



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **House Votes to Invest \$50 Million in Economic Development Through Renewable Energy, Commits to 100% Clean Energy by 2040**

*House Bill 2021 ensures good wages and benefits for clean energy projects and targeted investments in community-based renewable energy projects to help Oregon transition to 100% clean energy by 2040.*

SALEM, OR – Today the Oregon House voted to create the strongest electricity emissions reduction timeline in the country, setting the goal of 100% clean energy by 2040 with interim targets of 90% by 2035 and 80% by 2030.

[House Bill 2021](#), known as the 100% Clean Energy for All bill, will fund and support small scale, community-based energy projects through a \$50 million Community Renewable Investment Fund that will support disaster-resilient energy systems following a year of wildfires and ice storms. The fund will invest in renewable energy projects that are 20 megawatts or less in size outside of Portland, prioritizing rural, coastal, low-income and BIPOC communities.

“HB 2021 sets Oregon on a clear course for local renewable energy development that provides jobs, boosts community vitality, and supports economic recovery across the state,” said [Rep. Pam Marsh](#) (D-Southern Jackson County), co-chief sponsor of the bill. “This historic legislation will serve as a catalyst for our resilience, helping Oregonians to thrive despite the impacts of pandemic, wildfires, and drought.”

The bill focuses on the electricity sector, one of Oregon’s largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions, by creating a clean electricity grid that will ensure public transportation, vehicles, and all-electric buildings can run on clean electricity. This will help decarbonize highly polluting sources like transportation and buildings. Even though clean energy is increasingly one of the cheapest options for utilities, the bill also includes cost cap and reliability pause provisions to

ensure that electricity rates do not increase unreasonably and utilities can keep lights on during disasters or extreme weather.

Under this legislation strong labor standards will ensure workers on new large clean energy projects will be paid the prevailing wage for similar types of jobs in their area. The bill also ensures workers receive comprehensive benefits and job training opportunities while providing opportunities for apprenticeships and workforce development for women, people of color, veterans, and people with disabilities.

“It is rare to see a coalition this broad and diverse come together and be united around a solution to our energy needs,” said [Rep. Khanh Pham](#) (D-SE Portland), co-chief sponsor of the bill. “We have common goals that will be achieved in HB 2021: creating economic development in the parts of Oregon that need it most, ensuring that Oregon workers are well-supported in entering and participating in the clean energy workforce, and making sure that at every step of the way, low-income, BIPOC, rural, and coastal communities are shaping the transition to 100% clean electricity and are not left out of the benefits.”

"Already, we are seeing the devastating impacts of climate change, from more frequent droughts to more severe wildfire seasons that put our homes and our families in jeopardy," said [Rep. Jason Kropf](#) (D-Bend), a sponsor. "This bill will put Oregon on a pathway for a more environmentally sound future and create economic opportunity and jobs for our working families."

100% Clean Energy for All grew out of a community-organized statewide listening tour of environmental justice communities, including rural and BIPOC Oregonians about their vision for Oregon and their energy policy priorities. The resultant House Bill 2021 was shaped and well-vetted by key stakeholders, legislators, and community members to respond to the many crises impacting Oregonians on the frontlines of energy burden, wildfires, and environmental injustice.

"Oregon's essential farmworkers and our communities are still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and last summer's wildfires, and already drought and heat waves fueled by climate change are here," said [Reyna Lopez](#), Executive Director of [PCUN](#) (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noreste) in Woodburn, Oregon. "This 100% Clean Energy for All bill will invest in disaster-resilient community energy projects, support apprenticeships for women, BIPOC, veterans, and people with disabilities, and ensure good wages, benefits, and job training opportunities as Oregon transitions to clean energy. We are thrilled to see HB 2021 head to the Senate and are proud to have organized alongside our partners in the Oregon Just Transition Alliance and allies to advance this bill."

HB 2021 passed 35-20, and now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

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