

## Executive Summary

In 2017, the Oregon Department of Energy, recognizing that the energy world has changed dramatically since the 1970s, introduced House Bill 2343 to the Legislature. The bill charged the department with developing a new Biennial Energy Report to inform local, state, regional, and federal energy policy development and energy planning and investments. The report – based on analysis of data and information collected and compiled by the Oregon Department of Energy – provides a comprehensive review of energy resources, policies, trends, and forecasts, and what they mean for Oregon.

### What You Can Expect to See in the 2020 Biennial Energy Report

The 2020 report takes a different approach than the inaugural 2018 Biennial Energy Report, which provided deep policy dives on a handful of important energy topics — including climate change, renewable energy, transportation, energy resilience, energy efficiency, and consumer protection. This 2020 report follows recommendations by energy stakeholders to provide shorter briefs on a wider array of energy topics — from energy in the agriculture sector to what’s next for alternative fuels to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on energy, and more.

Many sections show that Oregon is on a path toward transitioning to a cleaner, low carbon future. Data and examples included in the report illustrate sustained investments in energy efficiency, affordability, renewable energy, and resource conservation. These efforts have positioned Oregon to successfully tackle today’s energy challenges, which are driven by growing adoption from consumers for cleaner energy, economic innovation, and emerging technologies.

The report begins by looking at **Energy by the Numbers**—detailed information on Oregon’s overall and sector-based energy use, energy production and generation, energy expenditures, and the strategies Oregon has employed to meet growing energy needs. New in 2020 is an energy flow diagram, illustrating energy production and imports to eventual end-use.

Next up is a **Timeline of Energy History in Oregon**, starting with the Missoula Floods that formed our state and ending with 2020’s latest events — including the closure of Oregon’s only coal power plant and new actions to tackle climate change.

The **Energy 101** section aims to help readers understand the first part of the energy story: how energy is produced, used, and transformed. Information is meant to provide a

foundation for those new to energy and those who are already steeped in the sector.

The **Resource and Technology Reviews** section highlights 23 energy resources and technologies — they cover the spectrum of tradition to innovative, from renewable resources to emerging technologies like microgrids and power-to-gas. The topics covered are prevalent in Oregon or of interest to ODOE’s various stakeholders. Many of the technologies offer opportunities to invest in Oregon’s economy by creating energy-related jobs, including those focused on restoring our energy systems when disruptions occur.

The final section includes more detailed **Policy Briefs** that cover decarbonization, the transition of the electric grid, innovation in the natural gas system, cleaner transportation options, and the built environment and Oregon’s communities. The primary purpose of the report — and these policy briefs — is to inform energy policy development, energy planning and energy investments, and to identify opportunities to further Oregon’s energy policies.

The Biennial Energy Report wraps up with a new summary of the process used to develop the report and **closing thoughts** on what’s next. ODOE will kick off discussions in 2021 and reach out to hear new voices on recommendations for energy policy in Oregon over the next two years — and beyond.

The Biennial Energy Report may be found in its entirety at

<https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/ber>

or

[www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Pages/Reports-to-the-Legislature.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Pages/Reports-to-the-Legislature.aspx)

The Department of Energy welcomes your comments and questions. Please contact our agency at [askenergy@oregon.gov](mailto:askenergy@oregon.gov).

