EESI
Environmental and Energy Study Institute

NASEO
National Association of State Energy Officials

***Materials will be available at:***
**www.eesi.org/020526grid**
***Post about the briefing:***
**#eesitalk @eesionline**

# Powering the Economy: Generation Innovation, Grid Optimization, and Energy Efficiency

Thursday, February 05, 2026

# About EESI

EESI Environmental and Energy Study Institute

NASEO National Association of State Energy Officials



**Nonpartisan Educational Resources for Policymakers**

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide nonpartisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies

**Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program**

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs

**Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice**

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making

**Sustainable Solutions**

***Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges*** in order to achieve ***our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world***

# Policymaker Education



**Briefings and Webcasts**

Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived recordings, and written summaries

**Climate Change Solutions**

Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

**Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs**

Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

**Social Media (@EESIonline)**

Active engagement on Bluesky, Facebook, LinkedIn, X, and YouTube

# What did you think of the briefing?

**Please take 2 minutes to let us know at:**
**www.eesi.org/survey**

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Thursday, February 05, 2026

Oregon Department of **ENERGY**

# Congressional Briefing NASEO/EESI

Janine Benner
February 5, 2026

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Leading Oregon to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable energy future.

## Our Mission

The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.

## What We Do

On behalf of Oregonians across the state, the Oregon Department of Energy achieves its mission by providing:

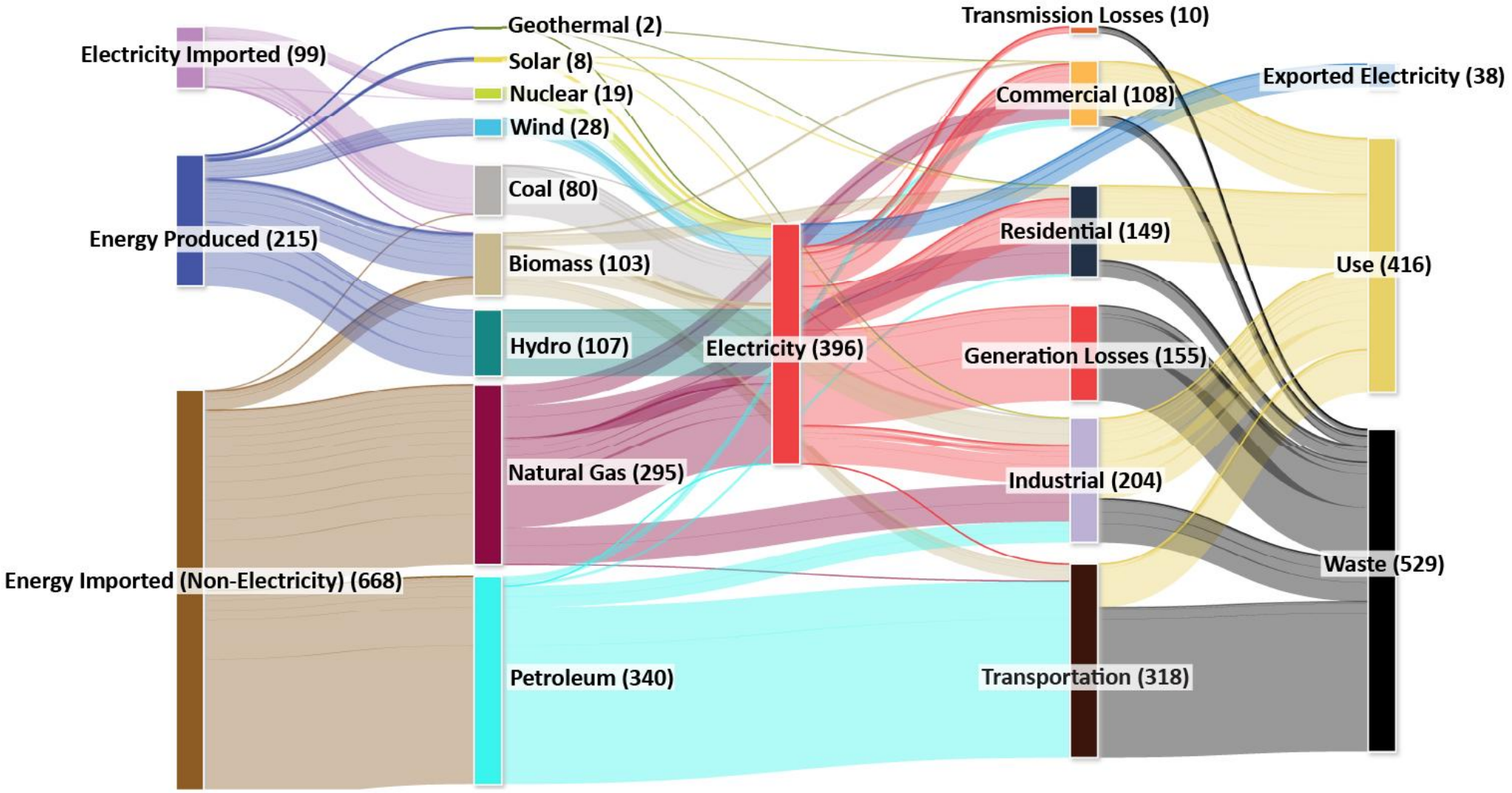
- A Central Repository of Energy Data, Information, and Analysis
- A Venue for Problem-Solving Oregon's Energy Challenges
- Energy Education and Technical Assistance
- Regulation and Oversight
- Energy Programs and Activities

