OREGON CUB
610 SW BROADWAY, SUITE 400
PORTLAND, OR 97205

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 2134

2026 IN REVIEW

CUB ANNUAL REPORT

2026 has been a year for the books! After years of back-to-back increases for gas and electric bills, CUB made big strides to rein in out-of-control energy costs. We held data centers accountalbe, organized more Oregonians than ever, and added many new consumer protections!

CUB HAS SAVED OREGONIANS NEARLY $11 BILLION SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1984.

1,500	30	1,300	$394M
Testimony from CUB Supporters	Community Events	Total CUB Members	Total Saved for Customers in 2026

Read more inside to see what CUB did for Oregon utility customers in 2026!

THE WINTER 2026 BEAR FACTS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD

THE WINTER 2026 BEAR FACTS

DEAR CUB MEMBERS

As we close out 2026, I am feeling a renewed sense of hope for the future. We have an exciting state legislative session to start next year. CUB's staff is the strongest it has ever been. And we have seen a continued wave of public energy around... well, energy.

Over the last few years, our communities have faced increasingly difficult challenges. We've seen higher energy bills, funding cuts from the feds, new data centers popping up across the state, and the end of tax credits and other supports for clean energy. But CUB has stepped up to these challenges and created new opportunities for Oregon.

The future is looking up for us in 2027. And a lot of that brightness is because of what CUB has accomplished. We couldn't have done this without our members. You spoke out against utility rate increases. You called for data centers to pay their own costs. You celebrated our wins with us. You donated more generously than we've seen this decade.

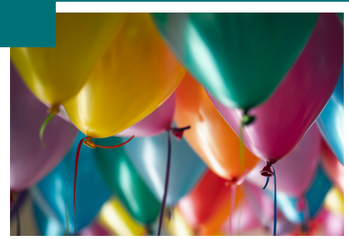
For many Oregonians, this has been a complicated year for news. But I'm proud to say that CUB has some very good news for the future of energy affordability, safety nets for helping people pay utility bills, wins against big tech companies, and more.

I know there will continue to be significant challenges in the coming year. But we are ready for that challenge and know you will be with us every step of the way. Thank you for supporting our work, and we look forward to another year of success in 2027.



Bob Jenks
Executive Director, Oregon CUB

SUBSIDIES TO GROW THE GAS SYSTEM END IN 2028



When We Fight, We Win

After nearly four years of work by CUB and many other advocates, Oregon regulators decided to end costly customer-funded subsidies to expand the gas system for all gas utilities in the state. Oregon is only the fourth state in the country to end this practice.

This is a major win for Oregonians and the climate. By reducing the incentive to build new gas buildings now, we can help reduce emissions for decades to come.

It's the end of the line for gas expansion subsidies!

Oregon Citizens' Utility Board ▪ 1618 SW 1st Ave, Suite 210, Portland, OR 97201 ▪ 503-227-1984 ▪ www.oregoncub.org

MAKING UTILITIES AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, RELIABLE, & CLEAN FOR THE PEOPLE IN OREGON

CUB SHEPHERDS LIMITS ON NEW RATE INCREASES

Rolling Out the FAIR Energy Act

This year, CUB Staff has been hard at work turning the Fairness & Affordability in Residential Energy Act (FAIR Energy Act) into reality. The 2025 law aims to rein in back-to-back energy bill rate hikes, addressing one of the root causes of Oregon's energy affordability crisis.

Big Wins



- **No Winter Rate Increases:** Utilities cannot raise rates between November and March when usage is highest.
- **Five-Year Plans:** Utilities must create five-year plans for spending, investments, and more.
- **Stick to a Budget:** Utilities have limits on how much they can be add to customers' bills over five years.
- **Community Benefit Metrics:** Utilities will have performance standard requirements on disconnections, maintaining their system, and (for electric) community-based clean energy.

With the new rules, regulators will be able to better control when and how often rate increases happen. Previously, utilities would choose when to ask regulators to change billing rates, and regulators had to respond. The longer process not only protects customers from frequent large increases but also allows regulators and advocates to dig deeper into what utilities are asking for, helping CUB's efforts go even further.

