



AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: July 3, 2024

Order Date: July 16, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: County Administration

PRESENTED BY: Steve Adams, Policy Director

Kristen Lee, Senior Program Services Coordinator

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: DISCUSSION: Climate Action Plan Update

I. MOTION

None: Discussion Only

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

This report provides a high-level overview of progress towards achieving the goals contained in Climate Action Plans adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in fiscal years 2020 to 2023. Progress has been made in the areas of transportation, waste management, building energy efficiency, creating and supporting collaborations, and resilience. Since the beginning of 2023 Lane County staff have applied for over \$68 million in funding for climate-related projects and have been awarded \$8.6 million to date through successful grant applications.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

On February 4, 2020, the Board adopted Order & Resolution 20-02-04-04, establishing a Climate Change Strategy for Lane County. On October 20, 2020, the Board approved the Climate Action Plan Phase 1: Operations Recommendations report (B.O. 20-10-20-08). On April 12th, 2021, the Board adopted, with amendments, the Climate Action Plan Phase 2: Community Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Plan. And on December 13, 2022, the Board adopted the Climate Action Plan Phase 3: Community Climate Resilience Plan.

B. Policy Issues

Lane County staff have pursued climate adjacent projects for years aimed at reducing waste, replacing fossil-fuel powered vehicles with electric models, and general energy saving measures. With the adoption of Lane County's Climate Action Plans in three phases over the course of three years, the Board directed staff to develop action plans with strategies to reduce emissions as well as strategies to increase resilience to extreme events, with a goal of net-zero emissions for County operations and Community emissions by the year 2040. There are 84 recommended actions and strategies. County staff in a variety of Departments have taken significant steps to make progress on accomplishing this list.

The passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in 2021, and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022 by Congress have resulted in unprecedented levels of federal funding either directly available through federal grants or passed down through the State grantmaking. Lane County staff have been working feverishly to identify these funding opportunities, matching them with the goals outlined in our Climate Action Plans and other key County plans, and collaborating with key partners to apply for these competitive funds. This work has taken precedence over calculating reductions in County and Community greenhouse gas emissions. County staff are now focusing on working in concert with community partners (community-based organizations, municipalities, utilities, and others) to secure available funding to support our climate goals.

C. Board Goals

Lane County's adopted *2022-2024 Strategic Plan* uses three overarching lenses to view policies issues. All three lenses can be applied to the County's Climate Action Plans:

Stewardship of Resources Lens—the challenges due to climate change will have an impact on both financial and natural resource systems. Failure to prepare the county properly could be devastating for resources throughout Lane County.

Equity Lens—it has long been shown that the impacts of climate change will be disproportionate for those without as many resources. By continuing to focus on efforts related to climate change and resilience, the county can mitigate the damages and trauma experienced by our BIPOC, elderly, those living with disabilities, and low-income residents.

Collective Impact Lens—the Climate Action Plans call for Lane County to convene groups to address the conditions outlined in order to work collectively for a solution.

The Climate Action Plans address the following Strategic Priorities:

Priority 1—Develop an equitable and integrated approach to health, behavioral health, public safety and homelessness so that all residents are safe, healthy, housed,

and health outcomes are improved.

Priority 2—Invest in Lane County residents by fostering engaged communities with affordable housing options, equitable opportunities, economic vitality and a healthy environment.

Priority 3—Maintain and invest in resilient infrastructure that creates the highest return for safety, community connectivity, enjoyment of life, and local economic success.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

Grant seeking activities initiated by Lane County and related to our Climate Action Plan goals have resulted in over \$68 million in funding requests since the adoption of the Plans and over \$8.6 million in secured grant funding since January 2023. Future grant applications may require local matching funds.

Grant Name	Applied on	Amount Requested	Awarded?
Oregon State Fire Marshal's office Firewise Grant	1/31/2023	\$500,000	Yes
EPA EJG2G Grant – LRAPA Grant application with support from Public Health	4/14/2023	\$997,622	Yes
DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Round 1	6/13/2023	\$15,000,000	No
DOT Ride and Drive Electric Letter of Interest	6/15/2023	\$1,500,000	No
USDA Food Waste Reduction Grant	6/15/2023	\$400,000	Yes
DOE Battery Recycling Grant	8/13/2023	\$1,019,632	Yes
DOT PROTECT Grant – Transportation Resilience	8/18/2023	\$5,400,000	Yes
FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) - Lane County Microgrid and Battery Energy Storage Systems – Submitted for Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative, Consumers Power Inc, and Lane Electric Cooperative	10/16/2023	\$21,000,000	No
DOE Communities LEAP – Oakridge Renewable Energy	12/15/2023	\$50,000	Yes
FEMA BRIC – Goshen Leachate Pipeline	2/27/2024	\$1,500,000	No
EPA Community Change Grant – Resilience Hubs	3/1/2024	\$19,999,863	Pending
EPA Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant – Building Energy Efficiency	4/30/2024	\$79,830	Pending
OREM Resilience Hub Grant	4/30/2024	\$50,000	Pending
DOE Clean Energy to Communities Grant	6/14/2024	\$500,000	Pending
EWEB Utility Incentives for LED Lighting Project	6/2024	\$199,512	Yes
ODOT Community Charging Rebate program	7-8/2023	\$56,900	Yes
EWEB Electric mobility grant for EV Charging Stations	7/2022	\$50,000	Yes
EPUD Green Grant award for Mt. Pisgah EV charger	10/2020	\$24,000	Yes
EWEB Smart Charge Rebate Program	7/2023	\$10,500	Yes
ODOE County Energy Resilience Non-Competitive Grant	To Be Submitted in August	\$50,000	Pending

E. Health Implications

This report is an update on progress and does not require the Board to take action. However, continuing to work on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and promoting resiliency will support a reduction of health risks for Lane County residents. The broader implications of climate change include impacts on public health such as death and illness from extreme heat and storms, and indirect impacts from ecological change, environmental degradation, exacerbation of chronic respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, mental health decline and displacement of populations by the effects of climate change and disasters.

F. Analysis

Lane County faces significant challenges related to climate change but also due to a variety of other factors including aging infrastructure, shortages of health and mental health services, a lack of sufficient affordable housing, and budget constraints. Staff are working together in a variety of ways to achieve our climate action goals. However, we don't have the luxury of looking at the wide variety of challenges we face solely from a climate lens. County-wide constraints make it important that we tie climate action to addressing other challenges such as investing in our wastewater infrastructure, making county buildings cheaper to operate, supporting pre-and post-disaster services for disadvantaged communities, and recapturing the cost of investments in energy efficiency through new tax rebate programs.

We can make progress on some of our goals thanks in large part to the funding available through the IRA and IIJA. The IRA provides \$369 billion in funding to support energy and climate initiatives, and the IIJA added \$550 billion in funding to support the nation's infrastructure needs. Additional funds are available through tax rebates contained in the IRA, including rebates for government and non-profit entities. The Senior Program Services Coordinator position has been largely focused on identifying and pursuing grants that will support Lane County goals related to the challenges mentioned above.

