

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT



Buckman Elementary before ARRA-funded renovations. See page 4.

Inside this report:

- ODOE's role in making ARRA work for Oregon
- Energy Conservation Block Grants by County
- Benefits to Oregon's low-income homeowners
- ARRA helps put contractors to work
- Improved emergency preparedness and response system



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in Oregon



Featured on the left is ODOE ARRA administrator Paul Egbert on a visit to Wheeler High School in Wheeler County, which received \$15,000 for lighting, upgrades.

Oregon Department of Energy is proud to provide this summary report on the positive effects that ODOE administered stimulus funds have had in Oregon. These funds have enhanced energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy emergency planning and provided rebates to low-income residents to purchase efficient home appliances.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) gave Oregon more than \$4.2 billion in economic assistance with ODOE administering \$55.9 million of the funds.

The following information offers details about these federal funds by category.

STATE ENERGY PROGRAM – \$42.1 million

SEP funded projects provided opportunities to leverage funds for innovative projects, programs and initiatives that address state energy priorities. SEP focused on conventional energy efficiency upgrades in public buildings, schools and industrial/manufacturing sectors.

SEP Investments included:

- Biomass systems,
- Electric vehicle charging stations,
- Agricultural irrigation systems, and
- Residential energy efficiencies for homeowners.

Additionally, SEP investments helped schools, counties, cities and private sector businesses reduce energy and save on operating costs.

During the funding period, ODOE provided periodic updates and success stories about Oregon's stimulus-centered activities. Since 2009, ODOE initiated eight funding cycles, which included 217 SEP funded projects.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM – \$9.6 million

Oregon's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant strategy was designed to improve coordination of energy-related policies and programs across jurisdictional levels of governance, maximizing the effectiveness of

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local and community level projects and programs. The sub-grants will help governments develop new and innovative approaches to:

- Increase energy efficiency,
- Increase renewable energy use, and
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ODOE funded 59 projects in Oregon that included the following.

SEP and Block Grant Awards by County

County	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
Baker	3	\$ 169,902
Benton	18	1,720,748
Clackamas	7	2,194,221
Clatsop	6	357,564
Columbia	7	1,682,450
Coos	22	811,780
Crook	4	199,815
Curry	3	117,562
Deschutes	7	1,746,611
Douglas	15	1,651,507
Gilliam	5	317,660
Grant	7	467,393
Harney	5	377,683
Hood River	7	187,875
Jackson	7	882,675
Jefferson	8	520,943
Josephine	5	718,228
Klamath	5	1,068,930
Lake	9	2,814,985
Lane	26	3,841,052
Lincoln	1	134,472
Linn	16	296,281
Malheur	10	2,250,754
Marion	16	1,753,936
Morrow	2	170,621
Multnomah	19	7,937,511

Polk	8	445,946
Sherman	1	458,000
Tillamook	1	1,000,000
Umatilla	12	1,642,900
Union	2	635,000
Wallowa	6	483,208
Wasco	3	703,525
Washington	10	1,434,267
Wheeler	3	88,370
Yamhill	3	84,670
Various	3	3,800,000
TOTAL	292	\$ 45,169,045

STATE ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM – \$3.6 million

The Oregon Department of Energy partnered with the [Oregon Housing and Community Services](#) to implement an appliance [rebate program](#) for low-income homeowners. ODOE received \$3.6 million for homeowners who earned less than 60 percent of the state's median income. They received rebates of up to 70 percent on Energy Star® appliances to replace existing inefficient appliances. Appliances covered in this program included heat pumps, furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators, dishwashers and clothes washers.

Low-income homeowners from all 36 counties received, in total, 3,213 energy efficient appliances before the program ended in February 2012.