CUB MOVES FORWARD HOLDING DATA CENTERS ACCOUNTABLE

Rolling Out the POWER Act

In 2025, the Oregon Legislature passed the Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility Act (POWER Act) to help utilities rein in data centers' added costs to Oregonians' energy bills. This year, we helped make this law a reality. Now, for the state's largest electric utilities, data centers have to pay their fair share of their energy costs.



Portland General Electric (PGE)

Data center rates went up 30% when we eliminated subsidies from other customers. And we added guardrails like deposits for new data centers, contract lengths of 10 to 30 years (depending on size), penalties for going over contracted electricity usage, greater transparency in reporting, and more.

By creating a new customer category for data centers, PGE can now track the energy costs of those businesses and bill them appropriately, protecting Oregonians and small businesses. Data centers will be financially responsible for the full lifetime of new infrastructure built for their growth.



Pacific Power

Pacific Power has some of the strongest utility consumer protections against data centers in Oregon. New data centers will be responsible for all of their own energy costs. Those over 100 MW will also have to pay a small surcharge to fund deep home upgrades to lower energy use for low-income households. And data centers must have flexible energy use, protecting Oregonians from blackouts.

These rules will only apply to new data centers, the most important protections as many are set to come soon. The next step is to create rules for the few existing ones on Pacific Power's system.

THE WINTER 2026 BEAR FACTS

CUB WINS AGAINST BIG UTILITY BILL INCREASES

With utilities soon facing new limits on how they can raise customers' bills starting next year, 2026 was a busy year for many utilities asking for more money. The examples below are just the biggest cases where CUB pushed back on skyrocketing gas and electric bills — not the only ones! CUB has your back on fighting for affordable energy.

CASCADE: NEW RATES IN EFFECT



Starting in October, Cascade households will see a 10.7% rate increase. The gas utility initially asked regulators to approve a 17.4% increase in home billing rates. Cascade has been quietly accumulating costs since its last rate increase in 2020, leading to the higher request.

BIG WINS FOR CUSTOMERS: Along with the big reduction, other wins include rejecting large profit increases, removing expensive renewable natural gas, and phasing out a customer-funded subsidy to expand the gas system. CUB continues to reduce Oregon's reliance on fossil fuels!



PACIFIC POWER: AGREEMENT REACHED

Starting next year, Pacific Power customers will see a 2.3% rate increase. The electric utility initially asked regulators for an 11.3% increase for residential customers. CUB's advocacy (and a well-timed rate decrease planned in years past) significantly reduced the final rate increase, slowing down the rise of energy bills and putting customer affordability front and center.

BIG WINS FOR CUSTOMERS: CUB looked into this request with an eye for customer impact, ensuring any money added to Oregonians' power bills was fair and reasonable. In addition to reducing the overall increase, we won on no new coal costs added to Oregon power bills, no increases in profits, and more — saving customers millions!

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC: IN PROGRESS



This year, PGE asked regulators to approve a 3.9% rate increase (about $8 a month) for residential customers. This marks PGE's eighth consecutive year of increase requests. If approved, PGE would add to bills starting July 2027. This case is currently under review.

Meanwhile, Oregon families have faced record utility shutoffs as the energy affordability crisis continues. Among our top concerns, CUB worries that PGE is trying to create a $236 million slush fund with little oversight. CUB is pushing back hard on PGE's latest request. We won't let customers be left footing the bill for PGE's overspending problem.

NEW SCHEDULE FOR RATE INCREASES

Look forward to fewer rate hikes! In 2027, utilities must follow a strict schedule for when they can ask for big rate increases. Utilities can still ask for some changes to customers' bills (like for fuel costs), which are typically smaller.

AVISTA	PACIFIC POWER	NW NATURAL	PGE	CASCADE	IDAHO POWER
New rates: Summer 2028	New rates: Spring 2029	New rates: Summer 2029	New rates: Spring 2030	New rates: Summer 2030	New rates: Spring 2031

Oregon Citizens' Utility Board ▪ 1618 SW 1st Ave, Suite 210, Portland, OR 97201 ▪ 503-227-1984 ▪ www.oregoncub.org

MAKING UTILITIES AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, RELIABLE, & CLEAN FOR THE PEOPLE IN OREGON

THE WINTER 2026 BEAR FACTS

CUB WINS RELIEF FOR PAST-DUE BILLS

New Utility Programs Forgive Debt

It's no secret: Oregonians are struggling financially. No one wants to fall behind on their bills, but with the cost of living —and energy bills — on the rise, that's the reality for many as debt mounts. This is energy insecurity.