CAP Phase 1: INTERNAL Operational Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Lane County's climate action work started with an analysis of the greenhouse gasses produced directly by Lane County's operations. In short, the main driver of emissions is the County's landfill which accounts for the largest portion (77% in 2021) of direct greenhouse gas production. The approval of the Clean Lane Project by the Board in December 2023 to divert organics from the landfill will make the most significant impact on reducing direct emissions.

Other sectors also contribute to the production of emissions. A Climate Action Team (CAT) was reconstituted and continued to make progress on reducing direct emissions. This team is made up of representatives from the Finance Division, the

Policy Division including Emergency Management and Economic Development, Facilities, Public Works Waste Management, Transportation and Fleet Services, and Public Health including Environmental Health, Emergency preparedness, and Medical Reserve Corps. The group meets quarterly to discuss key projects related to the Climate Action Plans. Below are a list of accomplishments and other actions CAT members are working on.

Accomplishments

Sector	Action
Waste Reduction	On December 5, 2023, this Board voted to build the CleanLane Resource Recovery Facility in Goshen. (Formerly referred to as the "IMERF" or Integrated Materials and Energy Recovery Facility.) The facility will process residential garbage, commingled recycling, and organic waste to produce marketable recycling commodities and biogas for transportation. The facility will divert over 80,000 tons of material from the County's landfill annually and can serve as a regional recycling hub for southwest Oregon. The mitigation of methane from Short Mountain Landfill will be the equivalent of taking 20,000 cars off the road for the next 25 years.
Building Energy Efficiency	On June 25, 2024 this Board approved \$3.2 million in funding for the county-wide lighting conversion to LEDs. This will result in a savings of an estimated \$213,786 per year in electricity costs. Grant funding of \$79,830 through the Energy Efficiency Block Grant has been requested and EWEB utility incentives will amount to \$199,512.
Transportation	Lane County's policy is to replace vehicles with EVs when fossil-fuel powered vehicles reach the end of their lifecycles. There are currently 8 plug-in hybrids and 20 battery electric vehicles in the fleet.
Transportation	Lane County now owns 15 electric vehicle charging stations with a total of 29 charging ports. Three stations are for staff only and the remainder are open to the public. The Fleet Services division received \$31,400 through the ODOT Community Charging Rebate program and has reserved an additional \$25,500 of program funds for charging stations at the Public Service Building (PSB). Two EWEB Electric Mobility grants totaling \$50,000 were secured for EV installations at the PSB and Juvenile Justice Center. EPUD provided a \$24,000 Green Grant award for the Mt. Pisgah EV charger. An additional \$10,500 was secured through EWEB's Smart Charge Rebate program.

In Progress

- Sustainable Procurement: The Finance Division is working with a Procurement Advisory Team to make updates to the Lane Manual Chapter 20 that will allow more flexibility and the ability to prioritize environmentally friendly purchasing.
- Waste Reduction for County Facilities: The Public Works Waste Management Division (WMD) is putting together a new Request for Proposals to unify the hauling contract for all Lane County facilities. This will right-size the service by having one contract, and the new contract will require a minimum recycling content, making it easier for staff to recycle at work.
- Reducing Transportation Emissions: Lane County recently applied to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant for the Building Resilient Infrastructure for Communities (BRIC) FY23 pre-hazard mitigation grant for \$1,500,000 for the construction of a Leachate Pipeline from Short Mountain Landfill to the wastewater treatment facility. This will mean that over 20 million gallons of leachate will no longer be hauled by truck, a main contributor to Lane County's greenhouse gas emissions, and instead be transported via pipeline.
- Direct Pay/Elective Pay: The IRA created a new tax program whereby tax-exempt organizations, or entities such as state, local and tribal governments can take advantage of certain business tax credits even if they don't have taxable income to which the credits can be applied. Lane County will apply for tax credits for EV purchases made in 2023, and other energy efficiency infrastructure in future years, such as EV charging stations, solar and wind installations and other renewable energy generating measures.

CAP Phase 2 – COMMUNITY Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Action Plan

While Lane County has been successful in applying for grants alone, competitive federal funding requires collaboration to increase our chances of success. To that end we have invested time and energy in creating collaborative tables aimed at identifying and addressing common goals and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the broader Lane community.

Lane Regional Resiliency Collaborative: Formed in 2019, the LRRC seeks to reduce risks, mitigate, hazards, and build relationships among its members. It is made up of government agencies, non-governmental organizations and other key stakeholders who share a commitment to improving the resilience of Lane County. A “Core Team” of stakeholder-advisors from Lane County, the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB), the Cities of Eugene and Veneta, and the US Forest Service meet monthly to work on cross-agency, cross-jurisdictional projects focused on pre-event hazard mitigation and risk reduction.

Lane Regional Climate Collaborative: The LRCC was formed in 2023 to create a collaborative table where local public entities would identify common greenhouse gas reduction goals and apply for larger grants together. It is currently made up of representatives from Lane County, the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA), the Cities of Eugene and Springfield, EWEB, Lane Transit District, LCOG, Lane Community College, and representatives from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). It meets monthly and is currently working on designing pilot programs to support residents and businesses reduce their energy consumption.

The accomplishments listed below are efforts to support the Community Climate Action Plan, which focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions generally throughout the county, focusing on how the county broadly can act, support and collaborate to reduce emissions.

Accomplishments

Sector	Action
Waste Reduction	WMD staff received \$1,019,632 from the Federal Department of Energy in early 2024. The project will include a curbside battery pickup pilot and a partnership with BiMart to collect batteries at area stores. The Battery Recycling project is aimed at increasing battery collection in disadvantaged neighborhoods and keeping lithium-ion batteries out of the landfill, reducing landfill fires. Funds will also be used to hire a staff person and create safe battery storage.
Waste Reduction	WMD staff received a \$400,000 USDA grant in 2023 to help increase the market for compost by providing it to agricultural producers and low-income residents throughout the County through compost giveaways and increased education.
Refrigerants	WMD has created no-cost opportunities for residents to responsibly dispose of old refrigerant-containing appliances through a contract with Saint Vincent dePaul. Staff are also working on a system whereby our refrigerants are destroyed for carbon credits.
Transportation	Bicycle Master Plan: Public Works Transportation Planning (TP) staff completed this plan which was adopted by the Board in 2022. It focuses on helping to make bicycling a viable transportation option in rural Lane County.
Energy	Lane County staff supported the City of Oakridge to apply for the Communities Local Energy Action Program (LEAP). Oakridge was one of two communities in Oregon that received \$50,000 through this grant, offered by the Department of Energy (DOE), which facilitates sustained community-wide economic and environmental benefits primarily through DOE's clean energy deployment work. With the help of DOE's National Renewable Energy Labs, Oakridge will explore the

	development of geothermal and micro-hydro energy sources.
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In Progress

- In 2023 Lane County submitted a joint application with the City of Eugene for \$15 million in Department of Transportation (DOT) funding under the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Community Grant program to install electric vehicle charging stations in low-income disadvantaged areas of the metro area and along the Highway 126 (East and West) and 58 corridors. Our application was rated “qualified” in Round 1 but not selected due to the huge demand for funding. We are allowed to have our Round 1 application be reconsidered and are now working on a slightly revised Round 2 application, based on feedback from DOT, due at the end of August.
- Lane County, Lane Workforce Partnership and LCC submitted a concept paper in the Spring of 2023 to DOE for the Ride and Drive program to encourage training for workforce in the EV charging industry. The concept paper was not successful but we continue to look for other opportunities for collaboration to support workforce development.