# Studies and Reports

- Recent Reports:
  - 2025 Biennial Zero Emission Vehicle Report
  - 2025 Biennial Oregon Heat Pump Report
  - 2024 Biennial Energy Report (and 2022, 2020, 2018)
  - 2023 Cooling Needs Study
  - 2022 Renewable Hydrogen Study
  - 2022 Floating Offshore Wind Study
  - 2022 Small-Scale and Community Renewable Energy Projects Study
  - 2021 Regional Transmission Organization Study
- Inform local, state, regional, and federal energy policy development and energy planning and investments.
- Collect and analyze energy data and information.
- Review energy resources, policies, trends, and forecasts – and what they mean for Oregon.
- Outline recommendations.


www.tinyurl.com/ODOE-Studies

# Oregon's Energy Flow

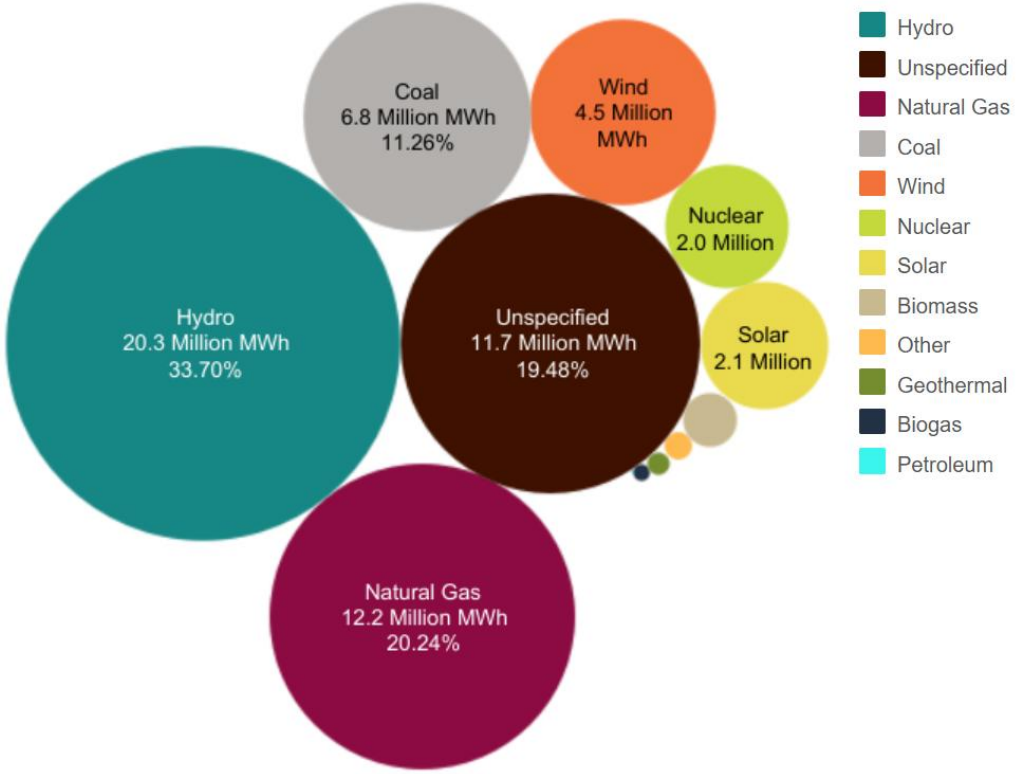



Numbers are in trillions of British thermal units (Btu)

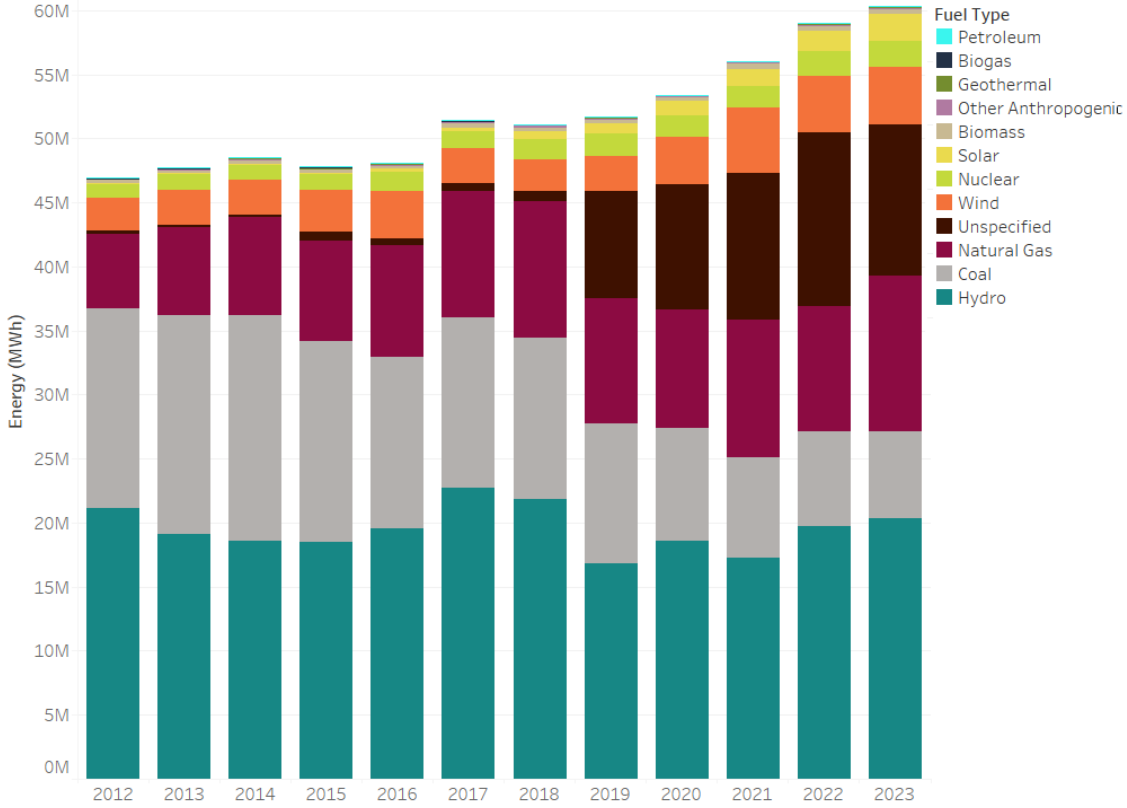
*Biennial Energy Report: Energy by the Numbers*

