



## Funding sources for rural energy projects in Oregon

### Oregon has a number of excellent programs to support renewable energy & energy efficiency projects.

Savvy rural business owners may find that federal, state, & utility programs will pay for over 50% of a project's cost.

### USDA Rural Development programs

USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) & Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) programs can provide significant financial assistance – often in the form of grants – to rural small businesses and especially to agricultural producers. RD grants are limited to 50% of the project cost in the case of VAPG-Planning grants and 25% of the project cost in the case of REAP. More information at: <http://energy.ruraloregon.biz>

### Oregon State Department of Energy (ODOE)

#### Business Energy Tax Credits (BETC)

ODOE offers BETC to businesses who invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. At project completion, a state income tax credit is awarded equal to 35% of the eligible project costs for energy efficiency and 50% for renewable energy. The business takes the credit over a period of years. Alternatively, the business may elect to use the "Pass-through Option" which allows the project owner to transfer the BETC to a pass-through partner for a lump-sum cash payment. This lump sum can equal **about 25.5% of the project cost for energy efficiency and about 33.5% for renewable energy**. <http://oregon.gov/ENERGY/CONS/BUS/BETC.shtml>

#### State Energy Loan Program (SELP)

ODOE also offers SELP loans to finance energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy generation systems, recycling manufacturing projects, and alternative fuels production. SELP offers low interest, fixed rate loans (e.g., **6.2%, 15 years** as of 9/10/2008) of \$20,000 to \$20 million for commercial businesses. More information is available at <http://oregon.gov/ENERGY/LOANS/selphm.shtml>

### Energy Trust of Oregon

The Energy Trust is a nonprofit organization charged with fostering energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the areas of Oregon served by the state's investor-owned utilities – PGE, Pacific Power, NW Natural, Cascade Natural Gas, & Avista. Energy Trust offers a number of incentive programs to businesses undertaking either energy efficiency or renewable energy generating projects, including help with energy audits & packaging fees.

Renewable energy incentives are designed to enable projects to earn a standard financial return for that type of investment. More information is available at <http://www.energytrust.org/RR/index.html>

Energy efficiency incentives may reimburse businesses for up to 15¢/annual kWh, or 50% of total project costs, whichever is less. More information is available at <http://www.energytrust.org/business/index.html>

### Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) & Rural Electric Cooperatives

Much of rural Oregon is served by over 20 electric cooperatives and public utility districts. Many of these local utilities receive power at least in part from BPA. BPA has developed financial incentive programs to support energy efficiency projects that will conserve power. Each electric coop and PUD may in turn elect to offer these programs to its customers. Contact your local utility to determine what programs are available. More information on BPA incentives is available at <http://www.bpa.gov/energy/n/>

### Other sources

This is far from an exhaustive list of federal, state, & utility energy incentive programs. One good link to available programs can be found at <http://www.dsireusa.org/>