ENERGY ASSURANCE GRANT \$547,749

Oregon's approach to this [grant](#) leveraged the combined capabilities of [Oregon Department of Energy](#), [Oregon Public Utility Commission](#)

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and Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

These state agencies and energy providers cooperatively protect public health and safety, the environment, and the region's economy. They improve the resiliency of critical energy infrastructure, mitigate impacts and ensure that Oregon is prepared to respond and recover from catastrophic events. A natural disaster could affect Oregon's critical energy infrastructure and access to energy; therefore, the state must be able to access energy resources at any time.

ODOE submitted the final Energy Assurance Plan to the US Department of Energy on August 13, 2012. The plan is a living document that ODOE will review annually and update as needed.

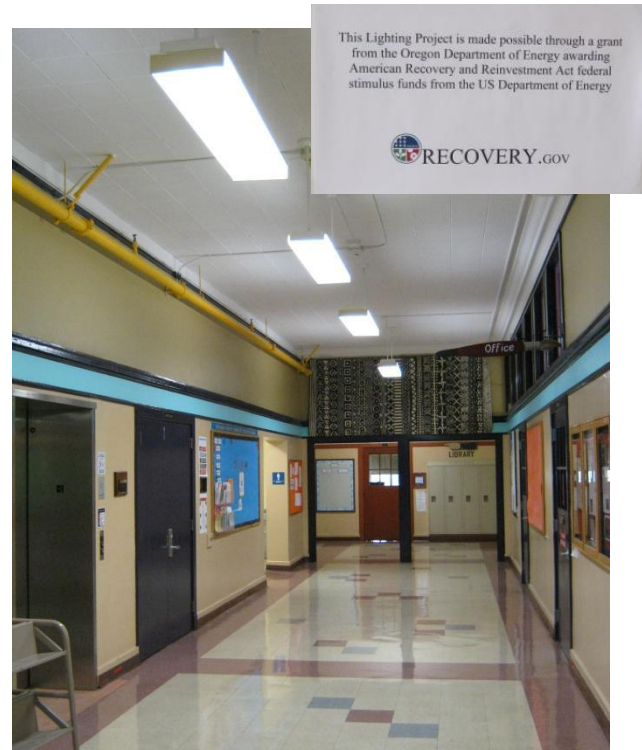
Essentially, the plan is comprehensive and considers:

- Lessons learned from workshops, tabletop drills, exercises and responses to actual events;
- Critical energy infrastructure supply and distribution assessments; and
- Research results regarding risks and vulnerabilities, effective response strategies, as well as promising technology, equipment, or systems to improve energy assurance and resiliency.

PUTTING OREGON CONTRACTORS TO WORK

The SEP and Block Grant funded public and private projects provided work for Oregon contractors.

Paul Egbert, ARRA Manager, asked local businesses about the impact of ARRA funds on



Buckman Elementary, 1 of 17 Portland Public Schools' lighting retrofitted facilities supported by a \$378,923 stimulus grant, which resulted in annual savings of nearly \$64,000 in electricity costs.

their businesses. Contractors, sub-contractors and manufacturers all confirm that the stimulus grants made a significant difference.

The following testimonials confirm ARRA's effect on enhancing Oregon's economy.

SMALL TOWN CONTRACTORS

ARRA awarded a grant to two small mid-valley contracting businesses affected by Oregon's slow economy. The contractors used the funds to install direct digital controls at the Dallas School District, completing most of the work in 2011.

"The jobs we did for the school district were a turning point for us," said Sean Dickey, Manager of Forbes Plumbing in Dallas. "It was the biggest contract we've had. We had to hire two additional plumbers and have kept them on since then," Dickey added.

Forbes Plumbing opened a satellite office in Wilsonville to expand its services to the Portland market. This plumbing company has

grown by 30 percent since acquiring the Dallas School District contract.

Justin Moore, Co-owner, DC Electric of Rickreall, also benefitted from the stimulus-funded district projects.

“Prior to receiving work from the district, we laid-off several employees,” said Moore. “The contract allowed us to re-hire those employees and three additional electricians who still work for us.”

Moore said the DC Electric business model has evolved since the contract.

