

Energy Efficiency Equity in Oregon



Building Upgrade Innovation Concept:

Create a statewide delivery extending the residential upgrades the Portland Clean Energy Fund provides in Portland, for low-income groups, via increased CBO capacity.

Demographics Served in Phase 1:

- Type of buildings: Single family
- Households below 80% AMI
- 100% equity-eligible buildings



Team Project Locations:

Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties, Rogue River, and Eugene within Lane County of Oregon.

Team Member Organizations:

Community Energy Project

Rogue Climate

Northwest Native Chamber

Beyond Toxics

Earth Advantage

CHALLENGES

- Lack of funds to pay for the upgrades for these community members.
- Lack of resources for CBOs to maintain ongoing programs to assist their communities and establish new residential retrofit programs.
- Lack of trained contractors/staff to do the work.
- Low-income communities have historically been left behind in energy efficiency transitions and programs.

APPROACH

- Train and allocate funding to CBOs to hire staff to deliver energy efficiency and electrification to their communities.
- Initiate discussions surrounding connecting employers and interested workers to attain more qualified contractors that would benefit CBOs.
- Implement energy efficiency upgrades including:
 - Heat pump water heating, weatherization measures including insulation, air sealing, heat pump heating and cooling; ductless and central systems and non-energy work including roofs, electrical and mold remediation.
- CBOs to act as stakeholders to educate our team about the specific needs of the community they serve.
- Engage current and potential clients to provide feedback and valuable perspectives

RESULTS

- Increased CBO capacity will help improve quality of life for low-income households and marginalized communities throughout the state of Oregon.
- Diversifying the green energy workforce and industry creates pathways for better representation of needs and builds trust that allows CBOs to help more people.
- Serving ~60,000 target households with a goal to retrofit 100,000 homes by 2050.