

Advocating for OCAP Budget Priorities:

1. Climate Crisis. Oregonians are carrying the burden of many crises all at once right now. Among them is the climate crisis. I ask you to fully fund the state natural resources, health and environmental protection, and energy agencies working to address this crisis. We must take responsibility for our part to stop climate change while also investing in protections for Oregonians harmed by it now.

The climate crisis is already affecting our health and economy-- from fishing families on the coast to farmers in Eastern Oregon, from children forced to live too close to polluting highways to the hundreds of people who lost homes and businesses to climate-fueled wildfires.

2. Equity. Agencies must be funded to reduce pollution, make communities more resilient, protect frontline workers, and center equity in all of their work. The impacts of burning fossil fuels and the worsening wildfires, drought, heat waves, and extreme weather -- like the February ice storm-- fall unfairly hard on Black, Indigenous, Tribal, and communities of color in Oregon. Due to disinvestment and racist policy, BIPOC communities are less likely to have the resources to deal with climate and health emergencies, and more likely to live in places or have jobs that expose workers and families to pollution, disasters, and extreme weather.

3. Health. Protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we depend on is as important for health as a good vaccine. We must fully fund the agencies charged with protecting the environment we count on to live healthfully.

_ The Oregon Health Authority's 2020 report couldn't be clearer. It says the climate crisis is here and it's hurting Oregonians, especially BIPOC communities and workers.

4. Economic recovery. Funds from this budget and the American Rescue Plan must be spent to build back better. After overlapping crises, we must rebuild Oregon for all-- which means purposeful investment in communities burdened with pollution to make them cleaner, faster adoption of clean energy in buildings, transportation, and power generation, and making homes and communities better prepared for health and environmental disasters. This focus will create good-paying jobs that can't be outsourced, lower energy bills, and increase health and equity for those who need it most.

5. Budgets are Climate Action. Until the legislature passes major new climate protections, the work agencies and commissions are doing is the only route for major climate action in Oregon. Funding state agencies doing the work of reducing pollution and transitioning Oregon to a clean energy economy is a prime way for legislators to fulfill their promise to protect Oregonians. This budget can be climate action with the right spending priorities. I also urge you to pass new legislation this year to finally make Oregon a leader again in the equitable transition to clean energy.

AGENCIES WITH PRIORITY BUDGET ITEMS FOR THE OREGON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN--

Dept. of Environmental Quality

Dept. of Forestry

Dept. of Land Conservation and Development

Dept. of Energy

Dept. of Transportation

Building Codes Division

Public Utility Commission

Oregon Health Authority

Dept. of Agriculture

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration

That includes funding to:

1 Support transportation electrification and equitable, climate-smart transportation.

2 Implement greenhouse gas reduction programs currently underway at DEQ, with Climate Protection Program and Statewide Transportation Strategy.

3 Invest in environmental justice land use planning to advance equity-driven climate solutions.

4 Advance natural climate solutions by improving soil health on OR agricultural lands, forest management practices, and water quality.

5 Promote climate mitigation policies w/ public health co-benefits.

6 Commit to equitable outcomes and environmental justice by funding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion staff. Thanks!