



PRESS RELEASE

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Climate Solutions in Ashland Get a Major Boost:

Ashland Climate Collaborative is Awarded Major State Grant Funding

The Ashland Climate Collaborative is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a Public Health Equity grant of \$131,197 from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) through June 30, 2025.

The award comes as part of more than \$10 million in funding OHA is providing to community-based organizations. The funding aims to strengthen community-based organizations working to address local public health needs, including climate resilience.

OHA funding will allow ACC to significantly ramp up its work to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and enhance Ashland's resilience to the impacts of climate change.

ACC is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 2022 and based in Ashland, Oregon. ACC's mission is to empower, energize, and engage Ashland to accelerate meaningful, scalable, and equitable climate solutions. ACC current programs include Community Compost, Electrify Ashland Now!, Streets for Everyone, Water Conservation, and the Neighborhood Climate Action Network. ACC's 2023 Annual Report is available on Ashland.Climate.org.

"As a relatively young organization, we're honored to receive this vote of confidence from OHA," said ACC President Lorrie Kaplan. "Climate change is already affecting the health of Oregonians – especially our most vulnerable residents. We have

cost-effective solutions to mitigate these health impacts and reduce our ongoing contributions to climate change.”

ACC’s first priority is hiring a full-time Executive Director to lead the organization, added Kaplan. Hiring information will be posted at AshlandClimate.org.

Specific project objectives under the grant include:

- Increasing community understanding of the health impacts of climate and environmental inequities;
- Increasing Ashland’s climate resilience, prioritizing our most vulnerable residents;
- Increasing access to active transportation options;
- Improving access to healthy homes by supporting home electrification;
- Strengthening community bonds and networks around climate solutions; and
- Promoting community-led policy changes that address social determinants of health.

In 2017, in adopting its [Climate & Energy Action Plan](#), the Ashland community committed to achieving specific targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience.

“While the City government plays an indispensable role in meeting our climate goals, community members also must come together to get this work done,” said ACC Board Member and co-founder Richard Barth. “Every community needs local climate leadership, and this is why ACC came to be. Great progress can be made with the technologies we have today.”

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