# Sources of Electricity Oregonians Use

## Resources Used to Generate Oregon's Electricity (2023)




## Resources Used to Generate Oregon's Electricity Over Time



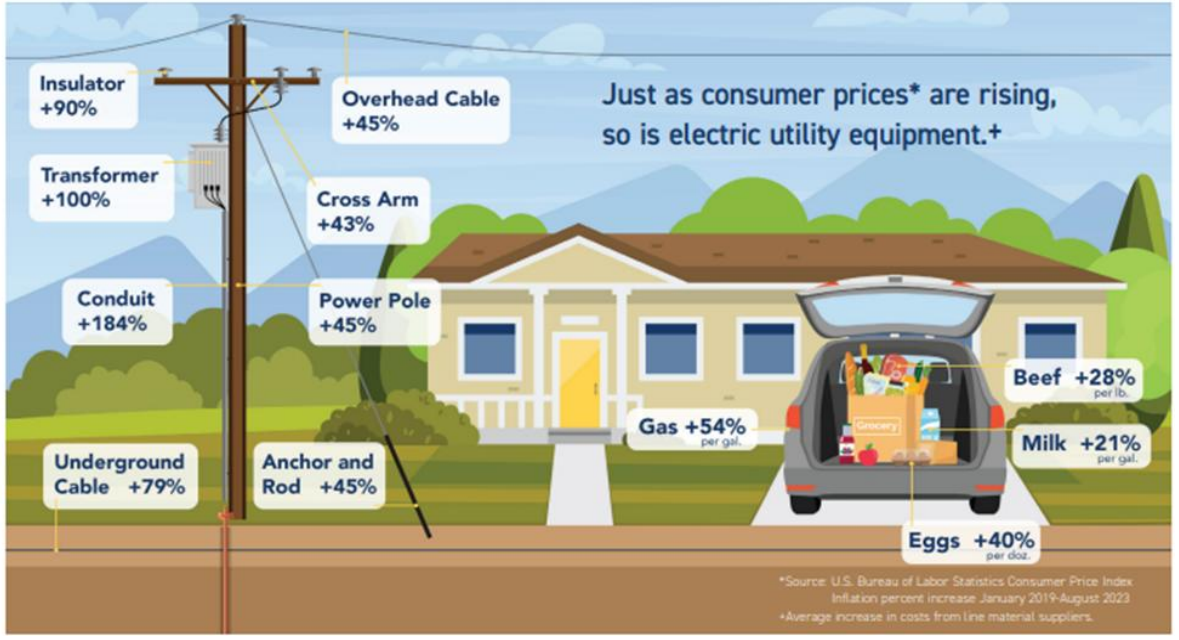

*Biennial Energy Report: Energy by the Numbers*

# Electricity Rate Increase Drivers

*For many Oregonians, electricity prices have increased in the past few years. This Energy 101 explains some major cost drivers for electricity in Oregon. While prices for other goods and services have increased in recent years as well, electricity is used by virtually every household and business in Oregon, making electricity prices a topic of statewide interest.*

- Not every utility in Oregon has **raised rates** in recent years, but many have
- Three common **cost drivers**:
  - Rising power costs
  - Ongoing infrastructure needs, compounded with inflationary pressures
  - Costs to mitigate the increasing prevalence and risks of wildfires and extreme weather
- HB 2021 is <u>not</u> a direct driver of recent rate increases, but it will likely have **future cost impacts** for Portland General Electric, PacifiCorp, and electricity service suppliers

