



MEETING MINUTES

Environment and Climate Committee Meeting

Location:

City Hall
710 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97703

Date: 08/13/2026

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Facilitator: Megan Lee

1. Call to order at 11:02 a.m. by roll call

Amy Leedham, Kavi Chokshi, Ken Davies, Laura Tabor, Neil Baunsgard, Nick Millar, Rebecca Kay, Robyn Breynaert, Rory Isbell, Scott Nordquist

Absent: Ray Hartwell

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

06/11/2026 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.

- Casey Hermanson, Energize Bend, focused on sharing quotes and anecdotes supporting some of the largest findings from the report: the effects of wildfire smoke entering homes, difficulty cooling houses, high utility bills, and the lack of autonomy faced by renters looking to make improvements.
- Lindsey Hardy, The Environmental Center, shared on how the barriers to home improvements found in the report are echoed and supported by the barriers that the Home Energy Assessment Program encounters as well. These barriers include the cost of the improvements, navigation of complex programs, and the gaps existing programs in serving certain communities (such as for the middle class, certain utility customers, and renters). She ended by sharing that the program is an opportunity to address these barriers by trying something new and starting fresh, making this an exciting opportunity.

4. Council Updates | Councilor Megan Norris



Councilor Norris (ECC liaison) provided an update on recent City Council meeting. Key highlights included:

- Discussion of local public art projects.
- Updates to the City's growth management planning efforts.
- Partnership initiatives with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- The proposed Employee Improvement District was not approved.
- Approval of General Obligation (GO) bonds supporting transit capital projects.
- Review of quarterly Council goals.
 - Regarding climate and environmental objectives, 2.5 actions have been completed, 7.25 actions are on schedule, and 0.25 actions are off schedule.
- Housing permit processing times continue to improve.
- Ongoing shelter planning efforts at Juniper Ridge.
- A presentation from the HOME Committee regarding strategies for meeting state housing production targets.
- Additional discussion related to growth planning efforts.

5. Staff Updates | Cassie Lacy, *Senior Management Analyst*

Lacy provided updates on recently launched grant programs, including the Climate Action Partner Grant Program and the Small Business Assistance Grant Program. Lacy also noted current openings on the Water Advisory Group and encouraged ECC members to apply.

Lee provided updates on Sunny September: Pathways to a Cleaner Bend, a collaborative community clean energy education series.

6. Electrification Incentives | Lynn Roy, *Brightline Group* and Cassie Lacy, *Senior Management Analyst*

Lacy provided background on the Climate Pollution Fee and discussed the opportunity to develop an incentive program funded through fee-generated revenue. She reviewed the stakeholder engagement process used to gather community input and framed the discussion around the vision and objectives of the incentive program.

City Attorney Selkirk reviewed the authorized uses of funds as outlined in the governing resolution.

Roy provided additional context regarding projected revenue generation and potential program funding levels.

Committee Discussion:

- **Program Effectiveness and Impact**
 - Leedham emphasized maximizing benefits for Bend residents and serving the broader community rather than providing narrowly targeted individual benefits.



- Davies recommended aligning incentive strategies with Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) goals and prioritizing investments proportional to greenhouse gas reduction potential.
- Baunsgard noted that electrification actions often produce significant co-benefits beyond emissions reductions.
- **Income Equity and Accessibility**
 - Leedham stressed the importance of ensuring meaningful access to incentives for lower-income households.
 - Breynaert and Kay supported prioritizing existing buildings, noting that the Climate Pollution Fee primarily applies to new construction. They also emphasized focusing on low-income households and renters.
 - Isbell expressed support for income-based eligibility criteria rather than creating strict distinctions between existing and new construction.
 - Breynaert supported a tiered incentive structure that provides higher assistance levels for income-qualified households while maintaining eligibility for middle-income residents.
- **Existing Buildings and Retrofits**
 - Nordquist noted that retrofit projects in existing homes are generally more expensive, potentially limiting the reach of available funding.
 - Breynaert suggested including information on both equipment costs and installation costs when evaluating program options.
- **Coordination with Existing Programs**
 - Baunsgard emphasized the importance of complementing, rather than duplicating, existing incentive programs.
 - Isbell suggested leveraging existing program infrastructure to reduce administrative costs and requiring applicants to pursue other available incentives when appropriate.
 - Nordquist highlighted Energy Trust of Oregon's experience administering incentive programs.
- **Renewable Energy and Solar**
 - Nordquist supported incentives that encourage renewable energy adoption and help create a cleaner electric grid.
 - Leedham suggested pairing electrification incentives with solar and battery storage for lower-income households to maximize both emissions reductions and utility bill savings.
 - Chokshi expressed support for including solar incentives if they can be effectively incorporated into the program.
 - Leedham also suggested exploring opportunities to invest in larger renewable energy assets and better understand associated implementation barriers.
 - Kay discussed balcony solar as a potential option for renters and a means of improving energy resilience.
- **Renters and Workforce Development**



- Baunsgard encouraged consideration of programmatic investments, such as workforce development initiatives, in addition to traditional equipment-based incentives.
- Breynaert suggested weatherization measures as a cost-effective option for renters that may require limited landlord participation.
- **Affordable Housing**
 - Breynaert suggested exploring incentives for deed-restricted affordable housing projects, noting that affordable housing development was not excluded from the Climate Pollution Fee.

The committee recessed at 12:08 p.m. and reconvened at 12:16 p.m.

7. Climate Action Partner Grant Program Year 2 | Megan Lee, *Environment & Climate Management Analyst*

Lee gave an overview of Year 1 program implementation and discussed updates to year 2, including clarity on recusal rules, max funding amounts, and indirect cost allocations.

8. CCAP Work Plan: Waste Prevention and Reuse Update | Cassie Lacy, *Senior Management Analyst*

Lacy mentioned the reformation of the Waste and Materials Working Group to identify next steps for City involvement in waste prevention and reuse efforts. The City is collaborating with Story of Stuff and Upstream to evaluate policy opportunities and share best practices. Committee members expressed particular interest in exploring strategies to reduce construction and demolition waste.

9. Agenda Review | Cassie Lacy, *Senior Management Analyst*

The committee reviewed upcoming agenda items and noted that the September ECC meeting date has been changed from September 10, 2026, to September 17, 2026.

10. Adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Lee, Environment & Climate Management Analyst

**Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services**

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email accessibility@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-7-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico accessibility@bendoregon.gov o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.