“Five or six years ago our business primarily served residential customers,” Moore explained. “Today we serve mostly commercial customers.”

Moore also spoke about DC Electric’s new business relationships.

“Our contract with the Dallas School District helped us build relationships with McKinstry (energy consulting company) and Northwest Control Company,” Moore said. “This led to other work – helped us to get our foot in the door. Coming out of a small town, we don’t get that opportunity too often,” Moore added.

DEPRESSED COOS COUNTY

Coos County electrical contractor Randy Rema would tell you that being a small business owner in Coos County is tough.

“Private dollars are just not there,” said Rema, Owner of Reese Electric. It’s been a struggle.”

The 63-year-old North Bend family-owned business dropped in sales from \$7.2 million 2007 to 2008 down to \$5.8 in 2009 and \$4.2 million in 2010. Rema had to reduce employees from 63 in 2007 down to 33 in 2010.

ODOE awarded stimulus funds to several public entities in Coos County for energy

projects. Reece Electric won the bid for many of the projects.

“The projects certainly helped us stay afloat,” said contractor Rema. “It’s been a tough year-and-a-half and these projects came along at a very slow time for us. They made a big difference in a lot of ways,” he added.

Rema re-hired two journeyman electricians. In addition, they re-hired two late-term apprentices who needed additional hours to complete the 8,000-hour training requirement; they are now journeymen.

“I felt really good about that,” said Rema. “They really worked hard and appreciated the work which helped them to feed their families.”

FAMILY-OWNED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING FIRM

Hire Electric, a family-owned business, is located near The Dalles and since 1935. The company has 17 employees and primarily contracts with industrial and commercial electrical. In 2010, Hire Electric purchased a renewable energy company, expanding its services to include solar installations.

Hire Electric President Dan McHale notes that approximately seven stimulus projects provided work for the company in 2010 and 2011 during a slow economy. The projects included installing lighting for the Fossil School District in Wheeler County, North Central Oregon.

“Things were really slow when we got the Fossil job. Some of my electricians weren’t working 40-hour weeks and some were on unemployment,” said McHale. “I was able to keep two electricians busy for two weeks on the Fossil job,” he added.

The Oregon Military Department’s large-scale solar installation project in Christmas Valley

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created additional work for McHale's employees.

"We had four to five electricians on a job and even hired a guy out of Roseburg to help," McHale explained. "That job lasted about 10 weeks."

McHale said these jobs offered benefits throughout the supply-chain. "It kept our material handler and supplier busy. All the way around, it helped," he said.

WINDOW MANUFACTURER ON OREGON COAST

Bergerson Cedar Windows, Inc. in Fort Stevens on the Oregon Coast, a family business started in 1957, felt the pressure when new housing construction projects decreased. The company manufactures specialized windows, focusing on high-end, historic windows and doors. The company mission is to "bring together high quality craftsmanship of old with the technological advances of today, into a perfect union."

The business has eight employees and is run by Chuck Bergerson, his son Ray Bergerson and grandson.

"Our company has changed with the times," said Ray Bergerson. "Our work on historic buildings has become more important since the decrease in new construction projects."

Morrow County received an ARRA-award to replace the courthouse windows. The Morrow County Courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bergerson Company won the contract to replace the windows. They fabricated and installed a window that drastically reduced energy costs and preserved the building's historical character.

Chuck Bergerson said he appreciates the ARRA-funded opportunities for his employees.

"The Morrow County job paid prevailing wages," Bergerson said. "It was a big shot in the arm for my employees."

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT CLOSES OUT IN OREGON

Oregon Department of Energy appreciated the opportunity to work with an array of public and private groups on numerous stimulus-supported energy projects. ODOE received overwhelming response from Oregonians in all 36 counties, many of whom continue to reap benefits.

For additional information about the American Recovery Reinvestment Act in Oregon, please visit [ODOE online](#).



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ARRA Legislative Report

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