

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 818/798

| Agenda Item | Name | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-------------|---|----------|---|------------|-------------------|
| 798 | Eric Fruits | Oppose | I urge you to (1) reject this ordinance; (2) eliminate the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund and transfer any current balance and future revenues into the city's General Fund; and (3) use the Fall Budget Monitoring Process to reallocate PCEF funds to programs and projects that address Portlanders' biggest priorities and provide noticeable benefits to all Portlanders. | Yes | 09/19/23 9:42 AM |
| 798 | Brett Morgan, 1000 Friends of Oregon | Support | 1000 Friends of Oregon strongly supports the CIP as currently formulated. | Yes | 09/19/23 4:16 PM |
| 798 | annie capestany | Support | Support what the BIPOC community wants. We need more green jobs and healthy homes. Remember, the city has declared a climate emergency. We have to act. | No | 09/19/23 8:29 PM |
| 798 | Blanca Gaytan Farfan, Participatory Budgeting Oregon | Support | | Yes | 09/20/23 10:52 AM |
| 798 | John Wasiutynski, Multnomah County | Support | These comments are submitted on behalf of Multnomah County Chair, Jessica Vega Pederson. | Yes | 09/20/23 12:09 PM |
| 798 | Metzin Rodriguez, Climate and Environmental Justice Policy Coordinator Unite Oregon | Support | | Yes | 09/20/23 4:58 PM |

Testimony of Eric Fruits, Ph.D.

Submitted to Portland City Council
September 19, 2023

Re: Agenda Item 798—Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF)

I am a Portland resident, business owner, and nonprofit board member. I urge you to:

- Reject this [ordinance](#);
- Eliminate the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund and transfer any current balance and future revenues into the city's General Fund;
- Use the Fall Budget Monitoring Process to reallocate PCEF funds to programs and projects that address Portlanders' biggest priorities and provide noticeable benefits to all Portlanders.

Figure 1. PCEF beginning balance vs. annual and cumulative tax revenue



Figure 1 illustrates information on PCEF's annual revenues, fund balance, and annual expenditures looking back to the start of the program and projected out for the duration of this CIP.

As elected city commissioners, you are well aware of the challenges facing Portland:

- The Portland Bureau of Transportation [claims](#) it has a \$32 million budget shortfall;
- Portland Parks and Recreation claims it does not have enough money for basic maintenance, such as maintaining the [Grant High School](#) practice fields, [tennis courts](#), or [light poles](#);
- The city’s information technology systems are in [shambles](#);
- 911 response times are a national disgrace and may [never](#) recover to pre-pandemic levels;
- Almost every resident has had their car [stolen](#) or knows someone who has.

While many city bureaus plead poverty, one program is sitting on a gusher of cash: The Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund, or “PCEF.” The [exhibit](#) to this ordinance shows that PCEF is expected to bring in \$100-120 million a year in tax revenues for the foreseeable future.

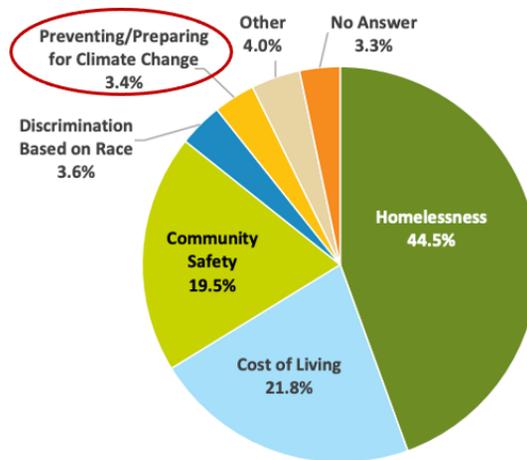
PCEF money should be redeployed to provide vital services to benefit all Portlanders.

You may hear from members of “frontline communities,” climate activists, and organizations hoping to get a piece of the enormous PCEF pie who will note that a majority of voters approved PCEF in Ballot Measure 26-201 five years ago.

But, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2018 seems like a lifetime ago. Portland has changed, as well as Portlander’s priorities.

The city’s own [Portland Insights Survey](#) reports **only 1-in-30 Portlanders identify climate change as the city’s greatest challenge**. The numbers are even smaller among most of the frontline communities.

Figure 1: Portland’s Greatest Challenge (citywide)



Q4: What is the greatest challenge facing Portland?
Unweighted N=4,484

Table D2: Portland's Greatest Challenge by Race/Ethnicity (Report Figure 3)

| Challenges | AIAN | Asian | Black | Latinx | MENA | NHPI | White | Other |
|---|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Community safety | 19.3% | 32.7% | 21.4% | 19.8% | 15.8% | 17.0% | 18.4% | 31.9% |
| Cost of living | 31.8% | 20.0% | 37.6% | 25.5% | 19.0% | 36.0% | 20.9% | 21.9% |
| Discrimination based on race | 9.9% | 3.1% | 11.8% | 11.5% | 5.3% | 8.8% | 1.9% | 1.1% |
| Homelessness | 26.2% | 39.2% | 23.6% | 37.8% | 44.6% | 32.2% | 50.7% | 34.9% |
| Preventing and preparing for climate change | 8.7% | 1.7% | 1.0% | 3.1% | 6.1% | 0.0% | 3.9% | 1.5% |
| Other (please specify) | 4.0% | 3.2% | 4.5% | 2.3% | 9.1% | 6.1% | 4.2% | 8.7% |

Today, Portlanders say homelessness, community safety, and cost of living are the city’s most significant challenges. Half of Portlanders are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the quality of the city’s roads, streetlights, and sidewalks.

PCEF is taking a huge toll on cost-of-living. The PCEF gross receipt taxes cost the average household \$400 a year.

That money is then doled out for projects with no discernible benefits to the vast majority of Portlanders. The [ordinance](#) itself admits that less than 1% of “PCEF priority populations” would benefit in any given year:

[C]ompleting all clean energy and green infrastructure projects benefiting PCEF priority populations would require approximately \$18 billion and take over 120 years.

PCEF is designed to entrench special interests. Everyone pays—\$400 a year per household—but very, very few benefit (less than one-half of 1% of the population).

As elected representatives of the entire city, you owe it to Portland and its residents to declare that the PCEF experiment is over.

- Reject this ordinance;
- Eliminate the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund and transfer any current balance and future revenues into the city’s General Fund;
- Use the Fall Budget Monitoring Process to reallocate PCEF funds to programs and projects that address Portlanders’ biggest priorities and provide noticeable benefits to all Portlanders.

Respectfully submitted by,

Eric Fruits, Ph.D.
eric.fruits@gmail.com



TO: Portland City Council

RE: Council Hearing on Portland Clean Energy Fund and Climate Investment Plan

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Members of the Portland City Council,

Today 1000 Friends of Oregon writes to you in strong support of the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF), and its first ever Climate Investment Plan (CIP), which is currently being heard by the City Council.

1000 Friends is a 501(c)(3) mission-based organization working with Oregonians to advocate for people, nature, and iconic places in land use decisions. For nearly 50 years, 1000 Friends has advocated for livable and dense communities to raise the quality of life for all Oregonians, bring shared prosperity, and protect our farms, forests, and natural areas.

The CIP represents a unique opportunity for Portland to fund climate action in an equitable way. Portland benefits from climate-specific funds for several reasons. Such funds help address unique local climate challenges, enhance community resilience, support local economies through green investments, promote environmental justice, and facilitate meeting climate goals. They also attract additional funding, encourage community engagement, enable long-term planning, and demonstrate leadership in the fight against climate change.

The CIP uses windfalls in the PCEF budget to make measured, strategic, and comprehensive approach in a broad range of investments. This was achieved through robust community engagement that was translated into meaningful policy and investments. While the funding categories such as green infrastructure or community building align with our mission, we wanted to particularly write in support of the transportation decarbonization funding category.

Statewide, and within Multnomah County, transportation makes up over 40% of all greenhouse gas emissions, the single largest emissions category. We are excited by the transportation decarbonization's grants and investment language that can incorporate safety infrastructure being led and prioritized by impacted communities. As a core group that worked on the 2020 Metro Transportation Bond, we know that so many needs still remain on the table, particularly in for safety projects where BIPOC Portlanders live. There is much more we can do with land use, and thinking about the nexus of housing, transportation, and community needs to decarbonize our cities. As the CIP continues to evolve, land use can continue to be an important tool in achieving its mission.

