desert Food and Farm Alliance	Grow & Give	\$37,372	Partial	\$10,000	81	Materials & Waste
TOTAL				150,000		

7. Adjourned at 1:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Lee

Management Analyst - Environment, Climate & Sustainability



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