



## **Why Should Your Organization Know About the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP)?**

Because **energy is our most depended upon resource; it is the backbone of the city.**

Much of Oregon's **critical energy infrastructure** – including oil terminals, fuel tanks, natural gas systems and power transmission systems – is concentrated along an eight-mile stretch of the Willamette River in Northwest Portland. This area is vulnerable to earthquakes and other hazards. When this critical energy infrastructure is disrupted, the impacts are felt in the Portland metropolitan area, in all of Oregon, and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

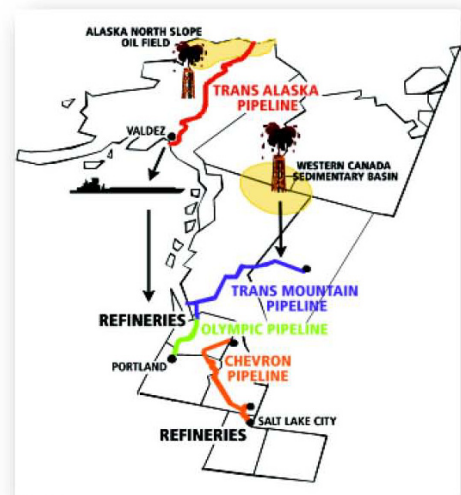
The **Portland LEAP** is bringing together key City of Portland bureaus, public agencies, non-profit organizations, business, industry, schools, hospitals and public health, neighborhood coalitions, utilities, and communications providers. We are developing a community-wide plan that will minimize the potential damage to critical energy infrastructure and the energy supply. This effort will increase the region's energy resilience.

### **What are the known risks to the energy supply?**

Scientists expect the **Cascadia Subduction Zone** – located off the Pacific coast and extending from California to British Columbia – to produce an earthquake of level 8.0 magnitude or greater in the near future. The prolonged shaking caused by this earthquake will result in significant damage to Portland's critical energy infrastructure. Impacts will likely disrupt the flow of petroleum, natural gas, and electricity for weeks.

**Portland's energy facilities are vulnerable to an earthquake.** Findings from the *Oregon State Energy Assurance Plan* indicate Portland's energy facilities and systems across the petroleum, electricity and natural gas sectors vary in their age and construction standards.

**Oregon imports 100 percent of its petroleum and natural gas.** The unrefined petroleum is received from Canada (British Columbia and Alberta) and Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico. More than 90 percent of Oregon's refined petroleum products come from Washington State and are transported by pipelines and marine vessels. Natural gas is transported by pipelines and transfer stations; natural gas provides 7 to 15 percent of Oregon's electricity.



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**What are we willing to do now to lessen those impacts?** To be prepared, we need to know how much energy we use, what back-up resources we have, how to respond quickly to restore power, and how to prioritize uses. We can be a more resilient city and region.

## **What is resilience?**

**Resilience is** the ability to respond and to recover from damage; it is the ability to “bounce back”. Prioritization of essential functions and services is a major element of resilience.

## **What is the Portland LEAP doing to help build resilience?**

The Portland LEAP project staff (identified below) is working with key people to develop a community-wide plan. The plan builds upon existing information such as the *2007 Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan* and new information obtained during development of the Portland LEAP. Recognizing roles and responsibilities, available resources, priorities, partnerships and communication, the Portland LEAP analysis will provide key information to the region. A more informed conversation about energy assurance will result.

In November 2011, the Portland LEAP is conducting an exercise to test the plan; this test will focus on how our community would respond to a hypothetical Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake of 8.0 (M) in Portland. The results of the exercise will be incorporated into the Portland LEAP. The Portland LEAP will conclude in March 2012.

**You have a role in resilience.** Have you made an emergency plan or business continuity plan for your organization? Do you have back-up generators or alternative energy sources? Knowledge is power. Know what you can do in an emergency. Take charge of your ability to withstand energy disruptions by preparing for them. Become more resilient.

## **How to learn more about the Portland LEAP**

To learn more about the Portland LEAP, contact **Tricia R. Sears, Project Manager** at 503-823-2360 and [tricia.sears@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:tricia.sears@portlandoregon.gov).

To receive emails and other notifications, contact **Penny Bowman, Project Assistant**, at 503-823-9799 and [penny.bowman@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:penny.bowman@portlandoregon.gov).

**Portland LEAP web pages:** <http://www.portlandonline.com/oem/leap>.

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