

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: *Authorize the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Director to execute grants focused on clean energy, green infrastructure and workforce development for a total allocation not to exceed \$9,235,400 from the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (Ordinance)

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Presenter name: Sam Baraso, PCEF Program Manager

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

Portland voters passed the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) in November 2018. Exactly one year later, City Council seated the PCEF Committee. This ordinance contains the Committee's inaugural funding recommendations and marks a major milestone in fulfilling the vision put forth by the communities of color who worked to put the PCEF program on the ballot. The PCEF Committee, a cohort of nine volunteers that reflect the racial, ethnic and economic diversity of our City, makes funding recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. These recommendations are the result of hundreds of hours listening to community members, dozens of public Committee work sessions, many working nights and weekends and an enthusiastic community response.

The PCEF program invests in community-originated climate action solutions that advance racial and social justice. The current funding cycle reflects only a fraction of PCEF's projected funding capacity. Starting in FY 21-22, PCEF will invest \$44 - \$61 million annually in green jobs, healthy homes and a climate-friendly Portland.

The Committee has recommended a portfolio that consists of 45 grants to fund 29 planning and 16 implementation projects that total \$8,635,400 in funding requests. Each grant proposal meets the PCEF program's objective of addressing climate change and advancing racial and social justice. Exhibit A, "2021 inaugural PCEF funding recommendations and progress report", includes grant proposals that the Committee is recommending for funding and grant proposals that were not recommended in this funding cycle. The total in grant proposals recommended for funding is \$8,635,400. PCEF staff anticipates that grant reporting, administration, and technical assistance needs may slightly increase the project cost of grantees. Accordingly, a contingency fund of \$200,000 is recommended to support the potential increase any individual grant by up to 10% to cover grant administration costs.

The PCEF Committee also recommends that City Council authorize a \$400,000 allocation for an annual mini-grant program – capped at \$5,000 per grant and dispersing \$100,000 quarterly – as described in Exhibit A.

RFP #1 grant funds	\$8,635,400
Grant project contingency fund	\$200,000
Mini-grants program	\$400,000
Total requested authorization	\$9,235,400

Financial and budgetary impacts:

\$9,235,400 is allocated from the PCEF Fund for the purpose of: (1) funding recommended grant proposals in response to the inaugural PCEF RFP, with a \$200,000 contingency fund to cover grantees’ reporting, administration, and technical assistance costs; and (2) funding a mini-grant program. This funding is already secured as the Clean Energy Surcharge that is part of Portland City Code Chapter 7.07.035.

PCEF staff will administer the grants.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The recommended grants provide much needed planning resources for both small and medium sized community-based organizations. More than 85 percent of funds will go to organizations that reflect and serve priority populations identified in the PCEF program and nearly 40 percent of funds will be directed to small or emerging organizations. Many of the recommended grants’ project beneficiaries are in populations hit hardest by climate change, face disparities in income and education, have disproportionate negative health outcomes and have largely been left out of past programs building the clean energy economy.

Please see “2021 inaugural PCEF funding recommendations and progress report” attached as Exhibit A for additional details on community involvement.

100% Renewable Goal:

These grants will help community-based organizations develop plans and implement projects focused on clean energy, green infrastructure and workforce development, in direct support of the City’s 100% renewable energy goal.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- YES: Please complete the information below.
- NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount