

**2019 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION**

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**ENERGY**

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# ENERGY MEASURES

<b>Electric Vehicles</b>	Enacted Not Enacted	-none- HB 3141
<b>Energy Conversation</b>	Enacted Not Enacted	-none- HB 3094
<b>General Energy Policy</b>	Enacted Not Enacted	HB 3065 HB 2242-A, HB 2494, HB 2855
<b>Renewables</b>	Enacted Not Enacted	SCR 1, SB 38, SB 98, HB 2496, HB 2618 SB 451, SB 508, HB 2857, HB 3062, HB 3157, HB 3274-A, HB 3325, HCR 9
<b>Siting</b>	Enacted Not Enacted	HB 2329 HB 2322

Picture: Owyhee Dam, Malheur County – [Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives](#)

# TASK FORCES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following bills created task forces and reporting requirements. Additional information is provided in the bill summaries.

Bill Number	Description	Deadline
HB 2618	Directs the Oregon Department of Energy to report annually on rebates for solar electric and paired solar and storage systems.	Annually by September 15
HB 3065	Directs the Public Utility Commission to report the process for investigating the continuing relevance of carrier of last resort obligations.	September 15, 2020

[Senate Bill 38](#)

**Effective Date: January 1, 2020**

**Renewable Energy Certificates for Thermal Energy**

**At the request of:** Governor Kate Brown for State Department of Energy

**Committees:** Senate Environment and Natural Resources, House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** The Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) directs Oregon utilities to source a defined percentage of their retail electricity sales with generation from qualified renewable resources by specific dates. Originally adopted in 2007, the 2016 update set the RPS for Oregon utilities at 50 percent by 2040. ORS 469A.130 requires the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to establish a system of renewable energy certificates (RECs) that can be used by an electric utility or service supplier to establish compliance with the RPS. If a facility that produces electricity using biomass (organic material that comes from plants and animals) also produces thermal energy as a secondary purpose, ODOE must provide RECs for the generation of thermal energy.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 38 clarifies that RECs may be issued for the generation of thermal energy at a facility that generates electricity using biomass, subject to the same requirements for issuance, transfer, and use as all other renewable energy RECs issued under ORS 469A.130.

**Oregon Laws 2019:** Chapter 76

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[Senate Bill 98](#)

**Effective Date: September 29, 2019**

**Renewable Natural Gas Program**

**At the request of:** Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**Committees:** Joint Carbon Reduction, Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** Senate Bill 334 (2017) directed the Oregon Department of Energy to work with an advisory committee to conduct a detailed inventory of all potential sources of biogas and renewable natural gas (RNG) available in Oregon. The inventory process concluded that the gross potential for RNG production using anaerobic digestion technology is around 10 billion cubic feet of methane per year, which is about 4.6 percent of Oregon's total yearly use of natural gas. The gross potential for RNG production using thermal gasification technology is nearly 40 billion cubic feet of methane per year, which is about 17.5 percent of Oregon's total yearly use of natural gas. (ODOE, Biogas and Renewable Natural Gas Inventory, 2018)

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 98 directs the Oregon Public Utility Commission to adopt an RNG program that allows natural gas utilities to recover investments made to meet targets for including RNG in gas purchases for natural gas consumers.

**Oregon Laws 2019:** Chapter 541

[Senate Bill 451-A](#)

Not Enacted

**Municipal Solid Waste Facility Eligibility for Renewable Energy Certificates**

**Chief Sponsors:** Sen. Beyer

**Committees:** Joint Carbon Reduction, Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Senate Rules, House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** The Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) directs Oregon utilities to source a specified percentage of their retail electricity sales with generation from qualified renewable resources by set dates. ORS 469A.130 requires the Oregon Department of Energy to establish a system of renewable energy certificates (RECs) that can be used by an electric utility or service supplier to establish compliance with the RPS. The Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) issues RECs for Oregon-certified energy facilities that generate qualifying renewable power. Facilities receive one REC per megawatt-hour of qualifying renewable energy they deliver to the grid. The Legislative Assembly added facilities that generate electricity from direct combustion of municipal solid waste as an eligible generation source under the RPS in 2010; these facilities are eligible for RECs for electricity generated on or after January 1, 2011.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 451-A would have limited eligibility for municipal solid waste facilities to receive renewable energy certificates to only electricity generated from the direct combustion of biogenic material. To be eligible, the measure would have required that the owner or operator of the generating facility register with WREGIS on or after January 1, 2011.