CAP Phase 3 – Community Climate Resilience Plan

As climate change affects weather patterns, Lane County faces increased risk from natural hazards, including smoke and polluted air, wildfires, extreme heat and cold, severe winter storms, and flooding induced by atmospheric rivers as well as drought due to decreased snowpack. Recent successive ice storms in January 2024 caused significant damage in Lane County.

The need to evacuate and shelter can occur whether there is a direct risk or damage to households such as through wildfires or flooding, or if there is a systems failure, such as widespread power outages. Winter storms that struck Lane County in 2019 and mid-January of 2024 demonstrated the vulnerability of rural infrastructure systems when some areas of the county were without electricity for 10 to 20 days. The built environment is older and the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) estimates that 70 percent of residences in Lane County lack adequate cooling compared to 60 percent statewide. Infrastructure systems are increasingly vulnerable to stronger and more frequent storms.

Below are a list of actions Lane County and partners are taking to address resilience in the face of increasing climate challenges.

Accomplishments

Sector	Action
Resilience	From 2020-2023, the Lane County Firewise Incentive Grant Program has enrolled nearly 600 properties in Lane County and offered over \$2.4 million in reimbursements to homeowners for

	wildfire hardening and mitigation efforts. Firewise staff also applied for and received a \$500,000 grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office to assist low-income, elderly, alter-abled, veteran-status, and otherwise vulnerable populations with defensible space tree and brush clearing within 50 feet of the home.
Resilience	Lane County and LCOG were awarded a DOT PROTECT Grant recently in 2024. This grant provides \$5.4 million to support an all-hazards vulnerability assessment of the surface transportation network, plan for and designate emergency transportation routes, develop nature-based solutions, bring top prioritized projects to 30% design, create a resilience data visualizer tool, and develop a resilience improvement plan for Lane County transportation infrastructure.
Resilience	In April 2024 Lane County Public Health applied for just under \$50,000 in funding through the Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Resilience and Emergency Management for supplies and training for proposed Resilience Hubs.
Resilience	In 2023 LRAPA received an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice Government to Government grant that focuses on reducing negative impacts of air pollution from smoke. It includes \$30,000 in funding for Lane County Public Health staff to perform a health and morbidity research assessment of wildfire smoke on rural Eastern Lane County.

In Progress

- In March, 2024, Lane County applied for an EPA Community Change Grant, requesting just under \$20 million to create a network of resilience hubs throughout Lane County. Funds would support upgrades to existing community facilities in Springfield, Eugene, Cottage Grove, Oakridge, Veneta and Florence. United Way is Lane County's non-profit partner and will work with Public Health and Emergency Management to supply, support, map and build out a connected system of resilience hubs.
- In June, 2024, Lane County applied for a Clean Energy to Communities In-Depth Technical Assistance Partnership with utility partners Springfield Utility Board and the Emerald People's Utility District, along with the non-profit Center for Rural Livelihoods. If awarded, \$500,000 will be made available for community engagement and staff time to support this project, and the value of the technical assistance is estimated to be \$3.6 million. The technical assistance requested from DOE's National Renewable Energy Labs would provide support for accelerating the implementation of distributed renewable energy and grid modernization technologies to improve the reliability and resilience of grid services to the County's underserved regions before, during, and

after disaster events while minimizing the use of fossil-fuel-based backup power.

- Lane County Emergency Management will submit a request for the \$50,000 allocated to all counties through HB3630. The Oregon Department of Energy is administering this program – the County Energy Resilience Grant Program. These funds are available to develop energy resilience plans.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health staff held community resiliency workshops in Cottage Grove this spring and are currently working with a Climate Corps Fellow through the Environmental Defense Fund to perform outreach along the Highway 36 corridor to support the development of resilience hubs.

G. Alternatives/Options

This report is an update on progress only. The Board can give direction to take other actions related to the Climate Action Plans.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Staff will continue to work on implementation actions over the coming years.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

Staff will provide updates in future on progress towards meeting Lane County's climate action goals.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

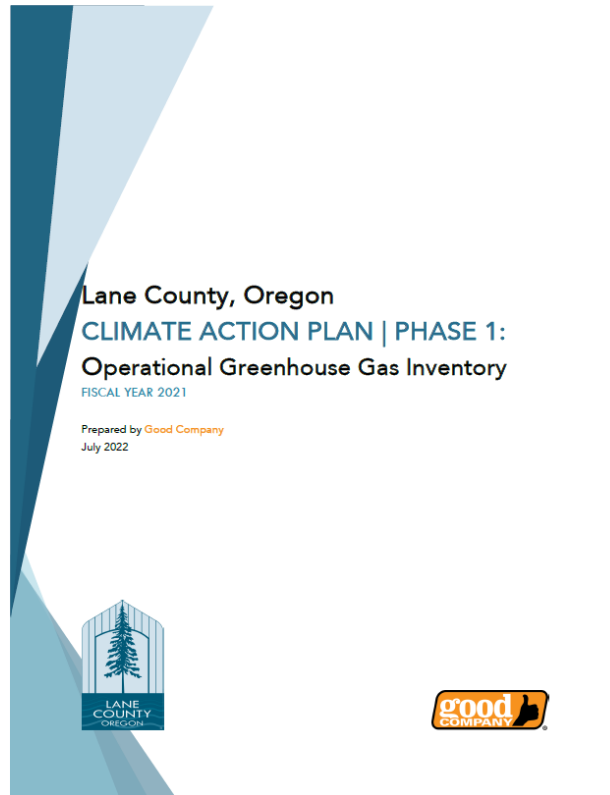
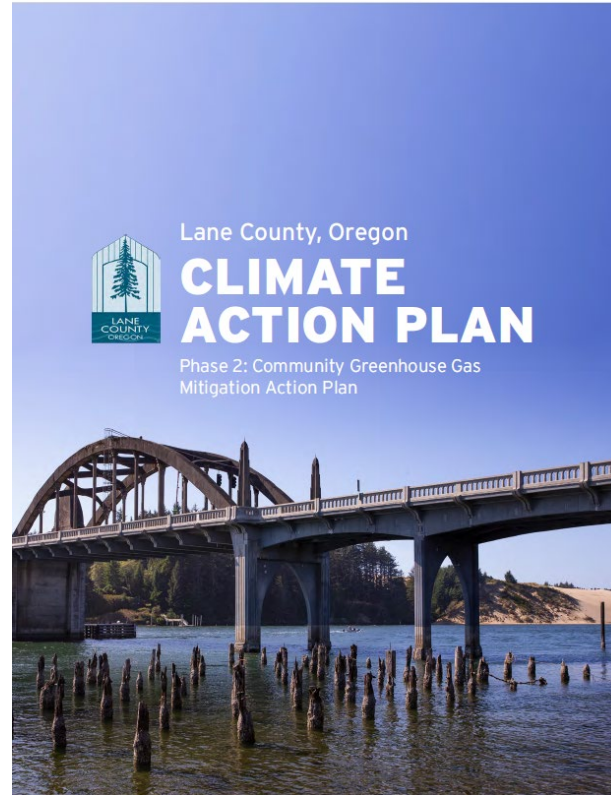
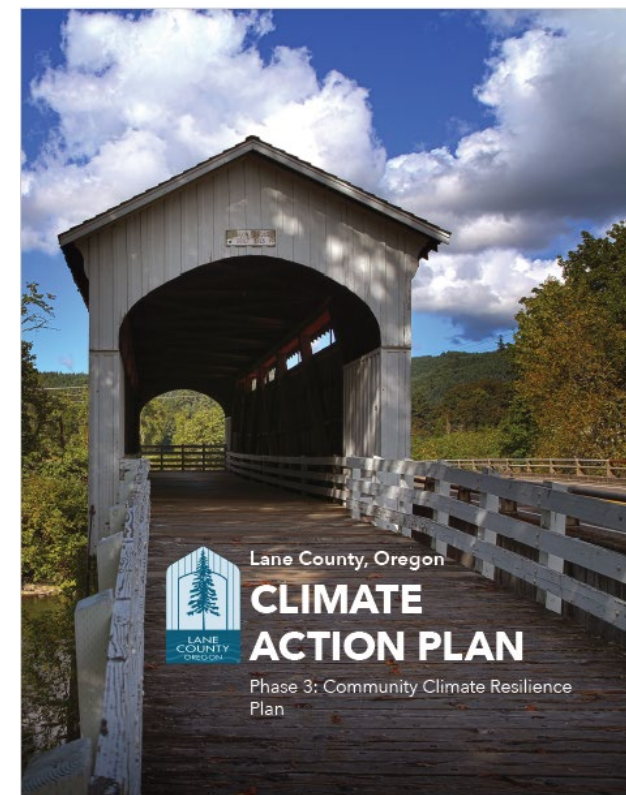
None.

