



To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Lee Randall, Facilities Director
Date: June 22, 2022 for June 29, 2022 BOCC Meeting
Re: Oregon Department of Energy Community Renewable Energy Grant Program Application

In 2021, the Oregon Legislature created the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program to support projects outside Portland city limits. The program has a total budget of \$50 million.

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is now accepting applications for the program. In this first round of funding, ODOE is making \$12 million available to support planning and construction of renewable energy or energy resilience projects for tribes, public bodies, and consumer-owned utilities. Applications are due by July 8. ODOE is expected to make additional rounds of funding available through 2024.

Deschutes County Facilities seeks Board feedback on the potential projects outlined in this memo. The Department is seeking Board approval to apply for grant funding through the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program.

Project Eligibility

Eligible projects include renewable energy generation systems like solar or wind, and energy storage systems, electric vehicle charging stations, or microgrid technologies paired with new or existing renewable energy systems.

Awards will be made on a competitive basis, and priority will be given to projects that support energy resilience and that serve qualifying communities, including communities of color, low-income communities, tribes, rural areas, and other traditionally underserved groups.

Organizations are allowed to submit multiple project applications.

Project Funding

ODOE will offer grants up to \$100,000 for eligible planning projects and up to \$1 million for eligible construction projects. Planning grants can cover up to 100 percent of eligible costs for renewable energy and energy resilience projects. Construction grants for renewable energy projects can cover up to 50 percent of eligible costs, while construction grants for resilience projects can cover up to 100 percent.

Projects with matching funds by the organization will score higher than those without.





Thirty percent of the grant award is available upfront, with seventy percent paid upon completion of the project. Project funding will need to be taken into account to support the project in between initial and completion payments.

The maximum awards for planning projects is \$100,000 and for construction projects is \$1,000,000.

Potential Projects:

1. DESCHUTES COUNTY FAIR AND EXPO CENTER (New Well with Solar Power, EV Charging):

This project would include the installation of a hybrid grid-tied and battery back-up solar photovoltaic system to provide continuous power to a new water well to replace a well currently used for irrigation. The existing well is providing roughly 50% of the water output it had previously provided. The proposed project would install a new well to provide 500,000 additional gallons per minute to the property, install a new submersible pump, install a water filtration system to convert to potable water, install potable water storage facility, provide power for Emergency Operations staging, and provide EV charging stations.

The new site would be located on a 40 acre undeveloped parcel of land on the East side of the property, closer to public access.

The County's Fair & Expo Center is routinely used during natural disasters to provide temporary emergency shelter and support for displaced community members and livestock. It also serves as a command post to support regional Emergency Response. Fair & Expo has agreements with multiple local, state and federal emergency response agencies to provide this type of support when needed.

This project would allow Fair & Expo to support Emergency Operations in the event that a natural disaster disrupts power supply. It would also provide a fresh water supply for displaced residents and ensure that electric vehicle users would have access to "off-grid" charging in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Grant Requests:

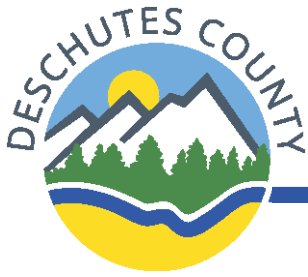
\$100,000 in planning costs (Grant 1)

\$1,000,000 in construction costs (Grant 2)

\$300,000 - \$450,000 in matching funds from Facilities Department

Potential matching funds from the Fair and Expo Center





2. DESCHUTES COUNTY FAIR AND EXPO CENTER (Existing Well with Solar Power, EV Charging):

This project would include the Installation of a hybrid grid-tied and battery back-up solar photovoltaic system to provide continuous power to the Fair and Expo Center's existing water well currently used for irrigation.

The existing well is providing roughly 50% of the water output it used to. The proposed project would increase the flow to 700,000 gallons per minute by drilling a deeper well, replace the existing submersible pump, install a water filtration system to convert to potable water, and install a water storage facility where a public water fill station could be provided in the event of a natural disaster.

The County's Fair & Expo Center is routinely used during natural disasters to provide temporary emergency shelter and support for displaced community members and livestock. It also serves as a command post to support regional Emergency Response. Fair & Expo has agreements with multiple local, state and federal emergency response agencies to provide this type of support when needed.

This project would allow Fair & Expo to support Emergency Operations in the event that a natural disaster disrupts power supply. It would also provide a fresh water supply for displaced residents and ensure that electric vehicle users would have access to "off-grid" charging in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Grant Requests:

- \$100,000 in planning costs (Grant 1)
- \$1,000,000 in construction costs (Grant 2)
- \$300,000 - \$450,000 in matching funds from Facilities Department
- Potential matching funds from the Fair and Expo Center

3. DESCHUTES COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT (Solar Power and EV Charging):

This project would include installation of a hybrid grid-tied and battery back-up solar photovoltaic system to provide ongoing power to Road Department operations, fuel services for County fleet vehicles, IT and power throughout Road Department offices, and continuous power to new EV charging stations.





In the event of a natural disaster, this project would allow for expanded support of County fleet vehicles, and would also support emergency response and potential infrastructure re-building.

Additionally, the project could provide access to “off-grid” charging for electric fleet vehicles in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Grant Requests:

\$100,000 in planning costs (Grant 1)

\$1,000,000 in construction costs (Grant 2)

Potential matching funds provided by the Road Department related to planned power distribution upgrades

4. DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE – SISTERS & LA PINE SUBSTATIONS(Solar Power):

This project would include the installation of hybrid grid-tied and battery back-up solar photovoltaic systems to support local operations in remote areas of Deschutes County. Currently, the La Pine substation has a diesel back-up generator, while the Sisters substation has no back-up power source.

This project would enhance and support Sheriff’s Office and regional emergency management response in the event of a long-term power disruption.

Grant Requests:

\$100,000 in planning costs (Grant 1)

\$1,000,000 in construction costs (\$500,000 each site) (Grant 2)

