



RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY COMMITTEE FOR POTENTIAL POLICIES RELATED TO ELECTRIFICATION

Findings

- A. The City of Bend adopted climate action goals in 2016 to reduce Bend's fossil fuel use by 40% by 2030 and by 70% by 2050 (Resolution 3044). The Bend City Council adopted the Bend Community Climate Action Plan in 2019 (Resolution 3180), a strategic plan that describes how Bend can achieve its climate action goals. In April 2025, the Bend City Council adopted the 2025 Bend Community Climate Action Plan Update Action Plan (Resolution 3421) after the City's Environment and Climate Committee completed a nine-month long update process.
- B. The 2025 Bend Community Climate Action Plan Update calls for adopting policies to transition the Bend community from fossil fuels and to renewable energy sources. Analysis completed for the Bend Community Climate Action Plan found that powering most buildings in Bend with 100% renewable energy, in coordination with several other key strategies, is the only way that the City's climate goals may be achievable.
- C. The Bend community is served by two electric utilities, Pacific Power, an investor-owned utility, and Central Electric Cooperative, a member-owned not-for-profit utility. Pacific Power and other investor-owned electric utilities are required by Oregon House Bill 2021 to decarbonize the sources of energy that provide power to Oregon ratepayers by 80% by 2030 and by 100% by 2040. The energy sources that generate the electricity that Central Electric Cooperative serves primarily come from hydropower and are carbon-free or low-carbon. Therefore, electricity use is expected to have significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions than natural gas use in Bend.
- D. The 2025-2027 Bend City Council Goals include a Climate Resiliency Goal. This goal states the City's intent to promote a sustainable and resilient community by advancing climate action, protecting natural resources, and building wildfire resiliency. This goal is supported by three overarching strategies and many supporting actions including one to develop electrification policies as part of the implementation of the Bend Community Climate Action Plan.
- E. In 2024, the City Council directed staff to work with the City's Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) to research potential policies to encourage electrification and minimize the use of natural gas in buildings in Bend. Council directed the ECC to develop a recommendation regarding which policies to pursue.
- F. After receiving a recommendation from the ECC about pursuing electrification policies in December 2024, Council directed staff to meet with a committee including representatives from the Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB), the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC), and the ECC to receive additional feedback on potential electrification policies. This meeting took place on February 24,

2025.

- G. On April 16, 2025, Council held a work session to consider the recommendation from the representatives from BEDAB, AHAC, and the ECC. At the work session, Council directed staff to pursue the development of a fee on natural gas appliances in new residential construction and to explore using the revenue from the fee to develop financial incentives to encourage electrification in residential buildings in Bend. The Council also directed that staff continue exploring other incentives for electrification, such as nonfinancial incentives through the development code.
- H. At Council Work Sessions on August 20, October 22, and December 10, 2025, staff presented additional information to Council about a potential fee on natural gas appliances, including about other policies elsewhere in the country, the relative cost of electrification, a proposal of how such a fee would be structured, and options for the public engagement approach to developing a fee with stakeholder input. As part of the public engagement approach, staff recommended formalizing a joint committee with representation from BEDAB, AHAC, and the ECC as an advisory body to develop recommendations about key components of the policy, such as determining how to use the revenue to create financial incentives, and recommending nonfinancial incentives.
- I. At the Council Work Session on December 10, 2025, Council was supportive of using the joint committee to develop recommendations to implement Council's goals around incentivizing electrification, and directed that the joint committee would hear input from additional stakeholders through ex officio seats on the Committee and through stakeholder roundtables with the builder and developer industry, labor groups, environmental advocates, and other key stakeholders. Council directed staff to establish the joint committee, the "Temporary Committee on Electrification Policy (TCEP)," as a temporary advisory committee to develop recommendations to implement Council's goals around incentivizing electrification.
- J. Bend Code 1.2.015(H) authorizes the City Council to establish temporary committees by resolution to address specific issues or to engage in specific tasks, within identified timeframes, and to establish the scope of the authority and responsibilities of the temporary committee. Through this resolution, the City Council delegates the selection of the committee members to the Mayor, one Council member, and the City Manager. This group will receive at least four nominations each from BEDAB, AHAC, and the ECC and will consider and select members of TCEP consistent with these findings. The Council intends to confirm the appointment of committee members selected by this group by motion at a future Council meeting, most likely in February 2026.
- K. TCEP will work with and advise the City project team, and is charged with making recommendations to the Council on nonfinancial incentives to encourage electrification in new residential construction, financial incentives using the revenue of the proposed electrification fee in new residential construction, and on exemptions to the proposed fee. The Council directs TCEP to consider the issues with the goal of making progress on our climate action goals while considering other City priorities. The temporary committee will not be charged with making recommendations on the fee design and the fee calculation.
- L. Creation of the TCEP is the next step to develop a program that encourages electrification in Bend through the use of incentives and other policy provisions.

Now, therefore, based on these findings, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. To establish the Temporary Committee on Electrification Policy in accordance with this Resolution, its findings, and the attached Exhibit A, the Temporary Committee on Electrification Policy Charter.

Adopted by the Bend City Council on January 7, 2026.

YES:

NO:

Melanie Kebler, Mayor

Attest:

Ashley Bontje, City Recorder

Approved as to form:

Ian Leitheiser, City Attorney