Climate Action Plan Update

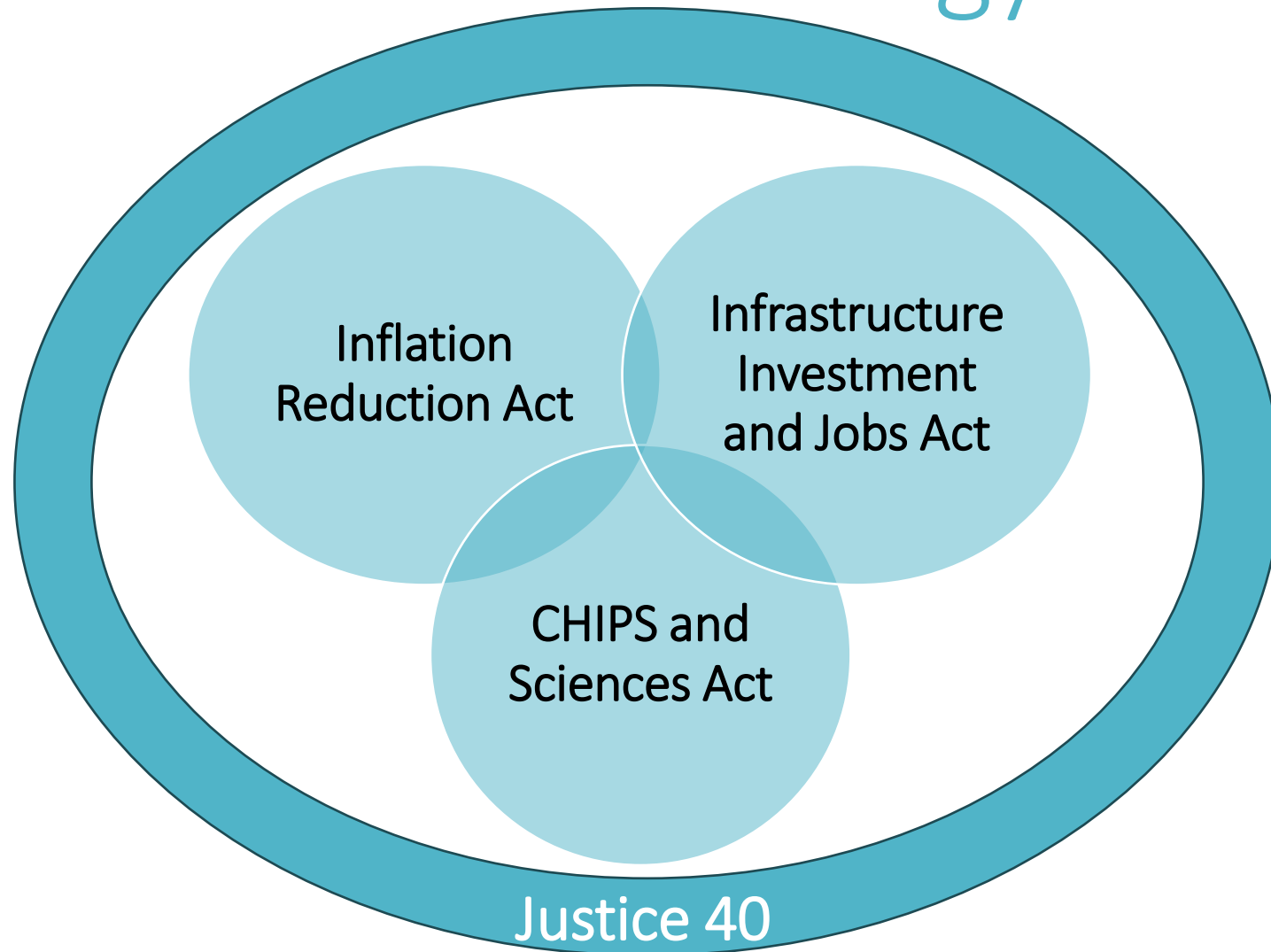
Lane Board of County Commissioners

July 16, 2024

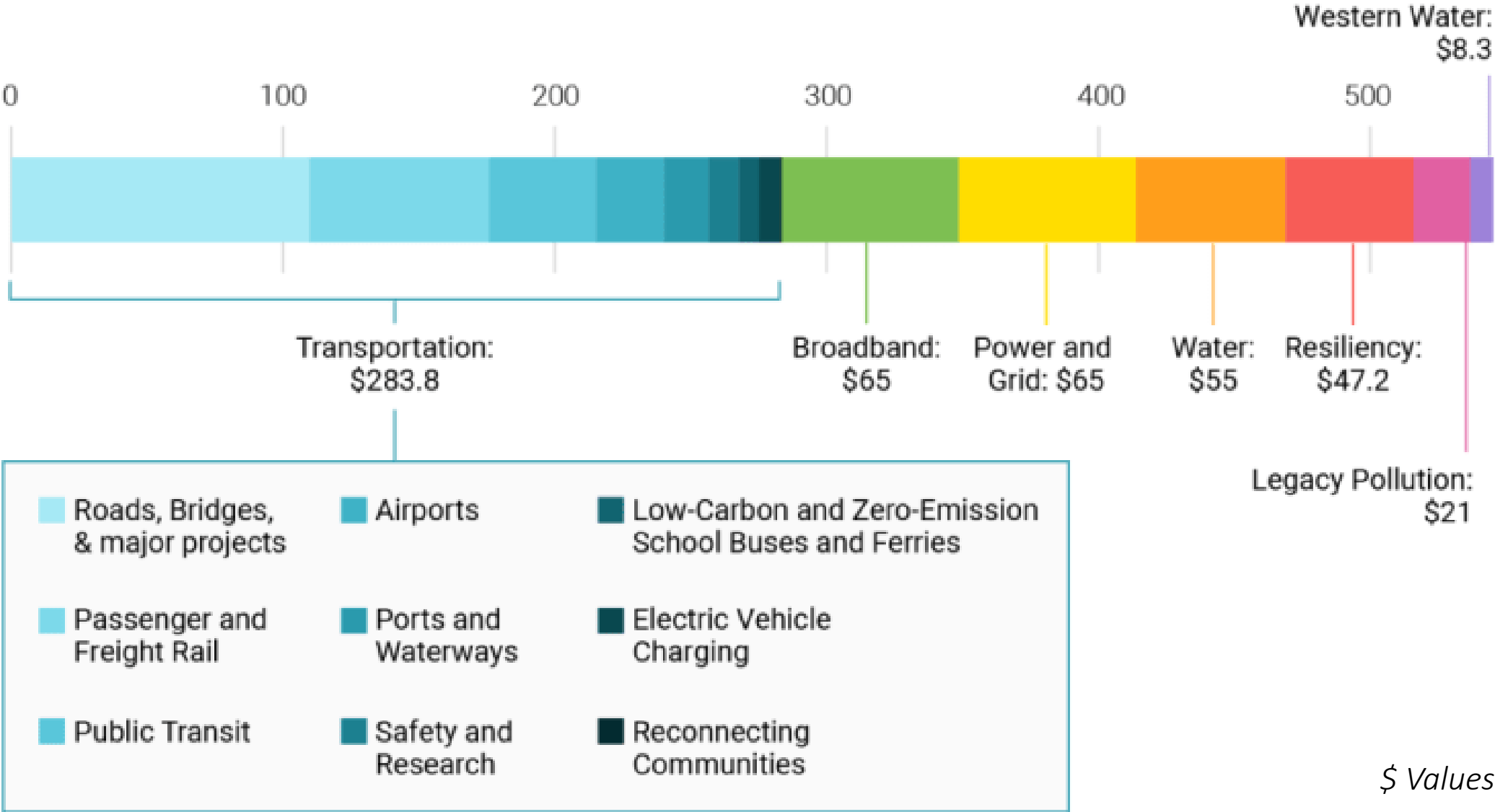
Lane County Climate Action Plans



Over \$500B for Clean Energy Transition

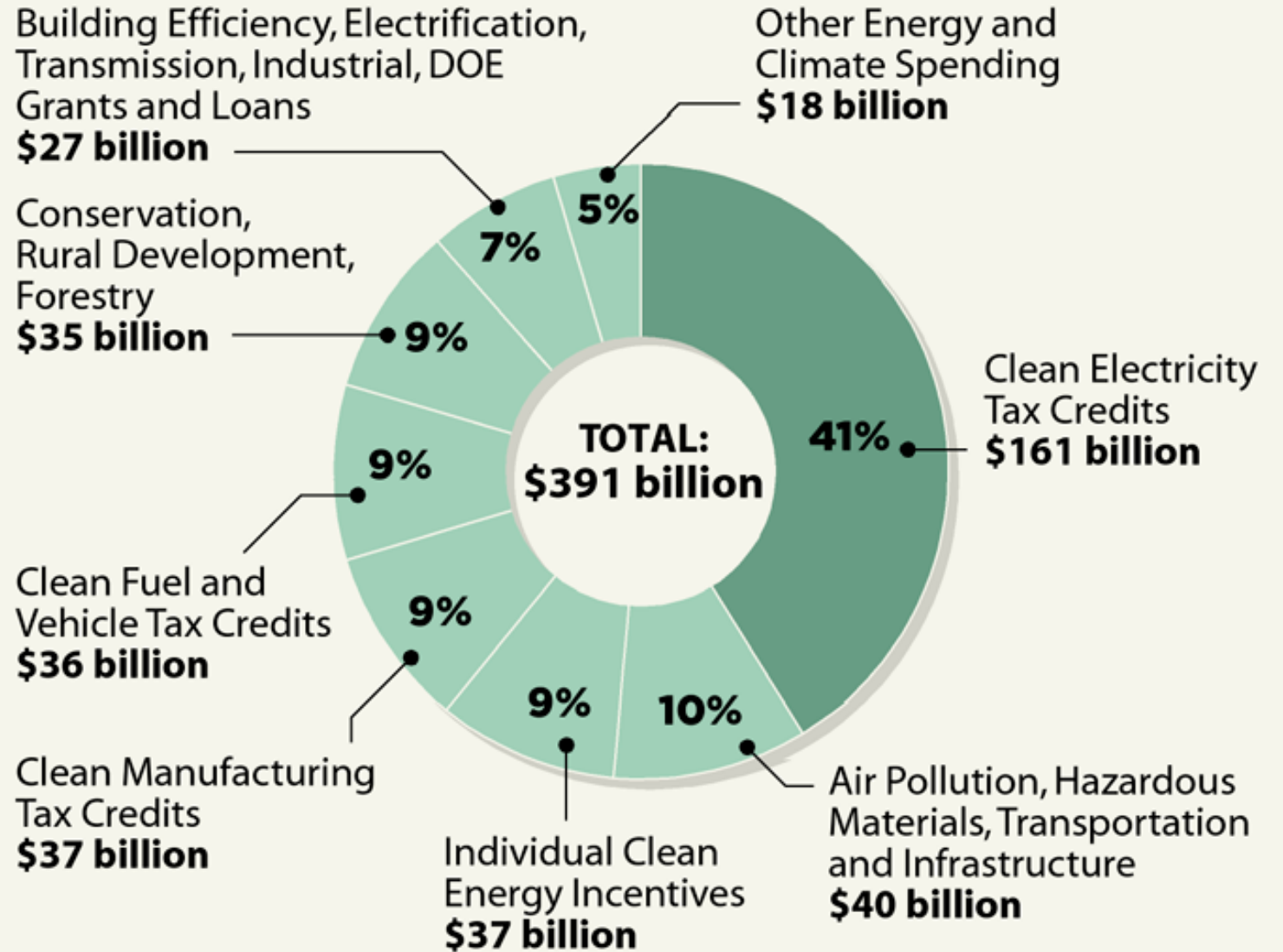


Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



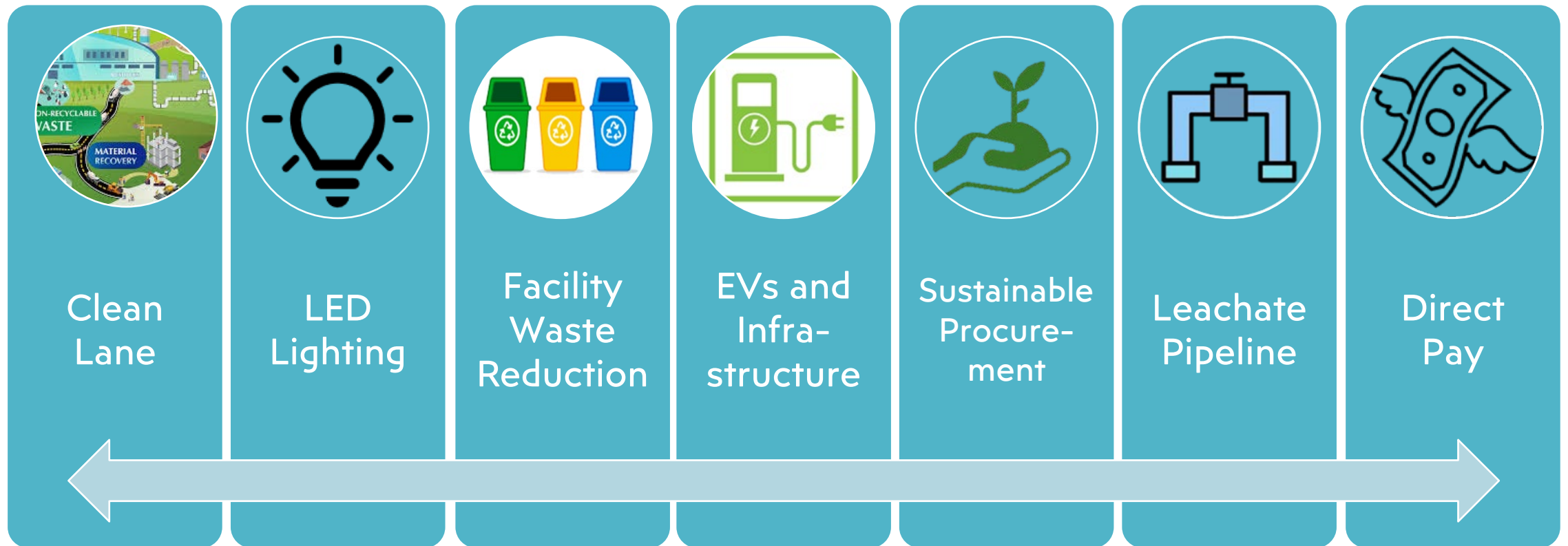
\$ Values in Billions

