

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-055**

Adopting the Multnomah County 2026 Climate Justice Plan.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. The scientific consensus is clear that the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels are primarily responsible for the planetary warming that is accelerating global climate change.
- B. Globally, the past 11 years have been the 11 warmest on record, and 2025 was one of the three hottest years ever reported.
- C. Changes in Oregon's climate are already being felt. According to the Fifth National Climate Assessment, annual average air temperatures in Oregon have increased by 2.5°F since 1900, and 2025 was the third hottest year on record in Oregon.
- D. The Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) has found that climate change poses a significant threat to Oregon's forestry, fisheries, water supplies, and coastal resources, with impacts that are likely to include winter flooding, summer droughts, loss of shoreline, forest fires, worsening air quality, diminished fish and wildlife habitat, retreating glaciers, decreased snowpack, and increased disease vectors and invasive species.
- E. The climate future in Multnomah County is expected to be characterized by hotter, drier summers with more high-heat days and warmer winters with more intense rain events. According to OCCRI, without considerable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, annual temperature in Oregon is projected to increase by at least 5°F by 2074 and 7.6°F by 2100, with the greatest seasonal increases in summer.
- F. A 2018 study by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, showed that to limit planetary warming to 1.5°C, global human-caused carbon emissions must decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero by 2050, with negative carbon emissions thereafter.
- G. In Resolution 2015-076, the Multnomah County Board committed to a suite of carbon reduction and climate preparation actions in the joint Multnomah County and City of Portland 2015 Climate Action Plan; as of 2023 community-wide carbon emissions were 25.8% below 1990 levels.

- H. Resolution 2017-046 further established a goal of powering our community with 100% renewable energy by 2050. The goal of meeting all Multnomah County enterprise electricity demand with 100% clean electricity by 2018 has been met.
- I. Resolution 2018-108 stated Multnomah County's commitment to environmental justice which was further affirmed in the updated Multnomah County mission statement.
- J. The unprecedented June 2021 extreme heat event, known colloquially as the heat dome, resulted in 69 deaths in Multnomah County, and the County could not have predicted that such a severe event would occur as it did when it did. Extreme weather events, such as the heat dome, are made possible and more likely to occur because of fossil fuel emission driven climate change.
- K. The entire community is being impacted by climate change, but communities that already face existing socioeconomic and health inequities are the most severely impacted by these risks, including children, older adults, people of color, and people in poverty.
- L. Efforts to protect public health, reduce poverty, and help the community thrive all contribute to a more climate resilient community.
- M. To address the interrelated goals of reducing fossil fuel emissions, improving community resilience, and addressing root causes of disparity, the Climate Justice Plan was developed through an intentional co-creation process with individuals and organizations that represent frontline communities, and refined through hundreds of conversations with interested community members, community-based organizations, environmental advocacy groups, businesses, and the trades.
- N. The Climate Justice Plan combines community and government priorities into a single plan that establishes a shared vision for climate justice in Multnomah County.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. To adopt the 2026 Multnomah County Climate Justice Plan (CJP).
- 2. To support a One-County approach to implementing the County Strategies identified in the CJP.
- 3. The Board requests that the Office of Sustainability participate in a Board work session at the beginning of each fiscal year, in which the Board will identify annual prioritized strategies for the Office of Sustainability to pursue.

4. To support the Office of Sustainability in advancing and coordinating implementation of the CJP, including providing regular reports that include cost estimates and workforce impact analyses of new, prioritized strategies to the Board of County Commissioners in advance of implementation for Board approval.
5. To support ongoing engagement with frontline communities and other interest holders for continuous input on the implementation of the CJP.
6. To adopt the goal of reducing community-wide carbon emissions to 50% below 1990 levels by 2030, and achieving net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2050.

ADOPTED this 27th day of August 2026.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:
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FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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SUBMITTED BY: John Wasiutynski