## Inflationary and Supply Chain Cost Pressures (2019-2023)




*Graphic from Central Electric Cooperative*

# Enhanced Geothermal Electricity Generation

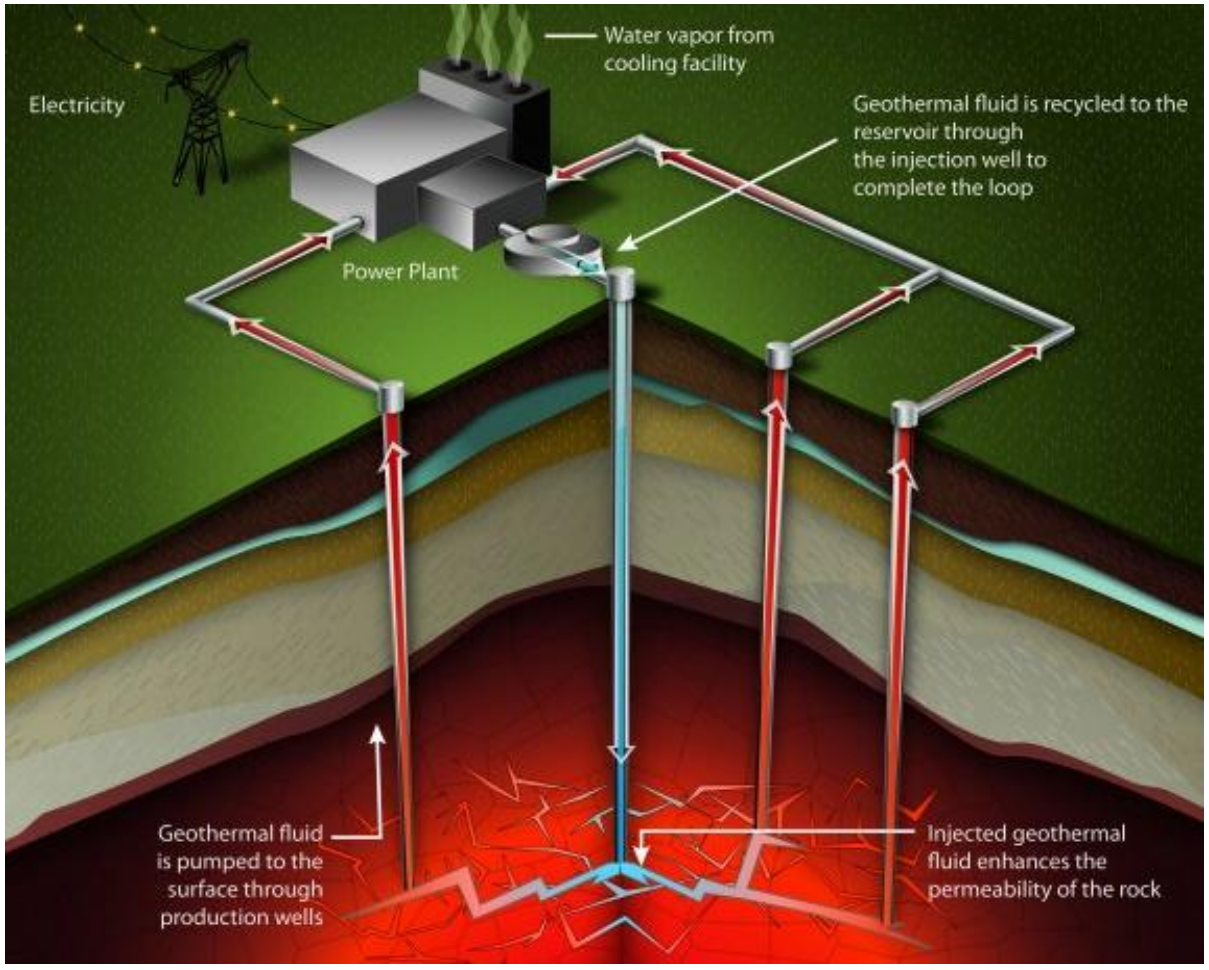
*Enhanced geothermal systems expand the potential for geothermal power production in Oregon.*

## Benefits

- Does not require hot water wells
- Generates renewable energy 24 hours a day
- Much smaller footprint than solar or wind

## Opportunities

- Oregon has some of the best geothermal resources in the country
- The Mazama Project at Newberry Volcano will be a nationally recognized demonstration project