Inflation Reduction Act



NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100% due to rounding.

Actions to reduce internal operational GHGs



Direct Pay / Elective Pay

Renewable Generation

PV, wind, battery storage
(Direct Pay)



Building Efficiency

(Tax deduction,
not a credit)

Zero Emission Vehicles

Fleets, buses,
charging stations (Direct Pay)

Actions to reduce community GHGs



Battery
Recycling



Composting



Refrigerants



Bicycle
Master Plan



EV Charging
Grant



LEAP
(Oakridge)



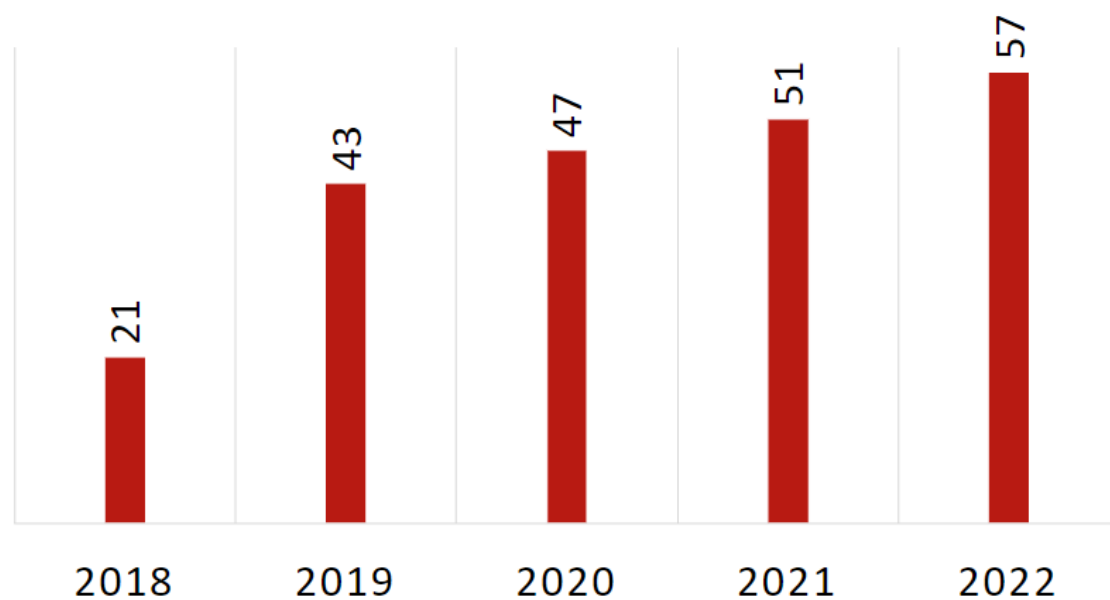
Lane Regional Climate Collaborative

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant – first common collaborative effort
- Identify common greenhouse gas reduction goals
- Pursue larger grants together
- Energy efficient homes and businesses
- ODEQ support

