Hood River County Energy Plan

Cathy Higgins, Council Member
Buildings Committee Chair

Community Energy Panel
October 18, 2022
Hood River County Energy Plan 5 Focus Areas

Adopted in 2018 by four local public entities:

- Buildings Design Construction and Occupancy
- Transportation and Land Use
- Community-Scale Solutions
- Agriculture and Water

Hood River County Energy Council
Today – Sharing from HRC

Three key areas to get a plan going:

1. People
2. Policies
3. Partners
1 People
Get Some Data

- **HRC Average Energy Affordability Gap:** $832
- % of HRC Households Energy Burdened: 25–31%
- 34% of Households Rent
- 90% of those waiting for weatherization programs live in manufactured homes

**Energy Affordability Gap:** the difference between a household’s actual energy costs and an “affordable” energy burden level equal to six percent of the household’s income.

**Energy Burden:** the percent of household income spent on energy bills. Households that spend more than six percent of their income on energy are considered energy burdened.
Bring in Health

- The buildings people work and live in can dramatically impact their health.

- Poorly sealed building envelopes, leaky windows, inefficient and malfunctioning appliances add up to more pollutants entering the home environment and increased health risk

- Tail pipe emissions

Oregon data shows disturbing number of heat wave deaths at mobile home parks
Community Engagement

- Think tank forums
- Surveys
- Notices
- Events
- Development Committee
- Don’t forget the kids!

Gather input and document engagement. Critical to buy-in of the plan.
2 Policies
What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
Align with Jurisdictions
Objectives and Risks

- Resiliency
- Safety
- Operating Savings
- Carbon Reduction / Climate Plans
- Clean Environment
- Future Generations

Represent how the Plan helps reduce risk
Highly efficient buildings weather power outages with greater and longer lasting comfort.
3 Partners

Hood River County Energy Council
Can’t do it alone

- Limited staff, funds, volunteers
- Oregon has good support
- Community expertise can be a surprise
- Build on other’s models
- Partner

Partnerships and the supporting entities validate the plan.
Project Partners

Hood River County Energy Council

MCEDD

The Next Door

Hood River Electric Co-op

CASCADe LOCKS

Energy Trust of Oregon

NW Natural

Mid-Columbia Housing Authority

PACIFIC POWER

Columbia Cascade Housing Corp.
Developing an energy plan is hard...
Implementation is harder...
But start down the road.