



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
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Bill Title: Relating to the State Department of Energy's community renewable and resilient energy grant program.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Energy, Oregon Business Development Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Energy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 186,246	\$ -	\$ 186,246	1	0.75
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 186,246	\$ -	\$ 186,246	1	0.75

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Energy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 246,374	\$ -	\$ 246,374	1	1.00
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 246,374	\$ -	\$ 246,374	1	1.00

Measure Description

The measure modifies the Community Renewable Investment Program administered by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) by renaming it the Community Renewable and Resilient Energy Grant Program and expanding its scope to include stand-alone energy resilience projects. The measure adds offsetting the cost of developing stand-alone energy resilience projects as a program purpose, clarifies eligibility criteria, and updates application requirements. The Department may adopt rules specifying eligible systems, technologies, equipment, or measures for stand-alone energy resilience projects.

The measure establishes funding allocations, directing at least 50% of available grant funds to community energy resilience projects and at least 20% to stand-alone energy resilience projects, with flexibility to reallocate unawarded funds and issue separate funding announcements. The measure also limits grant awards for stand-alone energy resilience projects to 50% of project costs, up to a maximum of \$250,000, ensuring total funding does not exceed project costs when combined with other incentives. The Department must adopt rules in consultation with the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) and submit a biennial report to the Legislative Assembly on fund expenditures and program outcomes.

Additionally, the measure renames the Community Renewable Investment Fund as the Community Renewable and Resilient Energy Investment Fund, maintaining it as a separate, continuously appropriated fund for grants and program operations administered by ODOE, with interest earnings credited to the fund.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact of the measure is \$186,246 Other Funds and one permanent position (0.75 FTE) in the 2025-27 biennium and \$246,374 Other Funds (1.00 FTE) for the 2027-29 biennium.

Department of Energy

The Community Renewable Investment Program, established under HB 2021 (2021), provides grants for planning and developing community renewable energy projects. A one-time appropriation of \$50 million General Fund was deposited into the Community Renewable Investment Fund in 2021, with another one-time deposit of \$20 million General Fund provided in SB 5506 (2023). The Community Renewable and Resilient Energy Investment Fund has a current cash balance of \$59,722,848, with \$33,231,536 of that amount reserved for projects that have not yet been distributed.

To administer the program, ODOE received seven positions (6.50 FTE) in 2021-23, however, these positions are limited duration in the 2023-25 biennium and are phased out of the Department's 2025-27 current service level budget. With an unreserved funding balance of \$26.4 million available to support existing grant programs and the expanded scope of this measure, along with \$33.2 million reserved for projects, necessary staffing to maintain the program will be reviewed as part of the 2025-27 budget development process.

To implement the expanded scope of the program, beyond the staffing needs to continue the core program support, ODOE would require a full-time permanent Program Analyst 2 (0.75 FTE) to develop new opportunity announcements, update program materials, review applications, and monitor and report on grant agreements to address the expanded scope of the existing grant program. The cost of this position, along with associated services and supplies, is \$186,246 Other Funds for the 2025-27 biennium, and \$246,374 Other Funds in 2027-29.

Oregon Business Development Department

The measure is anticipated to have minimal fiscal impact for Oregon Business Development Department.

Relevant Dates

By December 15 of each odd-numbered year, ODOE must report to the Legislature on fund expenditures and project status, unless no funds or projects were active in the previous 24 months.

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.