

Dear co-chairs Frederick and Levy and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources:

We write to support continued funding for the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program (CHPDP). Since its launch in the Northwestern region just 14 months ago, the program has installed heat pumps in **249 homes**, a vast majority of which are located within disadvantaged communities. These heat pumps provide crucial – and often life-saving – heating and cooling for recipient homeowners.

More than 100 Oregonians died from heat-related illness during the 2021 heat dome event, and most of these deaths occurred in the home. Since then, the State of Oregon has recognized heat pumps as a pivotal technology for combating these avoidable deaths. CHPDP has been an effective and efficient way to ensure that this technology reaches the individuals and families who need it most. Over 99% of the homeowners served by CHPDP in the Northwestern region belong to priority communities identified by SB 1563. 87% of these households are low income, and 80% had no cooling prior to the CHPDP installation.

**Without CHPDP assistance, many, if not most, of these recipients would still be at risk of illness or death due to extreme weather events.**

As federal funding for heat pumps becomes more uncertain, state support can help fill the gap. CHPDP provides a proven, effective, and tangible way to make progress on the State's ambitious emissions reduction targets, as well as its goal to install 500,000 heat pumps by 2030. It's also an essential safeguard to ensure that disadvantaged Oregon communities aren't overlooked in the clean energy transition.

In a short period, CHPDP has achieved remarkable success and enhanced the lives of hundreds of Oregonians. We urge you to continue funding CHPDP to ensure that more Oregon residents benefit from this impactful initiative. The success of programs like CHPDP can help solidify Oregon's leadership in energy efficiency at a time when state action is even more critically important.

Signed,

- City of Beaverton
- City of Tigard
- Community Energy Project
- Community Services Consortium
- Earth Advantage
- Emerald People's Utility District
- Eugene Water & Electric Board
- LatinoBuilt
- Multnomah County
- Rohingya Youth Association of Portland
- Seeds for the Sol



## Program overview

The Community Heat Pump Deployment Program (CHPDP) was established by [SB 1536](#) in the wake of the deadly 2021 heat dome event to incentivize efficient and affordable heat pump systems for Oregon homeowners. The program provides equitable access to energy efficient and cost-effective heating and cooling technology.

Earth Advantage administers CHPDP in the Northwestern region, which includes 13 counties in the North Coast, Metro, Mid-Valley, and South Valley/Mid-Coast areas. This program has been active since December 2023<sup>1</sup> and is designed with a community-focused, partnership-based model. Earth Advantage works closely with a network of community-based organizations, community action agencies, local utilities, and local governments to ensure that heat pumps reach the households prioritized by the program. Most of these organizations are already familiar with heat pump installations and incentive programs, work closely with priority communities, and are ideally positioned to help recipients stack multiple funding sources for maximum impact.

## Program results

### Funds disbursed

Demand for CHPDP funds has been high. To date, CHPDP in the Northwestern region has served **249** households and disbursed a total of **\$1,703,450.93** toward heat pump projects. (\$1,521,412.48 toward heat pump purchase and installation, and \$182,038.35 toward electrical or weatherization upgrades that support heat pump functionality.) An additional **\$1,025,252.07** has been reserved for projects that are expected to be complete within the next 90 days.

Of the total \$3,442,839 allocated to the Northwestern region, **79.3%** of funds have been reserved or disbursed for heat pump projects<sup>2</sup>.

### CHPDP Impact

Of the homeowners served by CHPDP in the Northwestern region:

- 99.6% belong to priority communities identified by SB 1563
- 87.1% are experiencing lower incomes (under 80% AMI)

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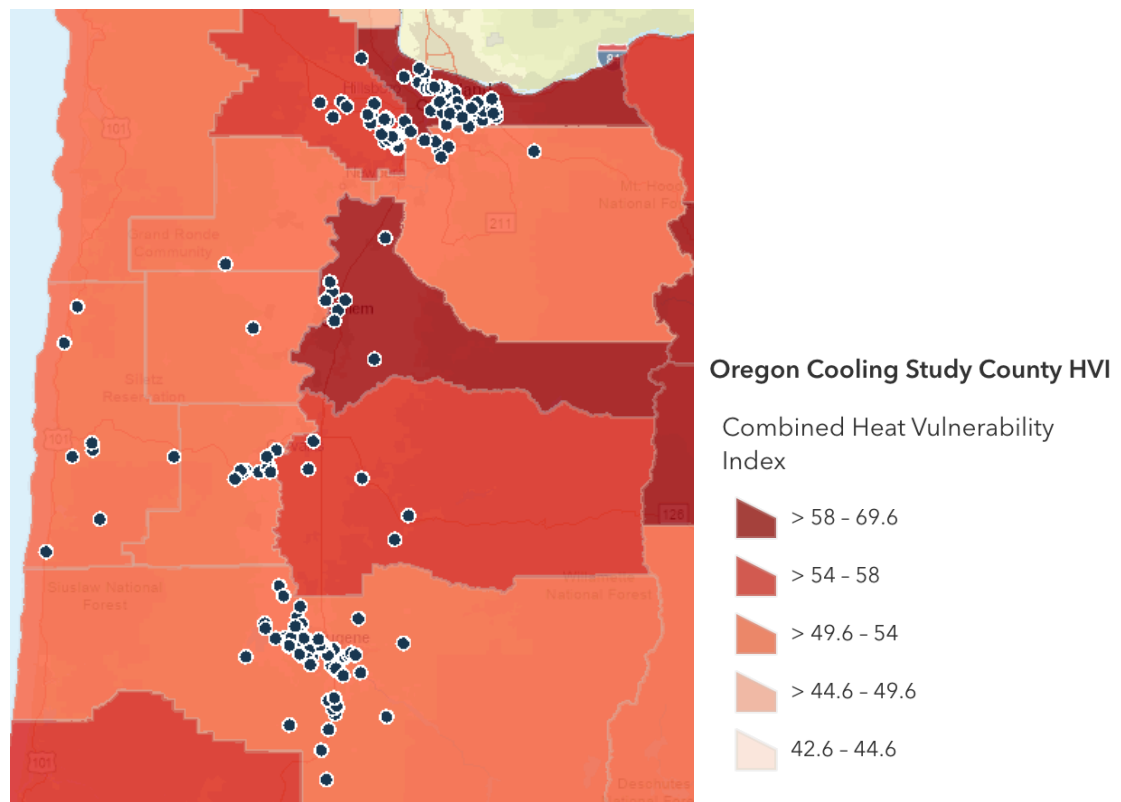
<sup>1</sup> Except for the North Coast, which has only been active since November 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Funds for the South Valley/Mid-Coast area have been completely depleted, while funds for the Metro and Mid-Valley areas are both roughly 80% spent. (North Coast funds are relatively full because the program for that area launched only 3 months ago. We expect these funds will be spent quickly once our installation partners begin accepting applications.)

### CHPDP Impact (cont.)

- 79.5% have one or more risk factors for heat-related death:
  - 79.9% had no cooling prior to CHPDP installation
  - 46.2% are over 60 years of age
  - 34.9% live alone
  - 16.1% have a physical or mental disability
- 55.0% reside in counties with Heat Vulnerability Index scores above the state average
- 49.8% relied on bulk fuels or electric resistance heat prior to CHPDP installation
- 37.8% live in an RV or manufactured home<sup>3</sup>
- 23.3% had no heating prior to CHPDP installation

### CHPDP Northwestern Region Installation Map



<sup>3</sup> A housing type of particular priority due to the high energy burden and compounding vulnerabilities that their occupants disproportionately experience.