



## Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP)

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### What is the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP)?

The Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM) is the lead agency for the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP); LEAP is a plan to strengthen local planning, resiliency and hazard impact reduction efforts. To better prepare for an energy emergency, the community, energy providers and distributors, and emergency response organizations must be involved in emergency planning efforts. The Portland LEAP will help link existing information into an operational energy assurance plan.

When the plan is completed we will have:

- Shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of government agencies and energy providers;
- Knowledge of investments needed to make energy systems more resilient;
- Identified energy demands and actions necessary to extend resources through the use of alternative energy sources and energy efficiency;
- Understanding of response actions in the event of a major energy disruption;
- Relationships providing mutual aid across organizations.

A key outcome of the project is a greater understanding of the interrelationships of the energy industry, emergency response organizations and the community in the Portland area with emergency planning efforts.

#### What is energy assurance?

Energy assurance is a confidence that energy will be available when needed. To accomplish that level of security and availability of energy, we must take actions to reduce vulnerability to a disaster and to prepare for a disaster. Energy assurance involves an array of activities that fall into three main categories: preparation and planning; response; and education and outreach.

- Preparation and planning involve identifying key assets and personnel, designing and updating energy emergency response plans, training personnel, and conducting exercises that test the effectiveness of response plans.
- Response activities include monitoring events that may affect energy supplies, assessing the severity of disruptions, providing situational awareness, coordinating restoration efforts, and tracking recoveries.
- Education and outreach activities include communicating and coordinating with key stakeholders, increasing public awareness, and forming partnerships.



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Sam Adams, Mayor | Susan Anderson, Director

## **What is mitigation?**

Mitigation is comprised of strategies and actions to lower or lessen the impacts of an energy-related disruption or disaster. These strategies and actions occur before and after a disaster.

## **What is resiliency?**

Resiliency is the ability to respond effectively to an emergency and to recover quickly from damage; it is the ability to “bounce back”. A resilient system is not necessarily damage-resistant. Rather, a resilient system is able to continue operating despite damage, and to return quickly to normal operations when damage occurs. Since energy systems are not 100 percent damage proof, resiliency is considered to be as important as damage prevention.

## **What is vulnerability?**

Vulnerability is the degree to which people, property, resources, systems, and cultural, economic, environmental, and social activity is susceptible to harm, degradation, or destruction. We can reduce our vulnerability by taking mitigating actions now that can lessen the impacts of a disaster.

## **Why do we need a Local Energy Assurance Plan in Portland?**

Portland is subject to hazards that could compromise our basic functions if our critical infrastructure is not managed and maintained, and if our community is not fully aware of their part in protecting the critical energy infrastructure. To minimize extensive damage from potential hazards to the critical infrastructure and the resulting impacts to the City of Portland, improved resiliency of the critical infrastructure is needed.

The Portland LEAP will build upon the Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan Portland/Vancouver Urban Area (August 2007). In 2007, the Portland/Vancouver Urban Area emergency managers developed the Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan. In the plan, energy – e.g. electricity, natural gas, and petroleum - is identified as the most depended upon infrastructure in our region. The energy sources are situated in a single critical energy infrastructure location. This “hub” of energy sources includes co-located fuel pipelines, petroleum tank farms, ports and riverfront facilities, and high voltage electrical transmission in northwest Portland. The critical energy infrastructure hub provides the majority of the energy we use in the City of Portland and in the State of Oregon. It is also a conduit for the Alaskan pipeline which provides energy fuel to other states. The location of the existing critical infrastructure and the statewide importance of it, results in a dependency that requires collaboration and sharing of information among energy providers, distributors and users.

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan represents the first-ever attempt by public and private infrastructure owners and operators in the urban area to define, identify, and prioritize regionally-critical infrastructure. The document represents both a report on the process used to begin plan development and a guide for future development of the plan.

Disruptions to the supply of natural gas or petroleum fuels can have consequences as significant to public well-being as widespread as electrical outages. Comprehensive energy assurance planning emphasizes maintaining access to all of these energy resources by preparing for all the hazards that could cause disruptions. In addition, energy assurance

planning involves working with energy providers and affected stakeholders to help make sure that services are restored to the public as quickly as possible.

