



Portland LEAP Statement for the Planning and Sustainability Commission

Why should you be informed about the Portland LEAP?

Because energy relates to almost everything we do, and because most of Portland's energy sources are located in an area with numerous potential natural hazards (human sources may also cause hazards), you should become familiar with the Portland Local Energy Assurance Plan or the Portland LEAP as it is often referenced.

Portland is subject to hazards that could compromise our basic functions if our critical infrastructure is not managed and maintained. The community, energy providers and distributors, and emergency response organizations must understand 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.

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.

When you plan for the community, as you are doing now through goals such as creating the 20 minute neighborhoods; analysis such as the Buildable Lands Inventory; projects such as the Portland Plan and the Tree Project; and plans such as the Climate Action Plan, you are managing a livable environment that involves urban spaces that include built and natural environments.

Managing and planning how we live in this community involves risk. What are we willing to put where in our community? When we talk about an earthquake occurring at level 8.0 magnitude, with resulting impacts that include knocking out the Olympic Pipeline and the Williams Pipeline for at least one week, along with being without electric power from PGE and Pacific Power for at least one week, we recognize that impacts to humans, as well as to our built and natural environments, will be severe. Can we do something now to lessen those impacts?

The answer is, of course, yes!

In our presentation, the director of POEM, Carmen Merlo, and LEAP Project Manager, Tricia Sears, will describe energy assurance, the background that led to the creation of the Portland LEAP, and the Portland LEAP process. POEM staff will also define common terms used and establish the multiple reasons the Planning and Sustainability Commission should be informed about the Portland LEAP. Planning Section Manager, Patty Rueter, will be present and available to answer questions too.



City of Portland Bureau of
Planning and Sustainability
Sam Adams, Mayor | Susan Anderson, Director

Acknowledgment:

This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy under Award Number DE-OE0000318.