



Walkable Downtown Bend



FAQ: Climate Friendly Areas



What is a Climate Friendly Area?

Climate Friendly Areas (CFAs) will designate walkable, connected areas that allow a mix of businesses, housing and amenities such as parks and schools. This kind of development will be encouraged by changing or supporting what is allowed in these areas. Changes could include taller maximum heights for buildings, higher density residential development, high quality pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and transit access.



What Do CFAs Look Like?

Several parts of Bend have already developed or allow something similar to a Climate Friendly Area.

For example, areas such as the Old Mill, Bend Central District, Central Westside (OSU/14th) and Downtown have been zoned to allow a mix of uses. During a previous planning process the community identified Opportunity Areas where mixed-use, higher density housing and mobility options make sense and are now supported through zoning.



Where Will They Be?

Potential areas that will be studied for consideration include areas near Downtown, on corridors and in Opportunity Areas such as Bend Central District, Korpine, Central Westside and 3rd Street. Many mixed-use and commercial areas will already meet most of the standards required of a CFA.



What are the Big Decisions?

The decision will be made through a community process. Outreach will center the voices of historically under-served community members and will provide meaningful opportunities for equitable involvement. The City will analyze the demographics and housing data for these areas to assess and mitigate the risk of displacement and gentrification. The Bend City Council will make the final decision to designate one or more climate friendly areas.

Climate Friendly Areas Project Phasing



When is this Happening?

Determining where Climate Friendly Areas will be located and adopting the supporting code will happen in two phases. The first phase, in 2023, will study and analyze all the areas in Bend that could potentially meet the criteria. The second phase will involve selecting the preferred areas, finalizing the analysis, preparing the code amendments and adoption by the end of 2026.

Why is this Happening?

These areas are a part of the state's Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rules adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission in July 2022. Designing neighborhoods like this helps reduce carbon emissions and gives people the choice to not rely on a car. The goal of these rules is to make systemic changes in the way cities are developed to reduce carbon emissions and thus slow the pace of climate change.



I Have More Questions. Where Can I Go?

For more information, visit the state Department of Land Conservation and Development webpage about Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities.

Specific questions can be directed to Elyse Vukelich at evukelich@bendoregon.gov or Jennifer Knapp at jknapp@bendoregon.gov.

Website: www.bendoregon.gov/government/departments/growth-management/climate-friendly-and-equitable-communities/climate-friendly-areas

 Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities
To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Jennifer Knapp at jknapp@bendoregon.gov or 541-317-3029. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.



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