



# NeighborImpact

Supporting People, Strengthening Communities

## Solar Investment for Regional Food Security

### *2026 Capital Construction Request*

#### **\$150,000 – One-Time Capital Investment Request**

NeighborImpact requests \$150,000 in state capital funding to install rooftop solar panels on its 10,000-square-foot regional food bank warehouse in Redmond. The facility was engineered to support solar installation. This project will reduce fixed operating costs, stabilize long-term food distribution capacity, and strengthen Central Oregon's emergency food infrastructure.

#### **Return on Investment**

- **\$25,000 in projected annual utility savings**
- Long-term cost stabilization for essential food storage operations
- Increased reinvestment in direct food purchasing and distribution

With demand rising and food purchasing increasing to supplement donated inventory, predictable energy costs are essential. Annual savings will be redirected to food access rather than overhead, enhancing sustainability without increasing reliance on public funding.

#### **Facility & Community Impact**

Opened in January 2025, the regional warehouse serves as a distribution hub for: **18 monthly feeding programs, 57 partner agencies across Central Oregon**, and nearly **1 million annual visits** to food assistance programs. The facility powers HVAC and refrigeration systems critical to storing and distributing perishable food safely. Solar infrastructure ensures operational continuity and cost control for this high-volume regional asset.

This investment directly supports: Seniors and individuals with disabilities, children and working families, college students experiencing food insecurity, and households facing rising living costs.

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## **Environmental & Economic Impact**

- Accepts 100% of available surplus grocery food, including perishables
- Diverts expired food to animal feed when redistribution is not possible
- Reduces landfill volume and disposal costs
- Advances corporate and community waste-reduction goals

Solar installation reduces carbon emissions while reinforcing a sustainable regional food system. A \$150,000 investment to rooftop solar panels will promote energy efficiency, reduce long-term utility expenses and redirect those savings toward what matters most: purchasing more food and expanding direct assistance to families across our region.