



**PORTLAND
CLEAN ENERGY
COMMUNITY BENEFITS
FUND**

**Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF)
Climate Investment Plan
Full Draft Public Comment
May 16 – June 2, 2023**

**Public testimony for listening session on
June 1, 2023 5p.m.**

Public Comment Period: May 16 - June 2, 2023

ID	Verbal testimony	Organization	Contact Name
PT01	In general we support the plan, the investment plan. Our biggest concern is to always make sure that a lot of it goes towards transportation stuff which is very important to our neighborhood. So that's it.	None	Thomas Karwaki
PT02	I'm April Hasson, I work with renewable energy developers. And we are in support of all of the workforce and contractor development especially if some of that funding can go outside of the State of Oregon where a lot of work is happening in the green energy field that isn't necessarily centered here, but would provide trainings for BIPOC and emerging professionals to get into the field. So we'll submit written comment as well.	None	April Hasson
PT03	I read through the report, the draft. And I could have missed it, but I did not notice the specific mention of automobile charging stations as a target realm for doing significant work that is greenhouse gas related. I suppose I'm asking would the building of car charging stations, will it become part of the program. And related to transportation, I'm wondering is it possible to have some community groups that are members of our, one might call it a car-owning club, about six people own the car and they share its use of an electric car. It would be kind of a mini co-op.	None	Bill Harris

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PT04	<p>So for public comment I'm here representing small business utility advocates. So I wanted to speak a little bit more on the small commercial part of the CIP. Overall the document seems really great. But I did have some slight comments regarding the small commercial. It kind of goes back to the electric vehicle charging stations. Within the draft it did mention such things would be included for small commercial, but the words that were used were may be included with a comprehensive energy efficiency scope. I just think it would be good to if it's a may or if it is a yes, it would be good to expand on that, because I felt like that kind of left me with more questions than answers. It's quite vague, so it would be good to see it expanded a little bit more and kind of help those small commercial people who would be reading this plan, kind of get an idea for that. But I do know EV charging stations are in early developments within this whole plan. And then I think also another slight comment I did have, just kind of reviewing some of the takeaway notes from past PCEF CIP meetings. There is notes of the building stock within the small commercial sector heavily relying on natural gas. And I also work a lot with the PUC commission, and just right now Northwest Natural Gas Company is having their IRB comments. And we were consulting with some small business owners and it's just as it says right here, that for the small commercial that building stock of relying on natural gas is very true. It's still a very split view on how we're going to transition out of it. But when we were consulting with some small business owners, they kind of let us know that the transition for older buildings within in that stock, it would be, it should be taken more into account due to the rigorous upgrades that would be required such as service panels and running new wiring to support connections for new electrical equipment. So that's just another one that I thought would be nice to expand upon, just seeing as it was one of the main takeaways from past PCEF meetings, I think just kind of expanding more on natural gas and how small commercial buildings rely so much on this stock, especially restaurants. And the small business we did consult, they're located on Hawthorne Street. So it was good information that they were able to give us not just for the</p>	Small Business Utility Advocates	Guillermo Castillo

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PT05	<p>I had a question about the urban agriculture section and strategy. We have a partner in PPS hopscotch foundation that's been doing work with Jefferson High School students in growing controlled environment agriculture. So we wanted to know whether that qualifies under that strategic area number nine or if there would be other opportunities to further apply for funding. Because it's not technically maybe regenerative agriculture as it's described, but it is a climate-resilience strategy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions in terms of transportation, no need for fertilizers, using aquaponics, increasing food access in urban communities, vertical farming using reduced space, LED high-efficiency lights, low water usage, so on and so forth. So that was my question and comment.</p>	None	Robyn Faraone

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PT06	<p>(1/2) Zack Surmacz here, he/him pronouns. Thank you to the PCEF team, Sam and Cady, for the opportunity to share. I just kind of put my thoughts together just to make a comment. I haven't read the whole plan. I was definitely reading through the initial budget breakdown of strategic programs versus community-responsive grants and some of the other funding mechanisms and the money that is going to be allocated over the next five years. But so without reading the whole plan, I would just share that coming from community energy project, kind of a smaller scale nonprofit in a home by home, apartment by apartment experience, and now going to the state legislature and looking at the State of Oregon from like 20,000 feet, I just kind of have these two countervailing experiences in my mind. And my comment to PCEF would just to be maybe how can we keep both direct benefits to individual vulnerable front line community families that are priority populations that we're intending to serve and give direct benefits to in our daily work, but also keep in mind that there's a systemic, like there are systemic failures happening at this level that I know that's not, PCEF is the City of Portland and a tax on businesses operating within Portland. But it's hard to see when we hear conversation even at the state and federal level that everything is costing more, inflation, the cost of metal, the cost of labor and construction is just skyrocketing. So then projects, what we thought were going to be \$50 million are now \$200 million or these are like systemic issues, and I just wonder if there's any way that PCEF can hold both in their mind. I try to do this as an individual, it's very, very hard. And I don't have a magic wand that can just say bring down the cost of all of these things or on shore all of these manufacturing jobs or create new materials that are just environmentally friendly. I don't know, there's so many issues. But I just wonder how can we do the direct benefits to help people struggling with cost of living while also keeping in mind that there are powers that be that are just at a larger scale and how can we maybe do advocacy or something at that level. Like I don't know if any of that made sense. But it's just two things that just bother me when I'm trying to do, I want to fix both, but it's just hard to</p>	None	Zack Surmacz

ID	Verbal testimony	Organization	Contact Name
PT06	<p>(2/2) But I now offer a specific comment, because I know my last one was kind of a random rant so I apologize for that. To drill down on something more specifically, I don't know if this is in the climate investment plan specifically, but around urban renewal and redevelopment, I know there was an issue early on this legislative session about permitting and seismic improvements for commercial buildings that were then trying to be redeveloped for like residential use. I just think that's a really important idea about just if we're not trying to sprawl, new development and obviously we're trying to work on that with permitting and construction and costs and speeding up that process of new buildings that are efficient and up to code and that's really, really important and we are obviously doing weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades and heat pumps and all of these things in existing buildings. But I just wonder are there buildings that we don't know about that we can quickly and easily, maybe not easily, but upgrade that we're not thinking about right now. For example I think a Walmart building on 82nd and then having an idea I've heard rumors of what can happen at that building. I mean that's a commercial retail store, but what about like a 5, 6, 7 story commercial office space. So I just wonder are we looking at all of the places here in Portland to keep people, because then that translates to less transit, less commuting, less congestion, more commute by maybe bike or ped. So just like keeping everyone here and using our urban spaces just a little bit more wisely and not just kind of throwing things out the window because we can't right now. Maybe in two years, there's something so I just think urban refill or redevelopment, infill is an interesting concept in my mind right now.</p>	None	Zack Surmacz