CITY OF BEND

City Hall
710 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97703

MEMORANDUM

To: Environment and Climate Committee
From: Megan Lee, Environment and Climate Management Analyst
Date: September 25, 2026
Re: 2026 Climate Action Partner Grant Program Applications and Staff Recommendations

Overview

The second year of the Climate Action Partner Grant Program was live between August 5 - September 8, offering $150,000 to support local nonprofits and government entities that are working to advance climate action in our community. The grant provides funding for projects that help implement the **Community Climate Action Plan**, including work related to clean energy, sustainable transportation, energy efficiency, waste and materials management, and community resilience.

Following the application deadline, an internal City review team conducted eligibility screening and scored each application using the scoring matrix outlined below. Based on these scores and qualitative review, staff recommend funding five projects (see "Staff Recommendation" below). Individual applications and a blank scoring matrix were shared with ECC members via email prior to this meeting.

Scoring Matrix

Category	Description	Points
Project Impact	Assess the project's ability to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the extent to which the project engages and benefits the local community. Impact will also take into account the cost effectiveness of the proposal.	**42**
Organizational Capacity	Consider the organization's relevant experience in executing similar projects and review the organizations track record of past project successes.	**12**
Feasibility	Assess the projects budget and implementation plan (project steps and timeline) to ensure it's realistic and sustainable.	**12**

Alignment with CCAP goals	Determine how well the project supports CCAP goals.	**12**
Equity & Accessibility	Ensure the project includes strategies to involve and benefit marginalized communities, and how effectively the grant supports organizations with fewer resources.	**22**
TOTAL		**100**

Applicant Overview

- Eligible Applications Received: 11
- Total Funding Requested: $475,759.00
- Distinct Organizations Applied: 8

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Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend funding five projects—either fully or partially—as outlined in Table 1. Each application was evaluated using the scoring matrix. While the scoring framework provided a consistent starting point, it was not used as a strict determinant. Instead, staff conducted a holistic review of each proposal.

The selection process was highly competitive, reflecting the strength and diversity of the proposals received. To see key themes the Internal Review Team discussed about each application, refer to Table 3.

- **Table 1** summarizes the six recommended projects and their scores.
- **Table 2** includes all applicants and their respective staff scores.
- **Table 3** summarizes the key strengths and weaknesses the Internal Review Team discussed.

TABLE 1: STAFF FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Project Title	Organization Name	Amount Requested	Funding Extent	Funding Amount	Total Points	CCAP Focus Area(s)
Bend City Bike Map Update	Bend Bikes	$15,000	Full	$15,000	88.25	Transportation
Perfectly Imperfect Produce: Reducing Food Waste & Promoting Low-Carbon Food Choices	High Desert Food and Farm Alliance	$27,034	Partial	$20,430	85.5	Waste & Materials
EV2Bend: Bidirectional Charging for Buildings and Community Energy	Oregon State University - Cascades Energy Innovation Center	$49,925	Full	$49,925	82.25	Transportation, Energy

POWER: Preparing Oregon's Workforce for Energy Resilience (Phase 2)	Central Oregon Community College	$49,645	Full	$49,645	81.5	Energy
Professional Pathways in Green Careers	350 Deschutes	$42,155	Partial	$15,000	75.75	Energy
TOTAL				**150,000**		

TABLE 2: ALL APPLICANT SCORES

Project Title	Organization Name	Amount Requested	Funding Extent	Funding Amount	Total Points	CCAP Focus Area(s)
Healthy & Resilient Homes: Expanding Cooling and Clean Air Access	Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity	$50,000	None	$-	89.25	Energy
Bend City Bike Map Update	Bend Bikes	$15,000	Full	$15,000	88.25	Transportation
Perfectly Imperfect Produce: Reducing Food Waste & Promoting Low-Carbon Food Choices	High Desert Food and Farm Alliance	$27,034	Partial	$20,430	85.5	Waste & Materials
EV2Bend: Bidirectional Charging for Buildings and Community Energy	Oregon State University - Cascades Energy Innovation Center	$49,925	Full	$49,925	82.25	Transportation, Energy
POWER: Preparing Oregon's Workforce for Energy Resilience (Phase 2)	Central Oregon Community College	$49,645	Full	$49,645	81.5	Energy
From Pilot to Permanent: Fully Implementing Reuse Infrastructure in Central Oregon	The Environmental Center	$42,000	None	$-	79.5	Waste & Materials
Next-Generation Heat Pump + Thermal Storage: A Bend Demonstration and Contractor Education Project	Oregon State University-Cascades Energy Innovation Center	$50,000	None	$-	76.75	Energy
Professional Pathways in Green Careers	350 Deschutes	$42,155	Partial	$15,000	75.75	Energy
Income Qualified Solar Incentive Program	Central Electric Cooperative	$50,000	None	$-	74.75	Energy

Demand Reduction Program	Central Electric Cooperative	$50,000	None	$-	74.75	Energy
(Middle) Income Qualified Program	Central Electric Cooperative	$50,000	None	$-	73.75	Energy
TOTAL		$475,759		**150,000**		

Key Strengths and Weaknesses

The table below summarizes the key strengths, weaknesses, and discussion points identified by the Internal Review Team during the application review process. While not intended to be a comprehensive evaluation of each proposal, it highlights the primary themes that informed staff scoring and funding recommendations. The table is provided to help frame ECC's discussion and deliberation.

