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NEWS RELEASE

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**\$90 Million Climate Budget Framework Invests in Sustainable,
Resilient Future for Oregon**

Investments to lower utility costs, reduce building emissions, empower landowners to participate in the green economy, incentivize carbon sequestration, and improve disaster resilience.

SALEM, Ore. - Today, legislative leaders announced Oregon's 2023-2025 Climate Budget framework aimed at reducing emissions and improving disaster-resiliency in communities across Oregon.

Like the [2022 Climate Resilience Budget](#), the 2023-2025 Climate Budget is part of the Legislature's commitment to establishing regular spending to address and respond to the negative effects of climate change.

The Climate Budget framework provides economical, forward-thinking ways to reduce emissions, modernize our agriculture systems, and position the state to receive nearly \$1 billion in Inflation Reduction Act funding to deliver concrete outcomes for generations to come.

These investments include **Resilient Efficient Buildings (REBuild)**, to bring down the cost of utilities and reduce Oregon's carbon footprint by:

- Making sure homes and commercial buildings are built and operated in an energy efficient manner.
- Giving contractors the necessary training to retrofit homes with energy efficient appliances and other home technologies.
- Creating a position at the Oregon Department of Energy to help Oregonians apply for and secure funding for their energy-efficiency retrofits.

This work began in the 2022 interim with the [Joint Task Force on Resilient and Efficient Buildings](#). The task force was co-chaired by Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber and Representative Pam Marsh.

"With hotter summers, colder winters, and more dangerous, extreme weather impacting Oregonians year-round, we have to update our buildings to keep Oregonians safe," said **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber** (D-Beaverton). "More efficient, resilient buildings will not only keep Oregonians and their families safer and healthier in their homes, but reduce utility bills and the pollution that is causing the climate crisis."

"As climate-related emergencies continue to threaten our way of life in communities across Oregon, it is essential that we adapt our infrastructure to be more sustainable," said **Representative Pam Marsh** (D-Southern Jackson County), Chair of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment. "In an extreme heat event, having a more energy efficient home can be a life-saver."

Also set to receive funding is the **Natural & Working Lands Fund**, which assists Oregon's landowners, tribes, and environmental justice communities in voluntarily adopting climate-smart, sustainable practices like increasing on-site energy-efficiency, irrigation modernization, and soil resilience practice.

"As our climate changes, the risk of severe fire increases, and water becomes scarcer, we must take action on climate change while investing in our local economies, especially in our rural communities," said **Senator Michael Dembrow** (D-Portland), co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

The Legislature is also investing in **Community Climate Resiliency**, including:

- **\$10 million to support and expand climate resilience hubs** for emergency preparedness. The catastrophic 2020 wildfire season demonstrated the importance of consistently reinforcing emergency and preparedness strategy and funding. This funding will help communities across the state retain and implement lessons learned and maintain resiliency by supporting and developing physical and social resilience to cope with Oregon's increasingly damaging wildfire seasons long-term (House Bill 2290).

- **\$20 million to replenish the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program**, funding renewable energy and community resilience projects pursued by counties, cities, school districts, and more.

“As Oregon experiences more heat domes, wildfires, and other climate-related disasters, House Bill 2990 gives communities the resources they need to prepare and build their networks well in advance of disaster rather than struggling to rebuild from square one every year,” said **Representative Khanh Pham** (D-Outer SE Portland), co-chair of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources and a member of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment. “Climate resilience hubs will also ensure our communities have the infrastructure and support they need for the often years-long, costly process of disaster recovery.”

The Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program. The Climate Budget framework extends this program and invests \$10 million in empowering low-income contractors and homeowners to adopt solar energy in their homes and buildings.

Additional Wildfire Resilience Funding

In addition to the Climate Budget framework, the Legislature recognizes the need to address the negative effects of climate change, including [increasingly dangerous wildfire seasons](#) in the West. This Climate Budget comes just under a week after Governor Tina Kotek [invoked](#) an emergency conflagration order in Umatilla county. This biennium, the Legislature is also investing \$31.2 million in:

- House Bill 2294 - Pilot projects for firefighter apprenticeship training (\$5 million)
- Senate Bill 80 - Relating to wildfire
 - \$3 million - DSFM - Community Risk Reduction Fund
 - \$1.2 million - HECC-OSU and ODF for activities related to the statewide wildfire hazard map
 - \$5 million, as part of the Climate Budget to help enable Oregon landowners’ use of prescribed fire for land management
- Senate Bill 5506 - Omnibus Budget Reconciliation
 - \$10 million - HECC - Oregon Youth Conservation Corp
 - \$10 million - Oregon Department of State Fire Marshal (DSFM) - Wildfire mitigation and response (staffing grants, pre-positioning, and immediate response, engine maintenance)
 - \$2 million - DSFM - Mobilization Fund

“This funding is critical to safe, successful firefighting and fire mitigation year-round,” said **Representative Dacia Grayber** (D-SW Portland & E Beaverton), a firefighter by trade and Chair of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans. “The importance of good training, appropriate resourcing, and support for the emergency responder workforce cannot be understated.”

Legislative leaders [previously](#) announced that they are set to fund the Office of Emergency Management at an unprecedented \$1.3 billion.

Climate-related emergencies continue to threaten our way of life in Oregon. This session, legislators have focused on building resilient and sustainable communities across Oregon. The 2023-2025 Climate Budget is a key part of this work.

After passing the House [34-15](#) today, House Bill 3409 now heads to the Senate.

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