

DAS Sustainability Quarterly

Sustainability news and updates from Oregon state government



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY
Oregon Department of
Administrative Services



House Bill 3409 Sets Course for Agency Energy and Climate Efforts

[House Bill 3409](#), passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kotek in 2023, represents a sweeping and significant effort to address energy use and climate

change in Oregon's built environment. And while the legislation will have profound effects on energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the state, it also addresses many aspects of state government's building portfolio.

Among the many elements of the legislation is a directive for agencies to assess energy-using equipment in their buildings – think boilers, chillers, water heaters and more – and their contributions to GHG emissions, with the goal of informing future renovations or equipment replacements with climate in mind. DAS will be assisting agencies in this effort, including development of a database to track equipment condition and GHG emissions. HB 3409 also directs DAS to develop a new generation of sustainable design standards for state agency new construction and major renovations, building on existing requirements for agencies to integrate energy efficiency and renewable energy as part of the Oregon Department of Energy's "SEED" and 1.5% for Green Energy Technology programs.

State agencies will also be required to comply with "ASHRAE 100" energy performance standards, including – among other elements - meeting energy efficiency targets in buildings over a certain size and developing energy management plans. These state agency efforts are part of the legislation's broader requirements for commercial buildings to comply with ASHRAE 100 standards across Oregon. And finally, agencies are directed to establish energy efficiency revolving loan funds so that money from energy savings can be re-invested in future energy-saving projects.

DAS will be working with partners and stakeholders on its elements of the bill, while agencies such as ODOE and DCBS

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About DAS Office of Sustainability

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Office of Sustainability supports efforts within DAS and across Oregon state government. We do so with technical, policy and staffing support. Visit the [DAS Office of Sustainability](#) pages for more information.

About the Oregon Sustainability Board

The [Oregon Sustainability Board \(OSB\)](#) was created in 2001 and encourages activities that best sustain, protect and enhance the environment, economy and community for the present and future benefit of Oregonians. Appointed by the Governor, members represent a variety of stakeholders across the state of Oregon.

The Board, which meets quarterly, is actively involved in the oversight of agency sustainability plans and initiatives, as well as statewide projects working to enhance the

will be addressing other components through rulemaking and other programs.



ODFW Carbon Reduction Plan

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is taking a leading role when it comes to climate change. ODFW's Climate and Ocean Change Policy (2020) directed the agency to assess its carbon footprint every five years and develop a carbon reduction plan that outlines how the department can reduce its GHG emissions, with the goal of being carbon neutral by mid-century.

[ODFW's Base Year Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report](#) (GHG Report) was finalized in 2021, which assessed the carbon footprint of ODFW operations from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. ODFW's total GHG emissions were calculated as 9,280 tons of equivalent carbon dioxide (CO₂e) per year from electricity consumption, fuel combustion and fugitive and nitrous oxide emissions. The GHG Report also assessed carbon sequestration in the ~200,000 acres of lands managed by ODFW and estimated ODFW's wildlife areas sequester almost 61,000 tons of CO₂e per year, which is over 6.5 times larger than the agency's base year GHG emissions total.

While these findings determined that emissions from the agency's operations were already being offset by carbon sequestration, ODFW recognizes the need to continue to identify resources and implement actions that reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration as practicable. The [ODFW Carbon Reduction Plan](#) (2022) outlines goals, actions and targets for the agency to implement that specifically address GHG emission sources and will assist the agency in achieving the overarching goal of reducing ODFW's carbon footprint. Paralleling the carbon reduction goals with the GHG Report metrics will assist the agency in tracking the outcomes of efforts to reduce GHG emissions and re-evaluating targets and efforts as needed.

environment, economy and community.

Agencies Act on Climate Change

DAS, ODOT and the Oregon Sustainability Board partnered with Good Company to create a Climate Action Planning Tool and companion Guide for state agencies to measure and manage their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To date, approximately 15 agencies have reported to DAS their GHG emissions and priority actions to reduce emissions in agency operations. This allows agencies to lead by example; reduce costs through greater efficiencies; and respond to Executive Order 20-04 to prioritize climate change in planning, budgeting, capital planning and operations

ODOE Zero Emission Vehicle Report

The [2023 Biennial Zero Emission Vehicle Report](#) examines Oregon's general progress on its electric vehicle adoption goals, identifies industry and consumer trends influencing EV ownership and provides an overview of policies that support the state's EV adoption goals. It also examines the effects EVs have on the state's climate and energy goals.



