



1.5 Percent for Green Energy Technology in Public Buildings

Projects Reported Calendar Year 2020

2021 Report to the Legislature – Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to ORS 279C.527 and 279C.528, the Oregon Department of Energy must deliver an annual report to the Legislative Assembly on or before the first date of the session summarizing the compliance of contracting agencies required to incorporate green energy technology (GET) in public improvement projects.

As of January 1, 2020, GET has been defined as energy systems that employ:

- Solar technologies, which include photovoltaic, solar hot water, passive solar, and daylighting.
- Geothermal systems that use geothermal source temperatures of 140° F or more to provide heating or make electricity, with the exception for K-12 school projects, which are allowed to use minimum geothermal source temperatures of 128° F. Ground source heat pumps do not comply with the definition.
- Battery storage equipment and technology paired with on-site solar or geothermal systems that generate electricity.

Eligible alternative energy technology includes:

- **Woody biomass energy technology:** A space or water heating system or a combined heat and power system that uses fuel material from trees and woody plants that are a by-product of forest management, agriculture, ecosystem restoration, or fire prevention or related activities. The system boiler must have a lower heating value combustion efficiency of at least 80 percent. Wood pieces that have been treated with certain chemicals, municipal solid waste, construction and demolition waste, or other industrial wood waste cannot be used as fuel.
- **Energy use efficiency:** Certain on-site energy efficiency improvements that reduce or offset energy consumption by a required percent beyond baseline code (20 percent for public buildings; 30 percent for state buildings). This alternative is only available where Total Solar Resource Fraction available onsite is 75 percent or less.

Prior to January 1, 2020, the GET requirement applied to any new public building with construction costs exceeding \$1,000,000. It also applied to buildings being renovated when construction costs exceed \$1,000,000 and 50 percent of the insured value of the building. For projects first advertised after January 1, 2020, this threshold has been increased by HB 2496 (2019) to \$5 million for both new construction and renovations (while the 50 percent of insured value threshold continues to also apply for renovations).

To be subject to the requirements, a public body must own or control the building and use it for conducting public business or as space for its employees.

ODOE OUTREACH EFFORTS TO PUBLIC BODIES

Oregon Department of Energy performs outreach to public bodies to increase familiarity with the GET requirement. ODOE conducts annual outreach via email to remind public bodies of the requirements.

This outreach email is sent to the Association of Counties, League of Oregon Cities, Special Districts Association of Oregon, community colleges, state agencies, counties, cities, and K-12 school districts, among others. ODOE also maintains a program guides and resources on our webpage and has developed an informational brochure for online posting and distribution at public body conferences and gatherings.

ODOE has also recently collaborated with other state agencies to take advantage of program crossovers and synergies to support the 1.5% GET program. Examples of this include working with the Building Codes Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to include a reference to the 1.5% GET program in the 2019 statewide energy code, to help make architects, engineers, and others in the design community more aware of GET requirements. Additionally, ODOE has collaborated with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to utilize a public project database, which BOLI maintains for prevailing wage reporting requirements, to identify and conduct targeted outreach with public projects that may also be subject to 1.5% GET requirements.

One hundred thirty-one projects have been reported since the requirement came into effect, and of those, 13 projects were reported for calendar year 2020. The number of projects reported and those meeting GET requirements each year has generally increased over the past few years, indicating that ODOE’s effort to increase awareness of the 1.5 percent GET requirement is working. The projects reported in 2020 are as follows, and additional details can be found in the annual report:

Public Body / Contracting Agency	Project Name	kW	GET kWh Annual Production
City of Hermiston	Hermiston City Hall	30.0	35,392
Oregon Military Department	Oregon Youth Challenge	25.0	36,490
Greater Albany Public School District	West Albany High School	249.0	320,800
Greater Albany Public School District	South Albany High School	<i>GET requirements consolidated to Meadow Ridge Elementary</i>	
Greater Albany Public School District	Meadow Ridge Elementary	358.0	429,100
Greater Albany Public School District	Oak Grove Elementary School	39.0	48,940
City of Salem	Salem Public Library Improvements Project	44.5	58,700
Winston-Dillard School District	Douglas High School New Classroom Building and Gym	160.0	205,000
City of Salem	Salem Police Station	103.0	154,500
Jackson County Fire District 3	Scenic Fire Station	27.8	38,095
Oregon City School District	Gardiner Middle School	209.0	236,000
Coos Bay School District	Eastside School	54.5	74,570
City of Hillsboro	Hillsboro Community Center	99.9	119,301
Total		1,400	1,756,888

2021 PROGRAM REPORT (FOR PROJECTS REPORTED TO ODOE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2020)

The complete 2021 report can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Documents/2021-GET-Report.pdf>.