We encourage you to pass the CIP as currently written so funding can begin to flow out to needed programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brett Morgan
Transportation Director and Legislative Manager
1000 Friends of Oregon



Mayor Wheeler & City Council
1221 SW 4th Ave # 110
Portland, OR 97204

September 20, 2023

Mayor Wheeler & Commissioners Mapps, Rubio, Ryan, and Gonzales,

Participatory Budgeting Oregon submits the following comments in support of the City Council adopting the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Climate Investment Plan (CIP) as proposed soon as possible. We want to thank the PCEF staff and committee for the depth and breadth of the community outreach and engagement in developing this proposed CIP. As proposed the CIP effectively knits together and leverages the work of multiple City bureaus, government partners, local non-profits, and community groups in a way that promises to yield amplified collaborative impacts. We support broad allocation categories inclusive of transportation, green infrastructure, regenerative agriculture, energy efficiency, climate-related workforce development and particularly schools.

The Climate-Friendly Public Schools allocation is a critical minimum investment in youth and students whose knowledge and lived-experience is vital to successfully addressing effects of climate change in the City of Portland. Regretfully young people were not named as a priority population in the conception and early implementation of PCEF. The CIP begins to address this oversight by stating, "*Youth will inherit the legacy of our decisions on climate and are demanding climate justice and government action to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of climate change.*" Portland's racially diverse youth population absolutely has a greater stake in present day actions to address the Climate crises and must be part of crafting solutions.

Youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the leaders of today. PCEF must tap their lived-experience and knowledge as part of a comprehensive CIP. This is why the Climate-Friendly Public Schools allocation and the Student-led initiative component is such an important part of the

CIP. Students know what they need to improve their schools and too often are not even asked. They have enormous untapped collective knowledge and lived-experience that can and should inform and direct the public investments made on their behalf. Climate mitigation and adaptation investments that enlist youth and students in decision-making will be more effective, impactful, and durable. And, the learning opportunities that will result in engaging young people shaping solutions to the climate crisis will amplify the impacts of these investments by providing a vital seedbed for advancing the CIP's long term climate jobs and workforce development goals.

All these impacts will be greatly enhanced by the proposal to allow some funds to be used to support school-based [participatory budgeting](#) (PB), a small but very worthy step we also strongly support. Portland schools are well positioned to learn and improve upon the youth and school-based PB processes rapidly spreading around the world and in the United States. As we witnessed this past year through the community and youth-led [Youth Voice, Youth Vote PB](#) (YV² PB) process in East Portland, young people are hungry for authentic opportunities to exercise their power through PB. One impact of YV² PB has been to spark an interest in school-based PB at David Douglas School District. The explicit allowance for PB in the CIP's Climate-Friendly Public Schools allocation will greatly help move these conversations forward. We see many opportunities to leverage PCEF funds with State, Federal, and private foundation resources to catalyze climate-focused school-based PB in Portland. Finally, the chance for collaboration amongst school districts, teachers, and students to allocate PCEF funds through PB can provide valuable learning that could inform future application of PB in future PCEF programs.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge the City Council to adopt the proposed PCEF CIP as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blanca Gaytan Farfan', written in a cursive style.

Blanca Gaytan Farfan
Policy & Communications Director



Jessica Vega Pederson Multnomah County Chair

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: (503) 988-3308
Email: mult.chair@multco.us

Dear Mayor Wheeler, and Commissioners Gonzalez, Rubio, Mapps, and Ryan:

I write in strong support of the Portland Clean Energy Fund's Climate Investment Plan (CIP) and urge its adoption on September 20th.

As local policy makers, we know that policy solutions are only as strong as the role the community plays in their development. I have been pleased to witness the dedication of the Portland Clean Energy Fund's team to co-creating these proposed strategies and funding allocations through an intensive community involvement process. The process not only leveraged learnings from community engagement during the first two requests for proposals, but also built upon that feedback through a robust community visioning and prioritization that included residents, non-profit organizations, and subject-matter experts. Members of my team closely tracked and participated in the deliberations of this group, and it is evident that community input tangibly shaped the CIP before you today.