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[Senate Bill 508](#)

Not Enacted

**Renewable Portfolio Standard – Qualifying Hydroelectric Energy**

**Chief Sponsors:** Sen. Johnson

**Committees:** Senate Environment and Natural Resources

**Background and Current Law:** The Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) directs Oregon utilities to source a defined percentage of their retail electricity sales from qualified renewable resources by specific dates. Senate Bill 838 (2007) adopted a 25 percent RPS by 2025 for large utilities. In 2016, Senate Bill 1547 increased the RPS to 50 percent by 2040 while mandating the elimination of coal generation from Oregon rates by 2030. Electricity generated by a renewable energy facility that became operational on or after January 1, 1995, is generally allowed to be used to comply with the RPS. For hydroelectric facilities, electricity from a facility that became operational before January 1, 1995 may be used to comply with the RPS only under specified conditions.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 508 would have allowed electricity generated by a hydroelectric facility or other equipment that generates electricity through the use of hydroelectric energy to be used to comply with the RPS.

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### [Senate Concurrent Resolution 1](#)

Effective Date: Filed with Secretary of State

### Closed-loop Pumped Storage Energy Projects

**At the request of:** Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**Committees:** Senate Environment and Natural Resources, House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** According to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, pumped storage projects store energy and generate electricity by moving water between two reservoirs at different elevations. When the demand for electricity is low, excess electric generation capacity is used to pump water from the lower to the upper reservoir. Conversely, when the demand for electricity is high, water is released from the upper to the lower reservoir through a turbine to generate electricity. Closed-loop pumped storage projects are projects that are not continuously connected to naturally flowing water, whereas open-loop pumped storage projects refer to projects that are continuously connected to naturally flowing water. To date, the Commission has authorized a total of 24 pumped storage projects currently in operation, with a total installed capacity of over 16,500 megawatts.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 supports the development and utilization of closed-loop pumped storage projects by Oregon utilities as a possible energy resource to meet future energy needs.

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### [House Bill 2242-A](#)

**Not Enacted**

### Utility Affordability

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Holvey, Helm

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulates investor-owned utilities and is responsible for ensuring utility customers have access to safe, reliable, and high-quality utility services at just and reasonable rates. The scope and mandate of the PUC is determined by the legislature, which requires the PUC to balance the interests of customers and utility companies (ORS 756.040). Senate Bill 978 (2017) directed the PUC to use a public process to consider how its role as regulator might evolve and submit a report to the legislature. One key recommendation from the report was to authorize the PUC to improve equitable and affordable access to energy services by considering not only the broad interests of customers, but specific needs of low-income customers and environmental justice communities.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2242-A would have allowed the PUC to authorize classifications or schedules of rates or offer financial assistance to low-income residential customers or residential customers in environmental justice communities to address differential energy burdens or other factors that affect affordability. The bill would have established the Office of the Low-Income and Environmental Justice Advocate within the PUC and directed the PUC to hold a public process to identify equity strategies and report findings to the legislature.

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## Adoption of Energy Policies into Statewide Land Use Planning Goals

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Marsh, Helm

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** With the passage of Senate Bill 100 (1973), the legislature established the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) and charged it with adopting state land use goals. The same measure established the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and charged it with assisting LCDC and local governments in the implementation of those goals and with coordinating state agencies in land use matters. In addition, SB 100 directed local governments to adopt and implement comprehensive plans and revise them periodically in accordance with statewide goals and the needs and desires of the public. LCDC initially adopted 14 statewide land use planning goals in 1974 and added five additional goals over the next three years. Most of the goals are accompanied by “guidelines” that suggest how they should be applied, though these guidelines are not mandatory. Administrative rules have been adopted to help interpret and implement many of the statewide goals.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2322-A would have directed LCDC to update the scope, content, and name of Goal 13, the statewide land use planning goal related to energy conservation, and to consider changes to other related statewide land use planning goals by December 30, 2021. The measure would have specified key issues for LCDC to consider, would have established an advisory committee, would have required LCDC to report back to the legislature by December 31, 2020, and would have appropriated an unspecified amount to DLCD for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019.

[House Bill 2329](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

**Renewable Energy Facility Siting**

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Helm; Sen. Bentz

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** Before a large energy facility is built in Oregon, the developer must apply for a site certificate from the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC). Among the types of energy facilities currently requiring a site certificate are solar photovoltaic power facilities on more than 100 acres of high-value farmland or arable lands, or 320 acres on any other land, and transmission lines over a certain voltage and length, or which cross multiple cities or counties. Other energy facilities, including smaller solar power facilities and certain transmission lines, are reviewed and sited by counties.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2329 modifies the definition of an energy facility subject to the EFSC site certificate requirements, exempting solar power facilities from requirements if they use: 1) 160 acres or less of high-value farmland; 2) less than 1,280 acres of arable lands; or 3) less than 1,920 acres of any other land. The measure allows the developer of a project not subject to EFSC approval to choose to obtain a site certificate through the EFSC. HB 2329 establishes criteria for siting certain renewable energy facilities outside the EFSC process, including habitat mitigation conditions and notification requirements.