As part of the Portland LEAP process we might ask questions such as: What is the impact to the respective areas of the community with the loss of fuel and electricity? What do we need to do to continue to have an energy source that keeps government response agencies functioning, keeps hospitals working, and citizens safe? The Portland LEAP is intended to function as an addendum to existing plans, providing guidance and response at the local level.

### **What is critical infrastructure?**

Critical infrastructure is the publicly and privately controlled systems and assets, including the built and natural environments and human resources, essential to the sustained functioning of the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area including the counties of Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington in Oregon and Clark County in Washington. Such systems and assets specifically include those necessary to ensure the continuity of security, safety, health, and sanitation services, support the area's economy, and/ or maintain public confidence. Incapacitation or destruction of any of these systems or assets would have a debilitating impact on the area either directly, through interdependencies, and/or through cascading effects. This definition was established in the Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan Portland/Vancouver Urban Area.

### **Who is involved in the Portland LEAP?**

The Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM) is the lead agency managing the Portland LEAP. POEM is partnering with the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS).

The project is community oriented and involves people from neighborhoods, businesses, environmental organizations, service focused non-profit organizations, government response agencies, business associations, industry, and other organizations. For a current list of committee participants in the Portland LEAP, visit the POEM web page at

**<http://www.portlandonline.com/oem/index.cfm?c=28988>**.

### **Who funds the project and why?**

In April 2010, the U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. D.O.E) notified the City of Portland that funds would be awarded to Portland under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Portland, along with 42 other cities and towns in 25 states, received money to develop new or improve existing energy assurance plans.

The ARRA grants make it possible for local officials to enhance their ability to address disruptions to the regional supply systems, including the electricity grid; refining, storage, and distribution of fossil fuels; and renewable energy sources. The grants provide an opportunity for Portland to be proactive in our emergency planning efforts. The U.S. D.O.E. is working to improve the nation's energy sector resiliency. The overall goal of the U.S. D.O.E's energy assurance program is to work towards a more uniform, comprehensive energy assurance and resiliency approach that benefits the local jurisdiction, the states, and the nation.

### **How long will it take to complete the Portland LEAP?**

We will finish the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan by March 2012.

## **What kind of process will the Portland LEAP use?**

The process is community oriented and involves people from neighborhoods, businesses, environmental organizations, service focused non-profit organizations, government response agencies, business associations, industry, and other organization. Through a series of committee meetings, the Portland LEAP will be created.

The Steering Committee members will provide expertise in energy, environmental protection, sustainability, regulatory compliance, businesses and community livability. They will advocate for the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP). They will help create and foster relationships between committee members, City staff, citizens, response agencies, local energy providers and others. They will provide guidance on what investment is needed collectively to make systems more resilient. Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM) staff will use the findings and recommendations from the Steering Committee as part of the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan. POEM staff will present the Portland LEAP to City Council.

Members of the Focus Committees will provide perspective in energy, environmental protection, sustainability, regulatory compliance, businesses and community livability. Each of the Focus Committees will provide insight, expertise and guidance within the respective areas. Focus Committee members will identify their needs and concerns related to existing information and gaps in the information; provide recommended actions to close gaps and resolve concerns; and prioritize plan actions.

The Focus Committees are:

- Neighborhoods and Small Businesses;
- Environmental, Economy, and Alternative Energy;
- Industry, Response Agencies and Utilities.

Information and recommendations from the committees will be vital to the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan. Portland Office of Emergency Management staff will write the Portland LEAP and incorporate the committee information and recommendations. Ultimately, the Portland LEAP will be presented to City Council by POEM staff. Because the Portland LEAP is not a law, POEM staff will request City Council approve the Portland LEAP by resolution rather than an ordinance.

## **How can we be more informed about this plan?**

Sign up to be part of our database so you can receive emails and other notifications of progress on the Portland LEAP. You can also visit our web page at <http://www.portlandonline.com/oem/index.cfm?c=28988> (POEM home page).

## **Who is the contact person for the Portland LEAP?**

Contact Tricia R. Sears, Project Manager, for more information about the Portland LEAP. She can be reached by phone at 503-823-2360 and email at [tricia.sears@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:tricia.sears@portlandoregon.gov).

To sign up to receive emails and other notifications about Portland LEAP, contact the Project Assistant, Penny Bowman, by phone at 503-823-9799 and email at [penny.bowman@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:penny.bowman@portlandoregon.gov).

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