

A Call for Meaningful Climate Action:

City of Bend's Role In a Sustainable Future

7-21-16



COWG: A Cross-section of the Community

- Bend Youth Climate Action Now
- Former municipal energy & water officials
- Current & former teachers
- High school students
- Climate scientist
- Engineer
- Several small business owners
- Nonprofit leaders
- The faith community



Why Climate Action Now?

The scientific evidence is overwhelming.

- Climate change is:
 - Real and rapid
 - Human caused
- Substantial public health and safety risks
- We need to act now to avoid worst outcomes

Responsibility to leave a healthy environment and atmosphere for future generations.



Why Local Action?

- We are all part of the solution, at all levels
- Not enough action at higher levels of government
- We need to lead and build momentum for action from the ground up



Why Local Action?

An opportunity for Bend to:

- Save money through conservation/efficiency
- Act on our strong connection to the environment
- Live up to Bend’s “brand” as an environmentally responsible town
- Grow existing businesses and attract new ones
- Innovate and lead



Why adopt climate policy?

Need to establish a clear strategic direction and policy framework for City government and the community

The most successful communities:

- Have adopted a clear policy direction/framework
- City government plays a lead role as a convener in their community



Key Concepts

Adopt specific, measurable goals based on the best available science.

— For City government

- Carbon neutral by 2030
- Reduce fossil fuel use by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050*

— For the community

- Reduce fossil fuel use by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050*

* Source: UN IPCC, 2014



Key Concepts

Policy framework to:

- Create climate action plans—for City government by 2018 and for the community by 2019
- Hire adequate City staff to plan, implement and achieve goals
- Report on progress and make mid-course corrections (as needed)
- Robust public engagement in planning, implementation and reporting; all sectors—business, government, higher education, religious and nonprofit



The policy should not specify how we will achieve the goals

It needs to be left for the City and the community to decide.

- A robust community discussion is needed about how we will achieve the goals, about what specific strategies we will pursue
- Partnerships with all sectors—business, government, higher education, religious and nonprofit



Keys to Meaningful Climate Policy:

Goal for the community to reduce fossil fuel use by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050

- For our community to take meaningful climate action, we must address community-wide emissions.
- Emissions for City of Bend operations are likely less than 5% of total community emissions.



Keys to Meaningful Climate Policy:

Clear timetables for adopting climate action plans for the City as an organization and the community as a whole.

- Time is of the essence for avoiding the worst case scenarios of climate change. And the climate action plans are the heart of taking meaningful action in a timely manner.



Keys to Meaningful Climate Policy:

Provide for triple bottom line cost benefit analysis of climate action plans.

- This means economic/financial, social, and environmental factors should all be considered



***We have a great opportunity to work together
to address climate change in a way that is truly
local, meaningful and cost-effective.***