TABLE 3: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, AND NOTES ABOUT ALL APPLICATIONS

Project Title	Strengths	Weaknesses	Notes
Healthy & Resilient Homes: Expanding Cooling and Clean Air Access	• Successful proof of concept with strong year 1 demand and outcomes. • Strong equity approach, including language access and community partnerships. • Large projected impact (30 households). • Addresses multiple community priorities including wildfire smoke, extreme heat, affordability, and public health.	• Application assumes receipt of $500,000 in outside funding. • Benefits homeowners rather than renters. • Grant funds support staffing capacity rather than direct upgrades.	• Strong application overall. • Recommendation to reapply in 2027 once outside funding is secured.
Bend City Bike Map Update	• Cost-effective, community-wide resource. • Strong transportation equity considerations with geographic specificity.	• Emissions reductions are indirect. • Unclear whether the project will significantly increase bike ridership.	• Appreciated safety-related features, including crash data and route connectivity.

	• Includes Spanish translation and Safe Routes to Schools integration. • Encourages active transportation and has public health co-benefits.	• Does not create new transportation infrastructure. • Main benefit is for people who own bikes.	
Perfectly Imperfect Produce: Reducing Food Waste & Promoting Low-Carbon Food Choices	• Successful proof of concept and strong organizational track record. • Strong equity and accessibility considerations. • Supports local farmers while reducing food waste. • Combines education, behavior change, and direct waste diversion.	• Curious what strategies will be used to reach people who do not regularly attend farmers markets. • Emissions reductions may be difficult to quantify directly.	
EV2Bend: Bidirectional Charging for Buildings and Community Energy	• Innovative project and emerging technology demonstration. • Creates a permanent public charging asset. • Strong educational and research value. • Thoughtful discussion of multifamily housing and EV charging barriers. • Public demonstrations and tours add community benefit.	• Benefits may primarily be concentrated among EV owners and OSU-Cascades users. • Community outreach was referenced but not clearly reflected in the budget.	• State and utility funding sources may already exist for EV charging infrastructure.
POWER: Preparing Oregon's Workforce for Energy Resilience (Phase 2)	• Strong proof of concept and successful first year. • Addresses a key workforce development gap. • COCC is well positioned to deliver the training. • Builds long-term workforce capacity.	• Some concern about charging participant fees if grant-funded. • Questions about how income barriers are being addressed. • Opportunity to make training materials more broadly available.	• Requested funding is significantly larger than the previous award. • Strong opportunity for coordination with OSU-Cascades workforce and education proposal.

From Pilot to Permanent: Fully Implementing Reuse Infrastructure in Central Oregon	• Strong proof of concept and existing partnerships. • Creates visible, long-term reuse infrastructure. • Significant waste reduction potential. • Encourages community behavior change.	• Long-term financial sustainability remains unclear. • Benefits may primarily reach restaurant goers, event attendees, and visitors which is out of reach for many folks. • Similar funding awarded previously has not yet been fully implemented.	
Next-Generation Heat Pump + Thermal Storage: A Bend Demonstration and Contractor Education Project	• Strong technical expertise and workforce-development focus. • Uses a real-world demonstration project. • Appreciated that grant funds support free public offerings.	• Public benefits are largely educational and indirect. • Would have liked stronger commitment to Spanish-language outreach.	• Opportunity for coordination with COCC's POWER project. • Similar case studies may already exist elsewhere.
Professional Pathways in Green Careers	• Reaches students before workforce entry. • Highlights careers that do not require a four-year degree. • Builds on a successful pilot.	• Climate impacts are indirect and long-term. • School partnerships and implementation timeline is a bit unclear. • Potentially limited staff capacity relative to project scope.	• Partial funding could support a smaller pilot with one Bend school. • Curiosity about whether school district agreements are already in place.
Income Qualified Solar Incentive Program	• Direct household energy savings and emissions reductions. • Supports low-income households. • All grant funds go directly toward incentives. • Scalable model.	• Application lacked detail and specificity. • Limited information about outreach, language access, and target populations. • Benefits limited to CEC customers.	• Strong concept that would benefit from additional program detail.
Demand Reduction Program	• Direct reduction in peak demand and household energy use. • Permanent building improvements.	• Application lacked detail and specificity. • Equity strategy and outreach approach were unclear.	

	• Supports grid capacity and reliability. • Scalable model.	• Benefits limited to CEC customers.	
(Middle) Income Qualified Program	• Addresses a gap for moderate-income households. • Builds on an existing program structure. • Supports grid capacity. • Scalable model.	• Application lacked detail and specificity. • Limited information on target populations and outreach. • Benefits limited to CEC customers.	• Appreciated focus on households that may not qualify for traditional assistance programs.

Questions For ECC

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

Next Steps

- Staff will finalize recommendations and submit them to the City Manager.
- Final award announcements will be made in late October.