

NEWS

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For Immediate Release
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Energy Trust Awarded \$15 Million to Boost Affordable, Energy-Efficient Housing

PORTLAND, Ore. — Energy Trust of Oregon was awarded \$15 million of a major new federal grant to expand its work helping create affordable, energy-efficient homes for families across Oregon. The funding is part of a \$197 million [Climate Pollution Reduction grant](#) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded on July 22nd to Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The nearly \$5 billion grant program supports local governments, tribes and territories across the country in their efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The \$15 million allocated to Energy Trust will be used to advance the construction of new affordable, energy-efficient housing across Oregon and to weatherize existing homes for those most in need. The funding will directly support communities that energy efficiency programs have not adequately served in the past including rural areas, families with lower incomes and communities of color.

“This grant will help build a better future for more Oregonians,” said Michael Colgrove, executive director of Energy Trust. “By using less energy in homes, we’re lowering energy bills for more families and addressing a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, putting Oregon one step closer to reaching our climate goals and creating cleaner air for everyone.”

With the Climate Pollution Reduction grant, Energy Trust will expand cash incentives for developers of single-family affordable housing in Oregon. Energy Trust [offers these incentives](#) to lower the cost of including energy-saving features in new homes. These features include efficient design, insulation, windows, lighting, and heating and cooling systems like heat pumps, solar with battery storage, and more. These features lower monthly costs for residents and tenants and create longer-term savings for homeowners due to lower maintenance and improved performance.

For existing homes, the funding will help expand community outreach and expand [current incentives](#) to further lower the cost of home upgrades like adding insulation and other weatherization, which can save people and families hundreds of dollars per year on their energy bills. These incentives will be offered specifically to individuals and families with lower incomes.

“Energy-efficient homes are more comfortable and safer,” said Colgrove. “An insulated, energy-saving home can help families better cope with disasters like extreme heat and smoke from wildfires and that makes our communities more resilient as we face the increasing impacts of climate change.”

The expanded incentives created from the Climate Pollution Reduction grant will be available in early 2025. The funding is the latest grant created by Inflation Reduction Act, the largest ever

federal investment in clean energy, to reach Oregon. Energy Trust will also help implement the \$86 million Solar for All program the Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) [announced earlier this year](#). ODOE has also applied for funding to create a major [new home energy rebate program](#) under the Inflation Reduction Act. If approved, the agency would partner with Energy Trust to bring millions of dollars in additional savings to families across the state.

Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping communities thrive through clean, affordable energy for all. We offer services and cash incentives to help more than 2 million customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural, Cascade Natural Gas and Avista in Oregon and Southwest Washington save energy and generate clean power. Together, we are advancing a clean energy future that builds resilience, promotes equity and supports economic vitality. Learn more at www.energytrust.org or call 1-866-368-7878.

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