PORTLAND CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND

THE BUREAU OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Memo

Date: **August 21, 2026**
To: PCEF Committee
From: Sam Baraso, PCEF Program Manager
Subject: PCEF Program Updates – August 2026

This memo summarizes PCEF program updates for August 2026 and builds on the information shared in the July 2026 program update memo.

1. **General updates**
    - Three staff members joined the PCEF team this month:
        i. **William Francis** will joined our Transportation Decarbonization Team as a Project Manager. He has been at the Community Cycling Center for a number of years and most recently served as their Programs Director.
        ii. **Michele Zenick** will join us as our Operations Analyst through FY26-27. Michele will support internal program communications, coordination, and team alignment.
        iii. **Alonso Melendez** will be joining the PCEF's Project Implementation Team (PIT) as a Special Projects Manager. Alonso will support ongoing grant and contract management.

2. **External Affairs/Community Engagement/Communications Updates**
    - **North Portland Sunday Parkways (August 2):** PCEF staff tabled at this free, family friendly event, which opened 6.7 miles of North Portland streets to people walking, biking, and rolling. The PCEF-funded event connected neighborhood parks and destinations and featured community booths, local vendors, family activities, and live music.
    - **Going Green to the Jade (August 29):** This coordinated bike ride event is happening on August 29 from 4:30-6:30pm. The ride begins at the Bird Alliance of Oregon and includes stops where participants can learn about PCEF-funded projects before ending at the Jade Night Market. Registration includes a $25 credit toward the use of a BIKETOWN bike. More information and registration are available on the Bird Alliance of Oregon website.
    - **Transit Matters: Placemaking, Safety & Economic Vitality in East Portland (September 12):** PCEF is partnering with Division Midway Alliance to sponsor the first

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Transit Matters Conference. The conference will explore the intersection of transportation, placemaking, public safety and economic vitality in East Portland, with panel discussions, youth-led conversations and collaborative sessions focused on transit as a tool for community connection. Register for Transit Matters or sign up to volunteer.

- **Downtown Portland Sunday Parkways (September 13):** PCEF staff will also table at this free, family-friendly event from 11am–4pm. The PCEF-funded event will open a 2.3-mile route highlighting downtown parks, public spaces and cultural destinations, with community booths, local vendors, family activities and live entertainment along the way. More information is available on the Portland Sunday Parkways website
- **PCEF Contractor & Grantee Gathering (September 17):** PCEF will host a gathering for teams working on PCEF-funded energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Participants will hear program updates, learn from experts, connect with other grantees and contractors, and share resources and solutions to common challenges. The gathering will feature "Building Effective Teams: Avoiding Microaggressions," presented by PCEF Workforce Policy Coordinator Abby Bandurraga. The session will offer strategies for recognizing, responding to and disrupting microaggressions in the workplace.

3. Policy Updates

- No policy updates this month.

4. Grantmaking and Capacity Building Updates

- **2026 Community Grants Cycle:** Staff are well into the scoring-panel phase of the grant review process, which will conclude in mid-September. This will be followed by final due diligence and development of the recommended award portfolio. Award decisions are expected to be announced in November.
- **2026 Capacity Building Cohort Program:** Staff completed review of 51 applications and are moving to the final cohort selection and additional due diligence phase. The review identified recurring needs among applicants, including stronger organizational infrastructure, financial and operational systems, staffing capacity, and readiness to implement climate-related work. Up to 10 organizations will be selected for the three-year program, which will pair $150,000 in multiyear funding with tailored technical assistance. Staff are using insights from the application and review process to shape the cohort's design, onboarding, and technical-assistance priorities ahead of the program's fall launch.

5. Building Efficiency and Renewables Updates

Single-unit Residential:

- **Energy Friendly Homes (Strategic Program 3):** The program is preparing to launch Green Friendly Yards, a pilot focused on adding green infrastructure improvements to homes receiving energy upgrades.

- **Access To Fair and Flexible Capital (Strategic Program 14):** Staff are developing a request for proposals to select a contractor to administer a lending program focused primarily on financing improvements to single-unit homes. A pre-solicitation information session is anticipated in September.

Multi-unit Residential:

- **Clean Energy in Regulated Multifamily Affordable Housing (Strategic Program 1, Portland Housing Bureau):** The 2023 solicitation closed on July 31 and received 11 applications requesting a total of $25 million in PCEF funding. Three applications were determined to be ineligible, and one was removed from further consideration due to an incomplete application and feasibility concerns. Four projects are advancing with conditional award recommendations totaling up to $11.4 million, pending approval of their final scopes of work. The remaining three applications are under review to resolve potential eligibility concerns.
- **Clean Energy in Unregulated Multifamily Housing (Strategic Program 2, TRC, Elevate, and Unite Oregon):** Staff are preparing for a soft launch in September that will include a pilot run of three projects. These projects will be processed through the full project management workflow, including execution of a funding agreement that formally commits the property owner to maintaining rent stability for a designated period. The length of the rent-stability commitment will scale with the level of per-unit PCEF investment, with longer affordability commitments corresponding to higher investment levels.
- **Access to Fair and Flexible Capital – Multi-unit housing focus (Strategic Program 14, Prosper Portland):** Prosper Portland is working with project design teams to finalize scopes and ensure the pilot office-to-residential loan program complies with PCEF requirements. The team is also reviewing findings from the embodied-carbon study and developing recommendations for incorporating embodied-carbon considerations into potential future office-to-residential conversion programs.

Commercial:

- **Building Energy Efficiency (BEE) Grants for Small Commercial Buildings (Strategic Programs 4 and 11, Prosper Portland)**: The BEE Grant Program has received 327 applications, with 57 projects currently underway and nine completed. To date, the program has awarded more than $4 million and disbursed more than $2 million through two grant types: grants of up to $200,000 for building upgrades and up to $100,000 for business equipment upgrades. The average award is $95,000. Food-service businesses account for 58% of awarded projects, reflecting the program's focus on high-energy-use industries, including food service, food sales, small manufacturing, lodging, and laundromats.

6. Transportation Decarbonization Updates

- **Portland E-Bike Rebate Program:** PCEF released an additional 300 e-bike rebates during the week of August 17, marking the final rebate release of the season. Recipients are expected to redeem their vouchers through early October. To date, the program has helped put 1,250 e-bikes into use across Portland. The next rebate release is planned for spring 2027 as warmer weather returns.
- As of August 19, the payment-reimbursement backlog that unexpectedly affected the program in late June and July has been resolved. As the program winds down for the season, staff will review internal processes and identify improvements to reduce the risk of similar payment delays in the future.

7. Workforce & Contractor Development Updates

- **Energy-Friendly Homes' (Strategic Program 3) on-the-job training program**: The program will launch in September 2026. Grant funding will be available to SP3 contractors that hire participants from PCEF-funded pre-apprenticeship programs full time for up to one year and provide training under an approved on-the-job training plan.

8. Regenerative Agriculture and Green Infrastructure Updates

- No regenerative agriculture and green infrastructure updates this month.