**Oregon Laws 2019:** Chapter 650

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[House Bill 2494](#)

**Not Enacted**

**Public Purpose Charge**

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Holvey

**Committee:** House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** Electricity bills in Oregon include a public purpose charge, which helps fund energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable projects in the state. Senate Bill 1149 (1999) directed Oregon's two largest utilities, Portland General Electric and Pacific Corp, to collect a public purpose charge from customers, equal to 3 percent of the total revenues from electricity services. The funds are allocated to conservation projects (56.7 percent), renewable resources (17.1 percent), weatherization for low-income homes (11.7 percent), schools (10.0 percent), and low-income housing (4.5 percent).

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2494 would have extended the sunset on the public purpose charge by ten years, to 2036.

### [House Bill 2496](#)

Effective Date: September 29, 2019

## Battery Storage as “Green Energy Technology”

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Holvey

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; Senate Business and General Government

**Background and Current Law:** State law requires all public building construction, reconstruction, or major renovation projects with costs exceeding 50 percent of the value of the building to expend at least 1.5 percent of the total contract price on green energy technology (GET), which is defined as a solar, geothermal, or woody biomass energy system used directly for space or water heating or to generate electricity, or a building design that uses solar energy passively to reduce energy use from other sources by at least 20 percent.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2496 modifies the requirement for green energy technology in public buildings by: 1) applying the requirement to projects with a total contract price of \$5 million or greater and clarifying the calculation of total contract price; 2) adding battery storage that is part of an on-site solar or geothermal energy system to the definition of green energy technology (GET); 3) lowering the threshold from 20 to 10 percent reduction of energy use for passive solar energy building designs to meet definition of GET; 4) allowing a contracting agency to satisfy GET requirements through energy efficient construction measures when analysis shows GET is inappropriate for a given project; and, 5) allowing a contracting agency to consolidate GET requirements from multiple projects into a single public building or off-site location.

**Oregon Laws 2019:** Chapter 160

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### [House Bill 2618](#)

Effective Date: September 29, 2019

## Rebates for Solar Electric and Paired Solar and Storage Systems

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Helm, DB Smith; Sens. Roblan, Prozanski

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** Solar energy technologies generate electricity in all parts of Oregon. Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, which make up the majority of new solar energy projects in Oregon, increased from about 1,000 in 2009 to more than 8,000 systems in 2013. Most residential and commercial systems installed in recent years have been developed and financed by third-party companies, meaning that solar users pay none of the upfront costs, but pay a lease fee or ongoing charge. A combination of federal, state, and utility incentives has helped to accelerate demand for solar energy projects in Oregon, including Oregon’s residential energy tax credit (RETC), which sunset on December 31, 2017. During the final year of that program, the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) processed RETC applications for approximately 2,800 residential solar projects.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2618 establishes a program to provide rebates through contractors for the purchase, construction, or installation of residential and commercial solar electric systems and paired solar and energy storage systems, to be administered by ODOE. The Act directs ODOE to prioritize rebates that benefit low- and moderate-income residential customers and nonresidential customers that are low-income service providers. House Bill 2618 establishes the Rooftop Solar Incentive Fund and authorizes donations, appropriations, and funds from any public or private source to be deposited into the Fund. House Bill 5050 (2019) appropriates \$2 million into the Fund for the biennium, beginning July 1, 2019.

**Oregon Laws 2019:** Chapter 655

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### [House Bill 2855](#)

Not Enacted

#### Public Utility Commission

**At the request of:** Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition, Renewable Energy Coalition, Community Renewable Energy Association

**Committee:** House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulates investor-owned utilities and is responsible for ensuring utility customers have access to safe, reliable, and high-quality utility services at just and reasonable rates. The scope and mandate of the PUC is determined by the legislature, which requires the PUC to balance the interests of customers and utility companies (ORS 756.040). Senate Bill 978 (2017) directed the PUC to use a public process to consider how their role as regulator might evolve, given changes in the energy industry and in energy policy. During the public process, stakeholders suggested changing the PUC's focus to include: 1) reducing greenhouse gases and other efforts to address climate change, and 2) considering ways to improve equitable and affordable access to energy services.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2855 would have directed the PUC to broaden its focus to include policies that promote social equity; environmental justice; the enhancement of the environment; reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; customer choice; diverse ownership of power generation; and the fulfillment of Oregon's energy, climate, and economic goals. The Act would have charged the PUC with stimulating and promoting competition in the energy sector and related industries and would have encouraged the PUC to foster broad participation in energy regulation processes.

