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Please send healing wishes to our development assistant, Isobel Whitcomb, as they recover from a sports injury. Isobel usually creates our wonderful newsletters. We're doing our best in their absence!

We've Got a Win!

Protected Bike Lanes and More Coming to Ashland Street!

Following a strong show of support from concerned Ashlanders organized by ACC's [Streets for Everyone Action Team](#), our city council approved inclusion of protected bike lanes and two more protected crossings in the Ashland Street rehabilitation project! Here's [a link to the recording](#) of the June 20, 2023 meeting. Go to timestamp 2:10 to hear the report and discussion. This project includes improved pedestrian safety measures and bike lanes with vertical markers. There is also funding to purchase micro street sweeping equipment to keep those bike lanes clear of dangerous debris. Construction is planned for early July through late September/early October, before colder weather prevents laying asphalt.

Here's a huge shout out of THANKS to the dozens of Ashlanders who've been participating in this work -- by riding in our rally, writing letters to the council, and showing up!

And Another! Ka-CHING!

Ashland Food Co-op Chooses ACC for Change for Good

We don't know yet when it will happen, but the Ashland Food Co-op selected [ACC for a coveted "rounding up" funds](#) award for an upcoming month. This is a huge boost for ACC, which runs on donations and volunteers. In the past round-up proceeds have been between \$5,000 and \$9,000. Thank you Co-op members who voted us in!

In the News

Trees, "Natural Gas," EV Car Shares & More!

New State Rebate Program to Help Landlords Save \$\$\$\$

The Oregon Department of Energy is now accepting incentive reservations through the agency's new [Oregon Rental Home Heat Pump Program](#). Under this new program, owners of rental homes and manufactured dwellings or recreational vehicles in a rented space may receive incentives for installing energy efficient heat pumps and related electrical upgrades.

The [state's press release](#) notes: "[Rebate amounts](#) vary based on the project, and higher incentives are available for homes with tenants who have low or moderate incomes. For rental homes, rebates are available between \$2,000 and \$5,000, depending on the efficiency of the heat pump and the income level of the tenants. For a manufactured home or recreational vehicle renting space in a manufactured home or RV park, rebates are available between \$2,000 and \$7,000 depending on heat pump efficiency and income level.

"Grants are also available for associated upgrades alongside the heat pumps, such as electrical wiring. For homes where tenants meet low- or moderate-income eligibility, up to a \$4,000 grant is available. For those who are not low- or moderate-income, up to \$2,000 is available."

Registered contractors in our area include: [Allied Comfort Pro](#) out of Central Point; [Seasons Change](#), Klamath Falls; and [Three Rivers Heating & Air](#), Grants Pass.

Other contractors are encouraged to register. If you know of one in Ashland. Let us know at info@AshlandClimate.org.

Ashland Preps an Ordinance Towards Restricting "Natural" Gas in New Homes

On June 6, the Ashland City Council heard testimony from Brian Sohl, Climate and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (CEPAC) chair, about possible approaches to a new City ordinance to restrict “natural” gas (methane) hookups in new homes. ([Watch it here](#), starting at timestamp 28:20.) The Council responded by asking staff to draft an ordinance for Council consideration in the coming months. If approved, Ashland would join 76 other cities that have enacted some kind of restriction on methane installation in new buildings. Read more from [JPR](#), [RV Times](#), [Oregon Live](#), and [OPB](#).

You can learn more on this topic by viewing the video of our most recent webinar: "[The Move to 100% Electric Ashland: The Inside Scoop](#)"

Urban Trees Make a Difference - Ashland Plants Some Seeds

You’ve heard about the IRA money for household electrification and energy efficiency, but did you also know that the IRA also provides money for trees?

[The Biden administration has released \\$1 billion in funding for urban trees](#), and the [Oregon Urban Rural and Community Forestry](#), a 501c3 organization founded by Former Ashland Parks & Recreation Department Superintendent Mike Oxendine is seeking funding. Watch Mike’s recent presentation to City Council– [here’s a link](#) – go to time stamp 1:34:24.

New EV Car Share Program in Ashland

If you need to make a car trip, make it eco-friendly with Ashland’s new electric vehicle car share program. For \$4 per hour or \$35 per day, the City of Ashland and Southern Oregon University now provide access to EVs for community members to test drive or use. To participate, download the [Miocar Network app](#), create an account, and take a brief orientation. Learn more [here](#).

Resilience News

Did Ashland cut its funding for wildfire prevention and mitigation? There has been some confusion in town about this issue. Funding has not been cut, however, the city is undertaking a review of the program. Listen to the city council discussion starting at timestamp 56:30 to learn more.

FYI

Gas Stoves and Benzene - and Childhood Asthma

Cooking with “natural” gas (methane) and propane creates significant benzene emissions in the home, according to a new study, “[Benzene Gas and Propane Combustion from Stoves Emits Benzene and Increases Indoor Air Pollution](#),” by Yannai S. Kashtan, et.al., published in *Environmental Science and Technology*. Classified by the EPA and the US National Toxicology Program as a known carcinogen, benzene exposure is linked to increased risk of [leukemia](#) and other blood disorders. “Benzene produced by gas and propane stoves also migrated throughout homes, in some cases elevating bedroom benzene concentrations above chronic health benchmarks for hours after the stove was turned off,” the study reports.

A [previous Stanford-led study](#) showed that gas stoves leak methane – which has up to 86 times the global warming potential as CO2 emissions. Stanford researchers also found emissions of nitrogen dioxide, which can trigger respiratory diseases. Children living in homes with gas stoves had a [42% greater risk of asthma](#) than those living in homes without gas stoves. [12.7% of childhood asthma in the U.S. is believed to be attributable to gas stoves.](#)

Compost Bins at the Farmers Market Have Moved

Looking for the free food scraps drop off bins at the Tuesday Farmers Market? No worries, they've been moved to the other side of the property - near the Port-a-Potties and parking lot. Thanks to [Rotary of Ashland](#) and the Ashland Food Co-op for sponsoring this awesome program. Landfill methane, a powerful greenhouse gas created when we put food scraps into the garbage, accounts for as much as 18% of our methane emissions. By composting, we reduce methane, enrich soils, and support local farms.

What We're Reading

New Home Rewiring Guide Available

The latest version of Rewiring America’s Go Electric guide is available now! Download your copy today (or right now) and get Rewiring Ready!

[Download the Guide](#)

Just What Happens in a Home Energy Audit?

Canary Media does a nice job of explaining [why an energy audit is a useful way](#)

Donate Here



The Ashland Climate Collaborative is an Oregon-registered nonprofit and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in beautiful Ashland, Oregon.

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This newsletter is compiled by the Water Action Team of the Ashland Climate Collaborative.



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