

Stimulus Funds

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)



Recovery Act awards for energy projects went to every Oregon county.



Pacific High School in Port Orford-Langlois installed new energy-saving gym lights.

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\$56 million in federal stimulus funds benefit Oregonians

Congress enacted the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in February 2009 to stimulate the economy, and to create and retain jobs. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) received four ARRA awards totaling \$56 million. ODOE distributed these one-time awards to 300 sub-recipients within Oregon's 36 counties. Overall, ODOE anticipates that the awards will:

- Save or produce enough energy to heat 26,912 homes annually
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 48,691 tons annually
- Retrofit more than 30 million square feet of building space
- Create or retain 555 jobs
- Leverage \$29 million in other funds
- Save more than 3 million gallons of water annually

State Energy Program (SEP): The United States Department of Energy (DOE) awarded \$42.1 million to ODOE to use in its existing SEP program. Those projects funded improve energy efficiency in several sectors such as public buildings, schools, universities, agricultural irrigation, transportation, and industrial. Also funded were biomass and other renewable energy projects in both the public and private sectors. Projects selected had to begin immediately and meet DOE energy savings guidelines. Award recipients must complete these projects by April 30, 2012.

In partnership with DEQ, ODOE is granting \$2 million in federal stimulus funds to help with old wood stove replacements. The funds target areas hit hard by wood-smoke air pollution, including parts of Harney, Klamath, Lake, and Lane counties.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG): The intent of this award is to use energy efficiency and conservation in government projects with a goal to reduce fossil fuel emissions and energy consumption. Ultimately, improving energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other sectors, helps create and retain jobs.

DOE awarded \$9.5 million to ODOE. ODOE used 60% of the funds to make sub-grants to local governments that were not eligible for direct EECBG awards. The remaining 40% went to two recipients: the Vernonia School used award proceeds for a biomass boiler project and energy efficiency upgrade. The Oregon Military Department used proceeds for a solar project at a former radar site in Christmas Valley. Grant recipients must complete projects by September 27, 2012.

State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program: This \$3.6 million program funds a state-run rebate program for consumer purchases of new ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and heating systems to replace old, inefficient ones.

In this partnership with Oregon Housing and Community Services, ODOE provides eligible low-income Oregon homeowners with a 70% rebate for

energy-efficient heat pumps, furnaces and appliances. Projects had to be completed by February 17, 2012.

Energy Assurance Grant: ODOE received \$547,749 to study energy assurance and the state's response to a catastrophic event such as an earthquake. The study will also identify opportunities to improve energy resilience, using distributed renewable energy in the existing energy network. ODOE is collaborating with Oregon Public Utility Commission and Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries on this grant. The project must be complete by August 14, 2012.

Meeting federal goals

Part of the challenge of managing federal stimulus funds are DOE deadlines and requirements. The first year of the program, ODOE sought multiple solicitations before awarding funds to sub-recipients. By the September 30, 2010 deadline, ODOE obligated 100% of SEP and EECBG funds.

ODOE's next challenge was to meet the SEP and EECBG award spending goals. ODOE met the 50% spending performance target as of September 30, 2011. ARRA project managers stay in contact with all sub-recipients to ensure progress on their projects and timely reimbursement requests.

ARRA awards are one-time funds. ODOE has requested the continuation of existing staff into the 2011-13 biennium to ensure that all funds are spent according to federal guidelines, projects are completed on time, and objectives are met or surpassed.

Summary of progress to date

- **Schools:** Federal stimulus funds have been spent on school energy projects in 134 of Oregon's 197 school districts and in schools in all 36 counties. This amounted to approximately \$15.5 million spent on schools.
- **Counties:** All 36 Oregon counties received a minimum of one award; the average county award was for \$1,149,140. Three awards for a total of \$3.8 million will benefit multiple counties.
- **Industry:** 17 private industrial companies received \$2 million in awards
- **Renewable Technology:** There were 6 solar, 2 geothermal, 12 biomass, and 1 hydropower projects
- **State Agencies:** ODOE partnered with 6 state agencies to leverage 3 SEP projects, the Appliance Rebate award and Energy Assurance award

For more information, please visit ODOE online at <http://oregon.gov/ENERGY/Recovery/index.shtml> .



Students and staff welcomed the new energy-efficient T-8 lights at Eccles Elementary School in Canby.