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### [House Bill 2857](#)

Not Enacted

#### Small-Scale Renewable Energy

**At the request of:** Renewable Energy Coalition, Community Renewable Energy Association, and Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** In 2007, the legislature passed Oregon's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which requires 50 percent of the electricity used in the state to come from renewable resources by 2040, with intermediate goals required periodically. The same measure established the goal that by 2025, at least eight percent of Oregon's retail electrical load would come from small-scale renewable energy projects. To achieve this goal, current rules aggregate the electrical capacity of all large utility companies and require eight percent of the aggregated electricity sales to come from small-scale renewable sources or biomass with thermal energy as a secondary source. Renewable energy sources for RPS compliance include wind energy; solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy; wave, tidal, and ocean thermal energy; geothermal energy; and biomass and biomass by-products. Up to 40 average megawatts (MW) of electricity generated by certified low impact hydroelectric facilities per year may be used to comply with Oregon's RPS.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 2857 would have modified requirements that by the year 2025, eight percent of electricity sold in Oregon by large electric companies must be composed of electricity generated by small-scale renewable energy facilities with a generating capacity of 20 MW or less that are not owned by an electric company or facilities that are not owned by an electric company that generate electricity using biomass and that generate thermal energy.

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[House Bill 3062-A](#)

Not Enacted

**Extends Sunset for Biodiesel Exemption from Use Fuel Tax**

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Wilde, Holvey

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; House Revenue, Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) employs fuel taxes along with other funds from state, federal, county, and city sources, to preserve, improve, and operate Oregon's road system. The current rate for use fuel tax is 34 cents per gallon of fuel and is scheduled to increase incrementally to 40 cents by 2024. House Bill 2435 A (2013) exempted diesel fuel blended with a minimum of 20 percent biodiesel derived from used cooking oil and used in a motor vehicle with a gross weight of 26,000 pounds or less from the use fuel tax for the years 2014-2019.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 3062-A would have extended the sunset from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021 on the exemption from use fuel tax for diesel fuel blended with a minimum of 20 percent biodiesel derived from used cooking oil, used in motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less.

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[House Bill 3065](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

**Carrier of Last Resort Obligations**

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Marsh, Reschke

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; Senate Business and General Government

**Background and Current Law:** The carrier of last resort obligation is the requirement for local exchange telecommunications service providers certified by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to provide adequate and nondiscriminatory services to customers within allocated territories. The Oregon Universal Service Fund, through a surcharge on all retail telecommunication sales, supports local telephone companies that provide basic telephone service in rural communities.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 3065 requires the PUC to conduct a public investigation to determine whether industry trends, technologies, and policy drivers in the telecommunications sector warrant changes to Oregon's carrier of last resort requirement and incentives. The PUC must report its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020.

**Oregon Laws 2019:** Chapter 143

[House Bill 3094-A](#)

Not Enacted

**Home Weatherization, Retrofit, and Affordability Program**

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Marsh

**Committees:** House Human Services and Housing; House Energy and Environment; Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** Weatherization assistance refers to a suite of services performed to keep homes warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy use, and lower energy costs for households. Weatherization assistance typically involves an energy audit, which includes home inspection and identification of improvements that would reduce energy use and increase the health and safety of residents. Examples of weatherization improvements include ceiling, wall, and floor insulation; fixing air leaks around baseboards or windows; furnace repair and replacement; and heating duct improvements.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 3094-A would have established the Home Weatherization, Retrofit, and Affordability Program (Home WRAP) within the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS). Home WRAP would have offered incentives to construction contractors undertaking energy improvement projects to reduce the cost of such projects for property owners. To be eligible, a property would have been required to be: an owner-occupied residence with a household income of up to 150 percent of state median household income; an affordable housing development; or a property owned by a charitable nonprofit. The measure would have provided guidance for contractors to claim incentives and would have authorized OHCS to adopt rules and take actions necessary to administer the program.