Oregon Department of Energy Spotlight on Oregon Agriculture

Oregon is well known for its incredible agricultural sector – filberts, hops, cherries, peppermint, milk products, hay, wine grapes, onions and much more support local communities across the state. According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s [annual statistics book](#), more than 37,000 farms are spread across 16 million Oregon acres, growing or raising more than 200 products valued at over [\\$5 billion](#).

Oregon agricultural producers use energy for a variety of needs, including powering vehicles and equipment, irrigating fields, cleaning or chilling products and many other uses. An effective way producers can reduce operating costs is to ensure energy use is as efficient as possible. Additionally, electrifying some farm equipment or vehicles can further reduce energy costs, and reduce pollution and GHG emissions from fossil fuels at the same time. The Oregon Department of Energy’s 2022 Biennial Energy Report outlines [many of the electrification options](#) (and their benefits) in the agricultural sector.

Oregon agricultural producers already rely on electricity as an energy source more than those in other regions. Oregon farms, as in many other western states, are more likely to irrigate and power irrigation pumps with electricity. In fact, Oregon agriculture gets about 60 percent of its power from electricity, while the national sector gets about 24 percent. Some Oregon agricultural producers are already taking advantage of options to reduce fossil fuel use by making their buildings and equipment more energy efficient, practicing reduced-till and no-till farming and installing renewable energy generation.

But other electrification opportunities can further reduce fossil fuel use and increase energy efficiency on Oregon farms and ranches. Some equipment, like water pumps, water heating, forklifts, harvesting platforms, trimmers, chainsaws, heat pumps and others are already available in electric options with growing adoption among farms and ranches. Other technologies are still in development, new to market, or haven’t seen a boost in adoption yet, like electric tractors, medium-duty trucks, on-farm processing equipment, and others.

Electrifying equipment and processes doesn’t just lead to increased efficiency – it can also reduce maintenance time and costs, avoid volatile pricing of fossil-based liquid fuels, reduce exhaust fumes, improve operator safety with fewer

moving parts in engines, and support potential renewable energy investments thanks to lower overall energy needs.

The Oregon Department of Energy is here to help! Our [Rural & Agricultural Energy Audit Program](#) can help Oregon agricultural producers and rural small businesses better understand their energy use and potential improvements. ODOE's program will help fund energy assessments (or audits) that identify investments and actions businesses can take to improve energy efficiency – and an assessment is often a first step in applying for available federal, local, or utility funding to implement improvements. For example, an energy assessment is required when applying to the USDA Rural Energy Assistance Program, which offers both grants (valued at up to 50 percent of eligible project costs) and loan guarantees to rural small businesses and agricultural producers for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.



DAS Solar Array a Step Closer to Fruition

With the completion of design, DAS is one step closer to realizing the completion of a 250-kilowatt solar array at its Fleet and Parking Services facility in Salem. The array, at over an acre in size, is being partially funded by a \$400,000 grant from Portland General Electric's [Renewable Development Fund](#). Once fully constructed and online - which is planned for 2024 – energy from the array will support the installation of 50 dual-head EV chargers for the state fleet. The project is in final permitting stages, with a request for bids for construction expected by the end of the year.



DAS EV Charging Project Moving Ahead

DAS Enterprise Asset Management has begun the large undertaking of adding EV charging infrastructure to DAS parking lots. The project is being completed simultaneously with other parking lot upgrades to limit disruption to state agencies and employees who lease parking places.

A total of 16 parking lots and garages in the Salem area are slated for upgrades and EV chargers. These efforts are in direct support of Executive Orders 17-21 and 20-04. Upon project completion, there will be 166 chargers for state-owned vehicles/employees, as well as 26 for public use. For project specifics, locations and updates, please see the [Fleet and Parking Services project website](#).