

**Climate Emergency and Climate Resiliency Budget Requests FY 22-23  
One-Time General Fund and ARPA Requests**

Addressing climate change and building a community more resilient to the impacts of climate change are key priorities in both the Mayor's budget guidance and the ARPA guidance for decision-making. City bureaus have been working hard with few dedicated resources to address the City's climate priorities and respond to intensifying community needs.

Since 2020, Portland has experienced what climate change means for our region, from wildfires and smoke to excessive heat, extreme rain and flooding, and power outages. These impacts have cost lives, damaged infrastructure, and directly impose economic costs on the city, businesses, and residents.

The last two years have emphasized that Portland must advance climate mitigation strategies to reduce carbon emissions and at the same time respond to the effects of climate change, which are already occurring. We must develop more resilient urban landscapes, strengthen our built environment, and partner with the community to develop plans and systems to keep people safe in the face of climate-induced emergencies.

To that end, BPS and PBEM have worked collaboratively with several city bureaus (BES, PWB, PP&R, PF&R, OMF, and PBOT) to prioritize the climate actions we recommend as the next City priorities. We have engaged and sought input from different community members, including community-based organizations, environmental and conservation organizations, health care industry, academic partners, and other jurisdictions, including Multnomah County and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Important themes from these discussions, which are reflected in the proposals we now bring forward, include:

- Strong desire to see more effective coordination across City bureaus.
- Support for projects that make community organizations partners in the work and build capacity within community organizations.
- A focus on East Portland.
- Specific interest in community resilience centers that meet multiple community needs in blue skies and provide a place of refuge during emergencies like heatwaves.
- Desire to increase tree canopy to reduce urban heat islands.
- Urgency around increasing urban wildfire risk.
- Continued concern for the disparate effects of climate change on Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, and on houseless people.

The need is greater than the resources currently available, but it is important to prioritize this work. We are committed to working closely with the Office of Government Relations to identify and pursue federal funding to augment and meet this greater community need.

For the next fiscal year, we are requesting the following packages through both the general fund one-time and ARPA funding to jumpstart and invest in climate priorities that simultaneously reduce carbon emissions and improve community resiliency to the climate impacts Portland faces.

A. General Fund One-Time Requests

**Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) Climate Resiliency** (\$965,000 over two years): Expands the Planning Program’s capacity to address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, and increase the resiliency of Portland’s natural and built environment to reduce climate impacts and costs (urban heat island, wildfires, flooding, etc.) BPS would convene Bureaus and community partners to seek durable solutions.

**Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) Climate Emergency** (\$721,000 over two years): Adds needed capacity to implement the Council Adopted Climate Emergency Declaration for the primary sources of carbon emissions: the electrical grid and transportation. Improving the electrical grid's resilience to power outages and making neighborhoods more independent from grid failures are also outcomes of this work.

**Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) Shelter Coordinator** (\$360,000 for 2 years): The City is increasingly called upon to support emergency shelter efforts for heat, smoke, and severe winter weather. This position would permit PBEM to advance efforts to coordinate and operate shelters for houseless people and other residents that face special risks from smoke and severe weather. This position would also work to create sustainable, cooperative plans for sheltering that include the City, other agency partners, and not-for-profits.

**Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) Mitigation Program** (\$200,000): This program will support PBEM to develop climate mitigation projects identified in the City’s Mitigation Action Plan and seek resources to fund them. This would increase the bureau’s ability to implement mitigation projects that reduce risks to frontline communities and to essential infrastructure that residents depend upon. There is anticipated to be significant mitigation funding opportunities in the future; this ask will position us to maximize our ability to compete for these dollars.

**Portland Bureau of Development Services (BDS) Expedited Solar Permit** (\$105,301): This request will enable the bureau to develop, implement and expedite a program to assist customers seeking a solar permit to install solar panels. Shifting to renewable energy is a key strategy for meeting Portland’s climate goals, and the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) will support increased investments for solar.

B. ARPA Round 2 Requests (American Rescue Plan Act LFRF—Local Fiscal Recovery Funds)

**Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) - Unite Climate Resiliency Center for East Portland** (\$1 Million): Create a climate resiliency hub and center with a small business incubator, workforce training center, childcare center, and community space that offers social service programs such as childcare, housing, youth development, and leadership and emergency resource navigation. The resiliency center would serve East Portland, which is the most diverse part of Portland, and would serve community members in the event of climate threats, such as excessive heat or wildfire smoke.

**Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) - Coalition of Organizations Active in Disaster Coordinator** (\$152,000): Fund a limited-term coordinator to support an existing Coalition of Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD). This group proved its value during pandemic response; PBEM is working to support the group to continue and facilitate leadership transition so that the coalition can be community-led at the end of the process.

**Portland Parks and Recreation (PPR) - Plant 6,000 trees to address urban heat island** (\$3 Million for 2 years): Increase tree planting in East Portland and other high priority planting areas, including watering, monitoring and other supportive services.

**Portland Fire and Rescue (PFR) - Wildland Fire Prevention** (\$308,041 for 2 years): Portland is already at risk of urban wildfires, in places like Forest Park and other areas. PF&R has worked collaboratively with other city bureaus and key stakeholders to identify needs, conduct a hazard assessment, and gap analysis. PF&R has dedicated resources to help in the planning and preparation on a local, regional, state, and federal level but we need a centralized master plan that outlines responsibilities on a citywide level, to include collaboration between PBOT, Parks, BES, PBEM, PPD, and community-based organizations. The Wildland Fire Coordinator will focus on compiling and developing the citywide plan with the goal of coordinating training, certification, prevention and mitigation, response, and recovery efforts. Also, to reduce wildland fire risks in Portland and aligning response plans to reduce risks to human life, private property, and public lands. Plans will include special consideration of the risks of wildfire on urban campers.

**Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) – Healthy Business Program** (\$6 million for 3 years): This program contributes to PBOT’s Transportation System Plan goal to increase the mode share (TSP 9.49 e, f) of daily non-drive alone trips to 70% citywide, aimed at reducing our transportation system’s contribution to climate change. In a 2021 survey, only 22% of visitors to Healthy Businesses locations reported traveling there by car, while 63% walked, 11% arrived by bike, and 0.5% used a mobility device. By providing a pathway for businesses and organizations to create these new pedestrian-friendly spaces in the public right of way, the program promotes more walkable, people-oriented neighborhoods where low-carbon transportation choices are more attractive.

### C. Other Funding Sources

**Parks and Recreation (PP&R) Energy Savings Performance Contract - \$2.5 million Capital Set-Aside.** This would continue to fund electrical and mechanical upgrades to improve system efficiency and upgrade infrastructure. This would reduce utilities and time spent at the sites of otherwise failing systems and advance the City's climate action goals.

**Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) Landslide Abatement at SW Upper Hall Street and SW College Street- \$1.2M Capital Set-Aside Request.** Construction of a modified wall system to address existing deficiencies and decrease the risk of future landslide damage. These landslides began after significant rainfall during February 2017 and are examples of the resiliency projects needed to ensure PBOT assets withstand the impact of intense rain and heat. PBOT will likely see increasing costs for both remediation and the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure, and there is no dedicated source of funding.