



# Electrifying Bend's Future

CITY OF BEND

## Building a Clean Energy Path for our Community

### What's Happening?



The **City of Bend** is developing a **new policy** to address the use of natural gas in residential buildings. This approach may:

- **Discourage new natural gas infrastructure in residential buildings**
- **Account for the environmental and social costs of carbon**
- **Support incentives** that encourage switching to electricity

The goal is to help Bend transition toward clean, **renewable energy**—especially as Oregon law requires our electricity supply to be **100% renewable by 2040**.

### Project Background

Bend's **Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP)**, adopted in 2019 and updated in 2025, is the City's roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience. It outlines strategies across transportation, energy, buildings, and waste to help Bend meet its climate goals.

- The CCAP identifies **building electrification** as a key strategy, since **residential and commercial buildings account for 48% of local emissions**.
- By shifting to electricity—especially as our grid becomes cleaner—we can significantly reduce Bend's carbon footprint and improve air quality.



Achieve a 40% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030



Achieve a 70% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2050



# What We've Done So Far

In 2024, City Council asked the Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) to explore ways to encourage building electrification. After research and community input, Council directed staff to develop a **policy mechanism** to reduce natural gas use in new residential construction, and use this tool to help fund **incentives** for electrification. At the October 22, 2025 City Council Work Session, staff shared findings from a preliminary cost-benefit analysis and received direction to proceed with a tiered climate pollution fee structure. Council also encouraged continued exploration of non-financial incentives to support the transition.

## What's Next

- **Aug – Oct 2025:** Procure consultant support, analyze and scope policy options, present to Council for direction (Oct. 22).
- **Nov—Dec 2025 (current phase):** Present different fee scenarios to Council and refine stakeholder engagement strategy. Begin public meetings and engagement.
- **March 2026:** Present proposed policy to Council.
- **May 2026:** Present proposed incentive program to Council.



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**Did you know?  
95% of new single-family homes in Bend have a gas hookup.**

## How You Can Get Involved

- **Attend an Environment and Climate Committee Meeting –** Learn about updates on the electrification policy and/or give public comment
- **Contact the Environment and Climate Team –** [climateaction@bendoregon.gov](mailto:climateaction@bendoregon.gov)
- **Email your City Councilors –** Share your thoughts
- **Attend the Dec. 10 City Council Meeting –** Staff will present fee scenarios to Council
- **Subscribe to our Environment and Climate Newsletter –** Stay up to date on progress and opportunities



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