# Oregon Energy Security Plan


## Summary

- Required by federal and state legislatures; statewide in scope
- Assessment of natural hazards, physical and cybersecurity risks; organized by geographic regions
- Inclusive of electricity, natural gas, and liquid fuels sectors
- Outreach and data collection effort
- Mitigation analysis to address risks

## Take-aways

- Hazard vulnerability varies by region: earthquake, winter storms, wildfire. Cybersecurity risk across state.
- Specific liquid fuel analysis; GIS mapping of fuel storage facilities with hazard analysis

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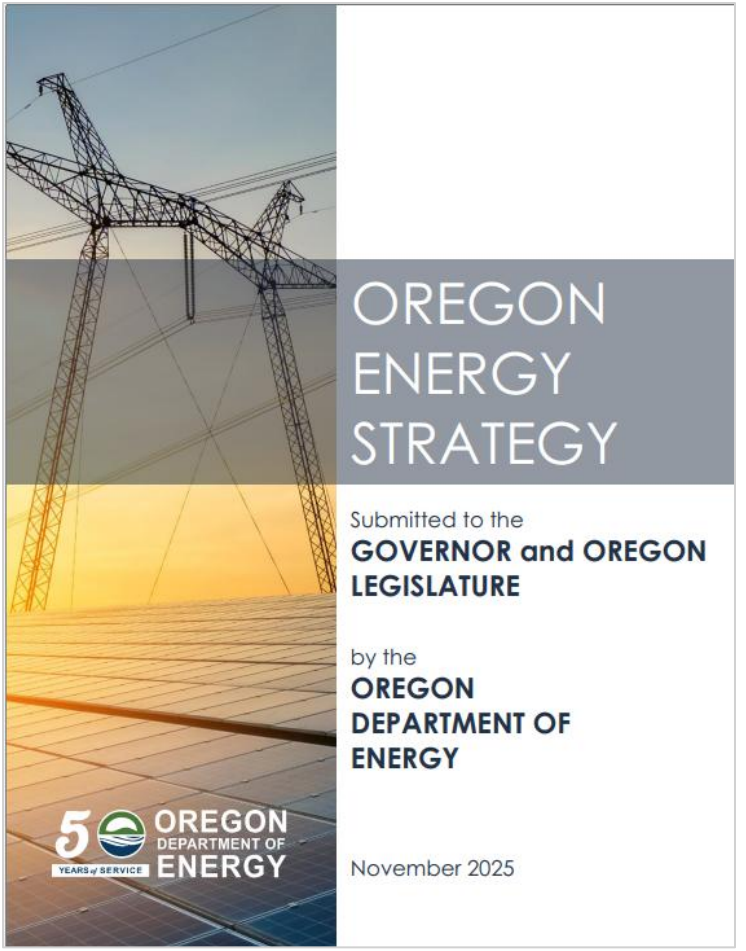
ENERGY

# Oregon Energy Strategy

## House Bill 3630 (2023) Section 2

*"The State Department of Energy shall develop a comprehensive state energy strategy that identifies optimized pathways to achieving the state's energy policy objectives."*