Multnomah County is particularly encouraged by the key investment areas in the CIP listed below. They directly address concerns highlighted in the Climate Justice Planning process that Multnomah County and the Coalition of Communities of Color are co-creating – concerns like the need to reduce energy burden on households, to build resilience in the face of a changing climate, to address heat islands proactively, and to increase access to community renewables. These key investment areas have the potential to provide cascading benefits to frontline communities and the environment.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (\$474 million)

I am enthusiastic about the CIP's emphasis on clean energy solutions like energy efficiency and local, renewable energy. These solutions will strengthen our residents, our community, and our economy, all while advancing the City's climate and energy goals. As providers of energy assistance, we see how energy insecurity and burden negatively impact financial and health outcomes for vulnerable families, and how much of our community experiences energy burden today.¹ As low-income weatherization providers, we also see the difference that clean energy investments can make in people's lives. We foresee the clean energy investments in the CIP reducing bills for families thanks to a more efficient and comfortable home along with the

¹ Pre-pandemic numbers indicate that about one in four households in Multnomah County experience energy burden. A household is energy burdened if it spends 6% or more of its income on energy burden.

economic benefits of renewable energy. These funds, in combination with other funding sources, will allow people access to needed electricity should outages follow natural disasters or severe weather events. They will also improve our economy by freeing funding for recipient households and creating and sustaining local jobs.

Importantly, the CIP focus on clean energy will also support our economy by providing crucial access to clean energy for our small business community. These funds could strengthen the financial viability of recipient businesses, and we see opportunities for partnership with financing sources like our Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program, Property Fit, which is administered by Prosper Portland. We also see the potential to leverage private capital to magnify the impact of PCEF funds.

Building Climate Resilience through Climate Jobs, Workforce Development, and Contractor Support (\$30 million); Regenerative Agriculture (\$20 million); Capacity Building (\$15 million); and Climate-friendly Public Schools (\$50 million); and Building Upgrades for Community Severe Weather Response (\$30 million)

As climate change continues to accelerate, so do the range and severity of issues threatening the health and wellbeing of community members. Frontline communities experience the impacts of climate change first and most acutely and any viable policy solutions must center their needs first. The investments outlined in the CIP do just that by focusing on: building energy upgrades for severe weather shelters and in multifamily and single family homes; regenerative agriculture and urban farming; increasing job readiness and workforce opportunities in clean energy fields; and providing technical assistance and capacity-building for nonprofit organizations whose work addresses climate change and community resilience building. The CIP also provides funding to make critical upgrades to school buildings, which have been delayed for years due to a lack of available funding. These investments will improve the energy efficiency and carbon footprint of school buildings, create healthier learning environments for students, and provide the opportunity to use the schools as shelters during severe weather events.

Addressing Heat Islands through Green Infrastructure (\$70 million) and the 82nd Avenue Street Tree Expansion (\$5 million)

Extreme heat continues to devastate Multnomah County and the City of Portland. Since 2021 over 80 Multnomah County residents have died from excessive heat. Prior to 2021, on average, 0 to 1 person would die statewide from excessive heat annually. A contributing factor to these deaths is the urban heat island effect that increases day and nighttime temperatures in urban areas, particularly areas with low tree canopy cover which correspond to low income

neighborhoods². CIP investments are well targeted at addressing the issue of urban heat islands and in the process using trees to improve air quality and water quality, and sequester carbon. These investments cannot come soon enough, particularly in neighborhoods that have been neglected in the past.

We must be active and urgent stewards of our response to the climate emergency and work together in partnership to grow our green economy. By adopting the CIP, City Council will make meaningful progress towards building a more climate resilient Portland and drive climate justice by centering the needs of frontline communities. These programs, and the accountability measures and goals built into the CIP, are exactly what Portlanders voted for. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Vega Pederson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Vega Pederson
Chair

² See [“Cultivating Justice in a Changing Climate: A collection of stories and art rooted in Multnomah County’s communities of color”](#), p. 10

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Jessica Vega Pederson Multnomah County Chair

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Council Written Testimony

Row 5

Agenda Item 818

Position

Comments Dear Mayor Wheeler, members of Council -

I urge you to delay this vote until you and PCEF have conducted additional analysis of the cost-effectiveness of these expenditures. The Oregonian has already explained that PCEF's plan won't be very cost-effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I wonder if you have data on how cost-effective will be in helping low-income people? Do you have data indicating "for ever million dollars spent, X number of low-income families will see their electric bill reduced by \$X per year for Y years?" Or "X numbers of dollars spent on job training is expected to increase the trainee's lifetime income by \$Z"?

