



## Principles for 100% Clean Electricity Bill

Updated March 23, 2021

House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm, and members of the committee:

The Environmental Center remains excited about the two bills--HB 2021 and HB 3180 (and their proposed amendments)--currently being considered to transition Oregon's electricity supply to 100% clean energy.

Oregon currently gets half of its energy from fossil fuel sources. Science tells us we have about ten years to take aggressive action to reduce GHG emissions if we want to avoid the worst case outcomes of a rapidly changing climate, which for Oregon include coastal flooding; increased droughts, wildfires and extreme weather events; and disruption to snow packs and water supplies. Achieving 100% clean electricity, as rapidly as possible, is an essential component of Oregon's pathway to meet the climate challenge.

**We believe both bills have elements that should be incorporated into the final bill to achieve the best results for Oregonians and address the clear need to act rapidly over the next ten years. As you work to craft that final bill, we believe the following principles should guide your work:**

1. Use proven/accepted regulatory mechanisms, such as the renewable portfolio standard and DEQ's greenhouse gas reporting protocols, wherever possible to ensure we achieve real results rapidly. Measurable progress should not be slowed down or delayed by the creation of extensive new regulatory mechanisms that require multi-year rulemaking processes.
2. Strong, binding language holding utilities accountable to meeting the policy goal of 100% clean energy and the specific interim and long-term clean energy targets established in the bill. Specifically:
  - Strike the words "seek to" from Section 3(1) in HB 2021-4.



3. Include clear, aggressive and frequent milestones to ensure rapid progress towards the 100% clean goal. Specifically:
  - Include an interim target for 2025 in the final bill, perhaps through the existing RPS.
4. Enable and encourage community-based and smaller-scale renewable projects that can help local, and especially rural, communities meet their economic development, clean energy, disaster preparedness and resiliency goals. Specifically:
  - Revert back to energy generation instead of nameplate capacity to measure utility compliance with RPS standards for small-scale renewables, and increase the energy generation requirement from 8% to 10% from small-scale projects.
  - Ensure small-scale projects have a level legal and competitive playing field with utilities.
  - Strike Sections 17-24 in HB 2021-1 (and any similar sections in HB 2021-4). While we support creation of a green tariff option for local communities to transition to 100% clean energy faster, we believe HB 3221 or SB 784 provide better models than the language in -1.
5. Support creation of new family-wage jobs and career transition/development opportunities for Oregon workers. Specifically:
  - Wait for and listen to the input of the HB 2021 stakeholders who have been working in good faith on a set of revised labor standards to propose to the committee.
6. Build projects in Oregon--projects that will benefit Oregonians by providing local jobs, developing new career pathways and increasing our local tax base. Specifically,
  - Include a requirement that projects be built in Oregon, something like the 50% requirement in HB 3180.
7. Support distributed generation and energy storage projects, and explicitly incentivize projects that combine renewables and storage.
8. Ensure that rural, coastal, low-income and BIPOC communities, those most likely to feel the impacts of climate change:
  - have a seat at the table in crafting the final legislation, and any related rules; and
  - see meaningful benefits from the transition to clean energy.

Questions? Please call or email:

- Mike Riley, Executive Director, 541-420-8565 or [mike@envirocenter.org](mailto:mike@envirocenter.org)
- Lindsey Hardy, Program Director-Energy and Waste, 541-948-9915 or [lindsey@envirocenter.org](mailto:lindsey@envirocenter.org)