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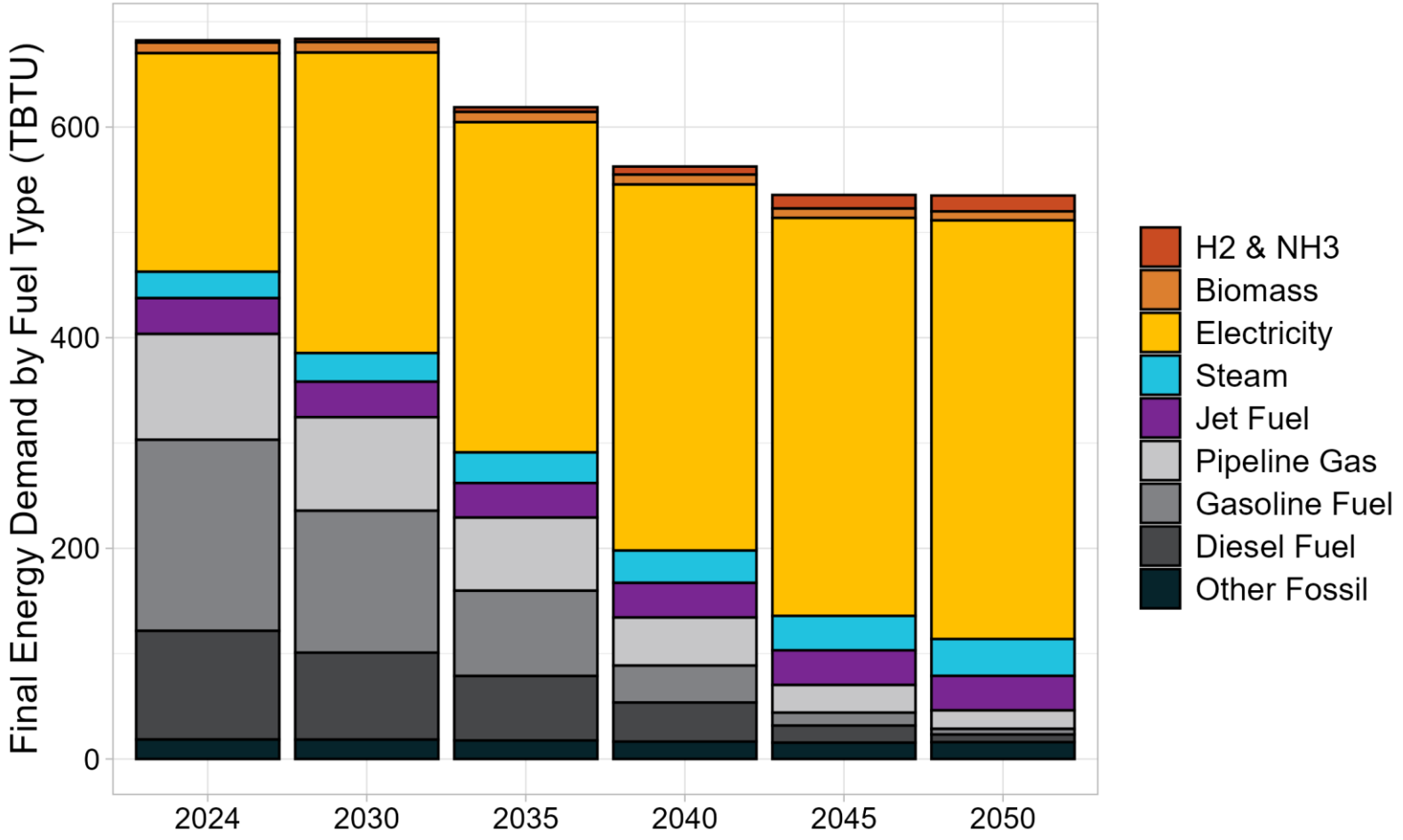
# Energy Demand by Fuel in Oregon



# Five Pathways to Guide Oregon

1. Energy Efficiency. Advance energy efficiency across buildings, industry, and transportation sectors, including by expanding access to and appeal of multimodal transportation options, to deliver the benefits of a more efficient energy system.

2. Clean Electricity. Secure reliable, affordable, and clean electricity by expanding the electricity system and incorporating load flexibility.

3. Electrification. Increase electrification of end uses across transportation, buildings, and industry, while safeguarding reliability, promoting affordability, and maximizing opportunities to use load flexibility as a resource.

4. Low-Carbon Fuels. Advance the use of low-carbon fuels in the hardest-to-electrify end uses and to maintain a reliable electric grid.

5. Resilience. Strengthen resilience across all levels of the energy system, including utilities, communities, and customers, enhancing Oregon's ability to adapt to climate change and mitigate other risks.

***Implementation of each pathway must consider burdens and benefits to environmental justice communities and apply an equity lens to prevent further disproportionate impacts to historically and currently marginalized communities.***

# Thank you/Questions

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www.oregon.gov/energy