My own calculations are: the average low-income family's energy bill is around \$1,768. The Plan proposes to reduce 2,500 families' energy bills by 20% and 3,000 families' energy bills by 30%, for a total of \$98 million in savings over 30 years. (30 years seems like a generous way to look at it). As far as I can tell, those are the only predictable benefits to low-income people of the planned investment of \$750 million.

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocs/RPT_LIHEAP_HF

Are there alternatives that could create greater benefits to low-income people while yielding greater emission reductions? What about giving people money to switch to electric cars? The average low-income family spends the same amount on gas as on home energy, and buying an electric car reduces fuel costs by 60% - as opposed to the 20-30% savings promised by PCEF - and reduces carbon emissions by about 27 tons per 200,000 miles. (See links below.) Let's say it would cost \$20,000 to subsidize a typical family's switch to an electric car; there are used electrics for sale at that price - there are also tax credits, but there are also costs of charging stations. If you helped 5,500 families buy electric cars, that would cost \$110,000 - far less than the \$190,000 cost of retrofitting homes - and reduce emissions by 148,500 tons; compared to the perhaps 155,000 tons PCEF predicts from the home investments. Spending \$190 million on the electric car option would serve more people and reduce emissions more.

One other approach would be to ask PCEF to address this question: "what's the single most cost-effective thing we can do to fight climate change? What's the single most effective way to help low-income people?" If the answers are, for example, "replace gas furnaces with electric heat pumps" or "give low-income people cash," PCEF, with its \$750 million budget for the next five years, could simply allocate \$375 million to swapping out gas furnaces, and \$375 million to cash payments - perhaps creating a Portland version of the now-expired expansion of the Federal child tax credit, which was very effective in reducing child poverty. Any alleged "two for one" proposal should be tested against that simple approach.

Thank you.

Steve Novick
4301 SE Lexington
Portland OR 97206
503-516-0624

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/electric-vs-gas-cars-it-cheaper-drive-ev>

The average cost to fuel an electric car was \$485 a year, compared to \$1,117 for a gas-powered vehicle. A 2020 Consumer Reports study similarly shows that EV drivers tend to spend about 60 percent less each year on fuel costs compared to drivers of gas-powered cars.

<https://www.ppic.org/blog/gas-prices-stretch-family-budgets/#:~:text=For%20the%20highest%2Dincome%20group>.

For instance, at December 2021 prices, the lowest-income group spent about \$1700 on gas for transportation

(It seems inconsistent that the average car uses \$1,117 in gas a year but the average low income family spends \$1700 but maybe even some low income families have two cars?)

27 ton difference:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/19/business/electric-vehicles-carbon-footprint>

Name or Organization Steve Novick

Email stevenovick96@gmail.com

Submitted 09/27/23 9:10 AM

Attachment No

Final Meeting Date 09/27/23

From: [Hannah Cruz](#)
To: [Council Clerk](#)
Subject: Clarifying my role for testimony provided on 9/20/2023
Date: Friday, September 22, 2023 3:06:54 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to clarify my role as it relates to verbal testimony I provided on September 20, 2023, for item 798 "Adopt the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund Climate Investment Plan in effect through October 31, 2028".

In providing my verbal testimony, I stated my employment with Energy Trust of Oregon but I failed to state my role with the organization. I'd like to provide my title now for the record: I am the Sr. Stakeholders Relations and Policy Manager at Energy Trust of Oregon.

Thank you,

Hannah

Hannah Cruz

*Sr. Stakeholder Relations and Policy Manager
320.815.9555 (cell)
Pronouns: she/her/hers*

Energy Trust of Oregon
energytrust.org

Portland City Council Meeting - Wednesday, September 20, 2023 2:00 p.m.

| Agenda Item | First Name | Last Name |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 798-1 | Ted | Labbe |
| 798-2 | Damon | Motz-Storey |
| 798-3 | Candace | Avalos |
| 798-4 | Hannah | Cruz |
| 798-5 | Bob | Sallinger |
| 798-6 | Ariadna | Falcon Gonzalez |
| 798-7 | Micah | Meskel |
| 798-8 | Jacqui | Treiger |
| 798-9 | Nikita | Daryanani |
| 798-10 | Cherice | Bock |
| 798-11 | Amandeep | Sohi |
| 798-12 | Metzin | Rodriguez |
| 798-13 | Jane | Comeault |
| 798-14 | Brett | Morgan |
| 798-15 | Greer | Ryan |