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[House Bill 3141-A](#)

Not Enacted

**Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and State Agency Fleets**

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Wilde, Power

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; Joint Ways and Means

**Background and Current Law:** The first electric vehicle (EV) in the U.S. was introduced in 1890 by a chemist in Des Moines, Iowa. Over time, policies such as the Electric Hybrid Vehicle Research Development and Demonstration Act of 1976, the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendment, and the 1992 Energy Policy Act have contributed to the emergence of the EV as an alternative to gasoline powered vehicles. Many cities and states currently offer incentives and rebates to help encourage the adoption of EVs. Oregon's Clean Vehicle Rebate Program offers a rebate of up to \$2,500 to residents who are leasing or purchasing new EVs, and there is a federal tax credit for the purchase of new EVs that is being phased out. Additionally, California's Innovative Clean Transit measure aims to transition transit fleets to zero-emission technologies to work toward a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 3141-A would have required a modification in the state building code to incorporate EV charging infrastructure, would have required the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to adopt EV fleet requirements and would have directed DAS to study the costs and feasibility of implementing the California Innovative Clean Transit measure in Oregon.

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[House Bill 3157](#)

Not Enacted

**Alternative Energy Collection for Low-Rise Residential Dwellings**

**Chief Sponsors:** Rep. Evans

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** Oregon’s Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), Building Codes Division administers the state’s Low-Rise Residential Dwelling Code. The code contains all the requirements, including structural design provisions, related to the construction of residential dwellings three stories or less above grade. Additionally, Oregon has energy codes for buildings that set a minimum standard of energy efficiency. These codes cover insulation, equipment, windows, lighting, and other elements of construction. The Oregon Department of Energy acts as a consultant to the Building Codes Division to evaluate and adopt energy codes and amendments, and the Building Codes Division administers residential energy code provisions through the Oregon Residential Specialty Code.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 3157 would have directed DCBS to include a requirement that low-rise dwellings constructed under the code must include one or more appropriate methods of alternative energy collection or generation.

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[House Bill 3274-A](#)

Not Enacted

**Small-scale Renewable Energy**

**Chief Sponsors:** Reps. Bonham, Helm, Helt; Sens. Bentz, Roblan

**At the request of:** Oregon Water Resources Congress

**Committees:** House Energy and Environment; House Rules

**Background and Current Law:** The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) requires electric utilities to offer to purchase power from, and interconnect with, qualifying energy generation projects including small-scale renewable energy and facilities that generate both electricity and another form of useful thermal energy. In addition, the Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires 50 percent of the electricity used in the state to come from renewable resources by 2040, with benchmarks required as time progresses. Large utilities, those that serve three percent or more of Oregon’s population, are required to adhere to RPS targets and report annual progress to the Oregon Department of Energy.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 3274-A would have required that by the year 2025, electric companies that sell to 25,000 or more retail customers get eight percent of the electricity they sell from small-scale renewable energy facilities or facilities that generate electricity using biomass and thermal energy for a secondary purpose. The measure would have authorized renewable energy certificates for electricity generated from a certified low-impact hydroelectric facility to qualify for RPS targets.

[House Bill 3325](#)

Not Enacted

**Non-residential Net Metering**

At the request of: RS Energy, LLC

Committees: House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** Oregon's net metering law allows all utility customers to generate their own electricity to reduce their electricity bills. Upon installation of a solar electric system, the utility will switch out the customer's existing utility meter for a bidirectional "net" meter. The new meter keeps track of the power the customer buys from the utility, and the power the customer supplies to the grid. Each month, the power from the utility is offset by the power the customer produces, and the customer is only charged for the difference, or the "net." Surplus energy generates kilowatt hour credits that are applied to the customer's future electric bills.

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 3325 would have modified the rules for a nonresidential customer-generator to interconnect to an electric distribution system for a net metering facility with a generating capacity of more than 25 kilowatts but less than two megawatts. The measure would have specified application processes, would have required the applicant to pay for the actual installed costs of the necessary interconnection facilities, and would have established a schedule for payment of those costs.

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[House Concurrent Resolution 9](#)

Not Enacted

[\(see Senate Concurrent Resolution 1\)](#)

**Closed-loop Pumped Storage Projects**

Chief Sponsors: Reps. Helm, Reschke, G Smith; Sens. Roblan, Dembrow

Committees: House Energy and Environment

**Background and Current Law:** According to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), pumped storage projects move water between two reservoirs located at different elevations to store energy and generate electricity. When electricity demand is low, excess electric generation capacity is used to pump water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir. When electricity demand is high, the stored water is released from the upper reservoir to the lower reservoir through a turbine to generate electricity. FERC identifies two classifications of pumped storage projects: closed-loop and open-loop. Closed-loop pumped storage projects are not continuously connected to a naturally flowing water feature, whereas open-loop pumped storage projects are continuously connected to a naturally flowing water feature.

**Bill Summary:** House Concurrent Resolution 9 would have declared the legislature's support for the development of environmentally appropriate closed-loop pumped storage projects and encouraged utilities to use this tool as one way to meet future energy needs.