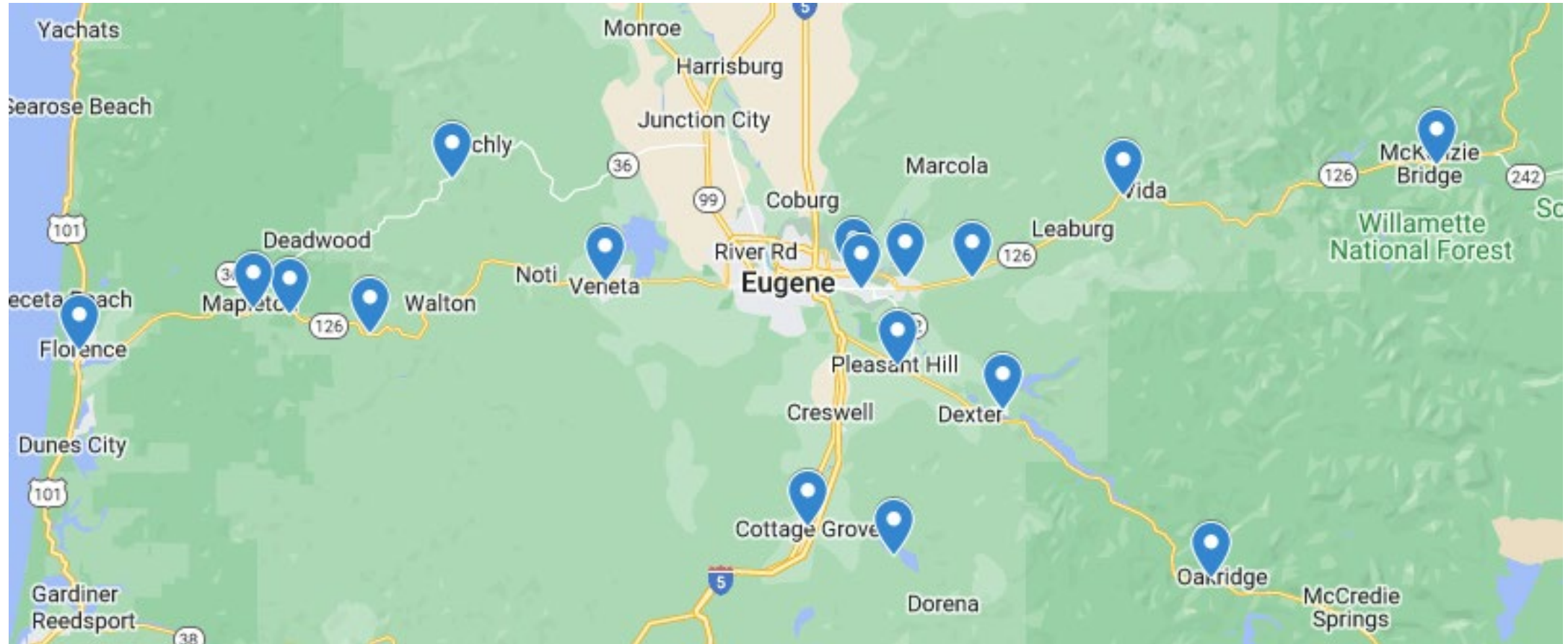


DOE Battery Grant

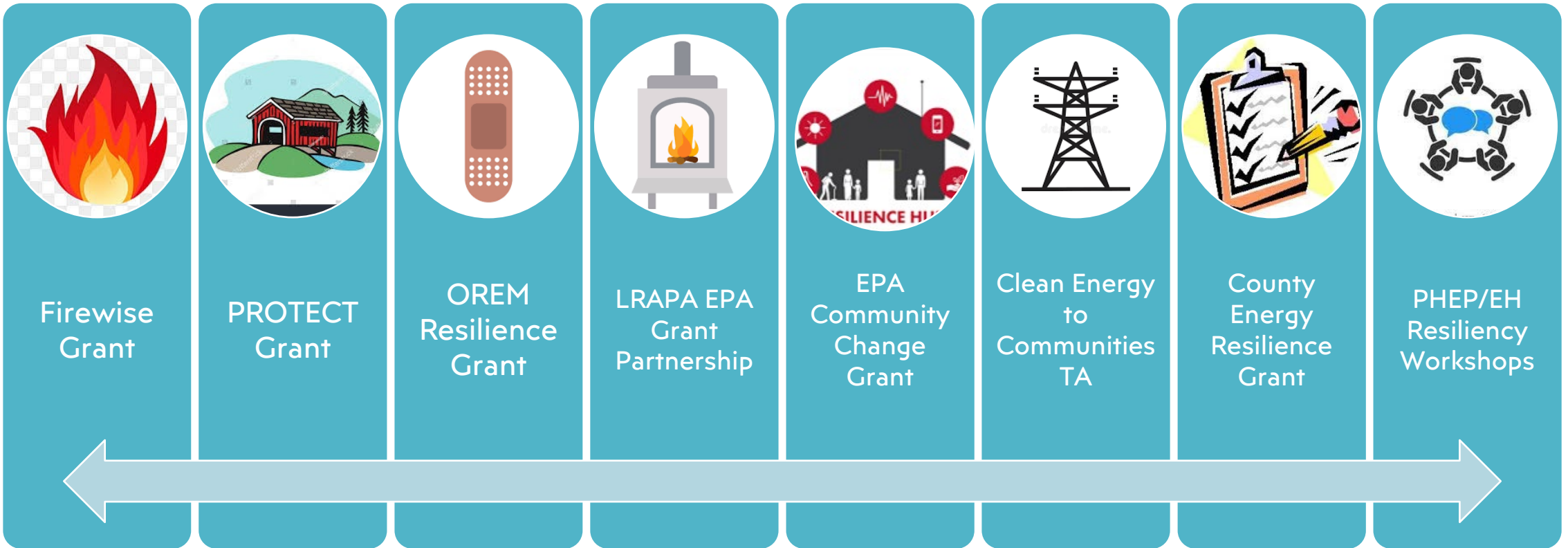
Short Mountain Landfill Fires



EV Charging Plan



Actions for a more Resilient Lane County

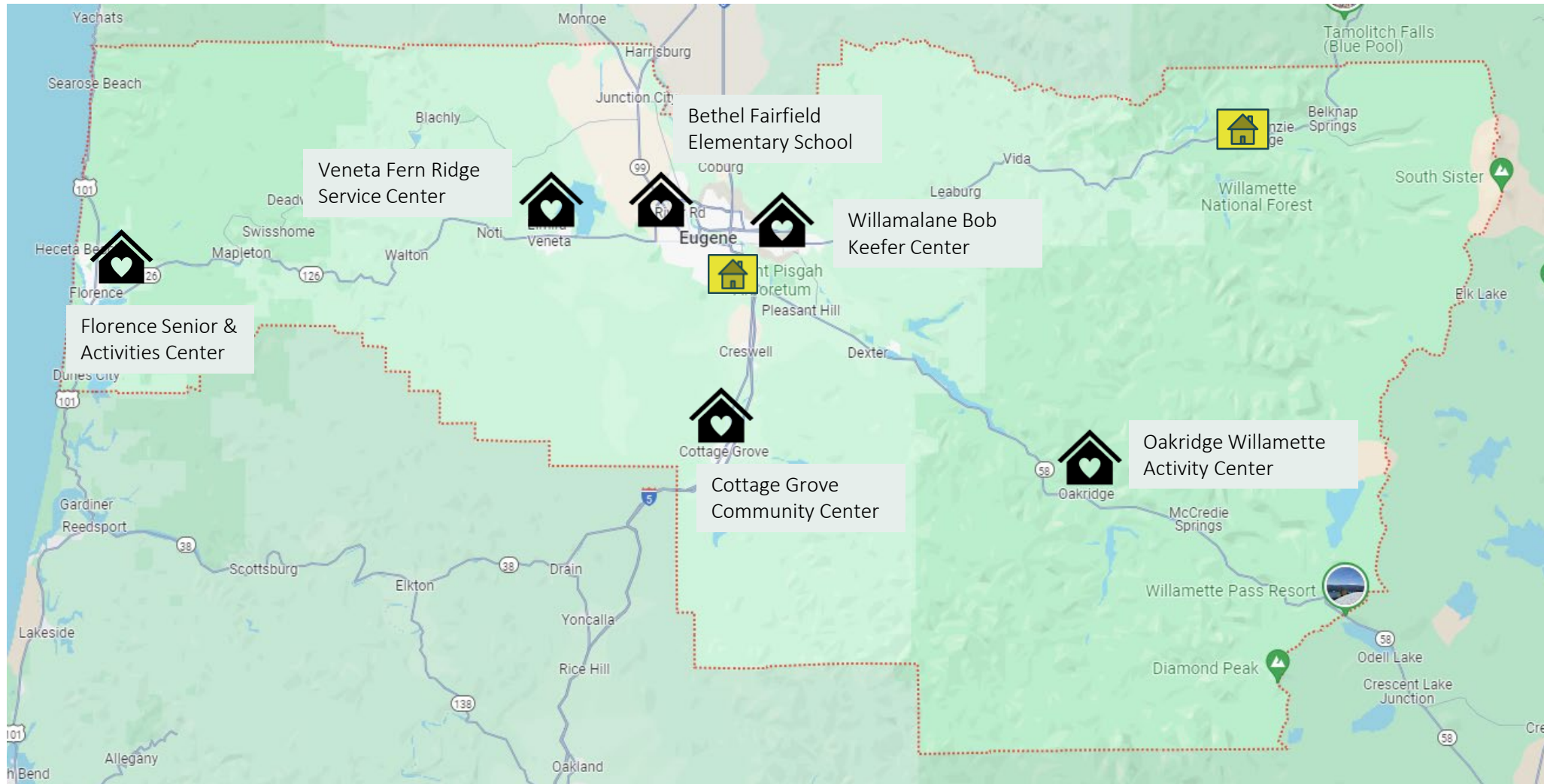


PROTECT Grant

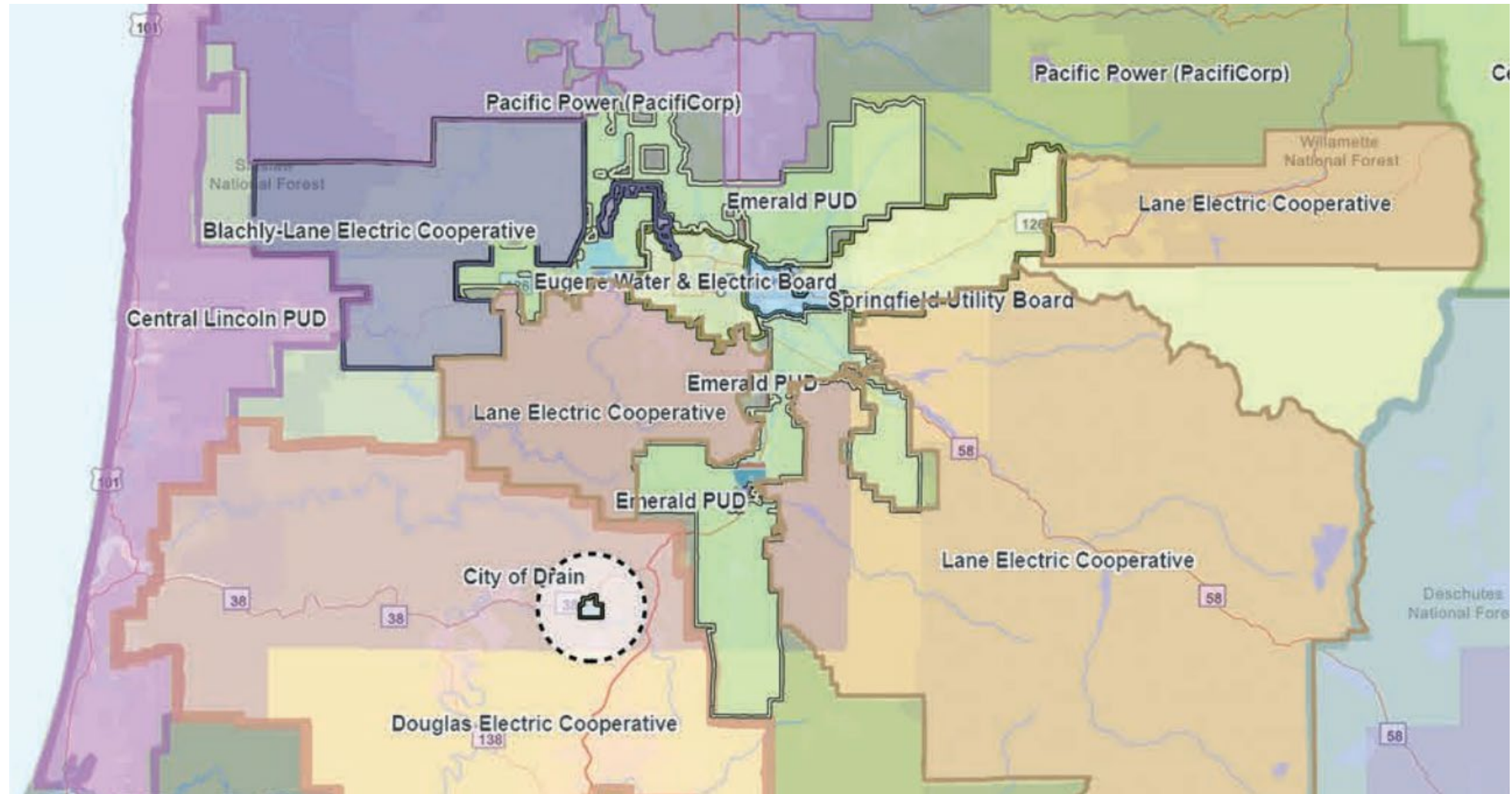
- Collaboration with LCOG
- \$5.4 million - DOT
- vulnerability assessment
- emergency transportation routes
- develop nature-based solutions
- bring top prioritized projects to 30% design
- resilience data visualizer tool
- resilience improvement plan



Resilience Hubs



Energy Resilience



Grants	Amount
Oregon State Fire Marshal's office Firewise Grant	\$ 500,000
EPA EJG2G Grant – LRAPA Grant application with support from Public Health	\$ 997,622
DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Round 1	\$ 15,000,000
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EWEB Smart Charge Rebate Program	\$ 10,500
ODOE County Energy Resilience Non-Competitive Grant	\$ 50,000

**Requested:
\$68 million**

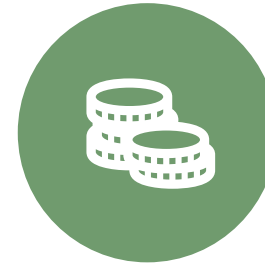
**Secured To Date:
\$8.6 million**

Grants Overview

Looking Forward



**CLIMATE PROTECTION
PROGRAM FUNDING**



**NATIONAL CLEAN
INVESTMENT FUND
\$14B**



**CONTINUED
COLLABORATION**