Thanks to CUB's work, starting in October 2026, Oregon's largest electric utilities rolled out permanent past-due bill relief programs to help their lowest-income customers pay down debt. **These programs will help struggling Oregonians pay off utility debt, combating energy insecurity — a big win for customers!** CUB and energy justice advocates have long pushed to expand customer assistance programs.

Now, for PGE, Pacific Power, and Idaho Power, **very low-income customers can receive up to $500 in debt relief per program year.** Customers with a bill discount between 50% and 80% may qualify. CUB also helped expand Pacific Power's bill discount program, another win!

CUB SECURES STRONGER SHUT-OFF PROTECTIONS

Being disconnected is destabilizing and can even be life-threatening. Last year, CUB pushed regulators to expand protections for customers behind on their energy bills. Oregonians now have stronger permanent consumer protections around disconnection. CUB's advocacy helped win:

- Improved notice before and during a disconnection
- Limits on reconnection fees and upfront costs
- New bill relief and forgiveness programs
- Greater protections for medical certificate holders

New Extreme Weather Protections

CUB helped secure new limits on disconnections when you need your utilities most. These include times before and/or after extreme weather hits, depending on the event. Some customers can also avoid reconnection fees if already shut off!



NW NATURAL MAKES AMENDS THANKS TO CUB

Last year, after pressure from legislators, Oregon's six largest state-regulated utilities agreed to a voluntary pause on disconnections for many low-income and medically vulnerable customers through the rest of 2025. But **NW Natural broke their promise to protect the most vulnerable Oregonians**, wrongfully shutting off nearly 200 homes.

When we learned about this fiasco, **CUB called for NW Natural to make things right with customers.** Starting this November, all of the wrongfully disconnected customers will receive benefits from NW Natural— including up to $1,550 in additional bill discounts. The agreement with NW Natural will also add additional protections for all customers, not just those impacted by the wrongful disconnections. **Overall, a big win from a bad situation!**

CUB FIGHTS FOR CUSTOMERS IN UTILITY SALES

Idaho Power Selling Oregon Territory to Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC) has announced its purchase of Idaho Power's Oregon service area. Idaho Power currently serves a small area around Ontario, Oregon. CUB has been involved with these negotiations to make sure that customers get the best deal possible.

CUB will continue to be involved at every stage of this sale.
A change this big will need to be planned with customers' impacts at the top of mind.

CUB JOINS LOCAL CAMPAIGNS: REDUCING EMISSIONS

BIG WIN: Eugene Clean Energy Fund



At CUB, **we believe in a just transition to clean, affordable energy**. That's why we endorsed the Eugene Clean Energy Fund (ECEF). Modeled after the Portland Clean Energy Fund, Eugene's initiative establishes a fee on large corporations to fund local climate actions. We're excited to announce that **voters approved the fund by a 17-point margin** on November 3rd!

A coalition of environmental and climate justice organizations led the charge to pass ECEF. Now, Eugene has a **dedicated fund for energy efficiency programs, energy jobs training, and green infrastructure programs**, showing that community organizing is stronger than corporate interests! Congratulations, Eugene!



BIG WIN: Bend Climate Action Fee

For years, CUB has expressed mounting concern that **growing the natural gas system will harm current and future Oregonians**. Bend took that to heart. This year, the city introduced the Bend Climate Impact Fee, a proposed one-time fee on new homes built with natural gas. CUB endorsed the proposal, and in June, the City Council approved it!

Bend is only the second city in Oregon to approve a policy reducing natural gas emissions. CUB applauds the city for protecting households from a future where those least able to afford expensive gas are stuck living in a gas home built today!

YOUR VOICES: MEMBERS REACT

"I FIGURE THAT OVER THE YEARS OF BEING A MEMBER, CUB HAS PROBABLY SAVED ME MORE THAN I CONTRIBUTE, AND DONE A GREAT JOB OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT. NOT TO MENTION BEING A GREAT WATCHDOG, KEEPING THOSE WHO WOULD PROFIT FROM MY UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS IN CHECK.

- DAVID L.
CUB MEMBER



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board ▪ 1618 SW 1st Ave, Suite 210, Portland, OR 97201 ▪ 503-227-1984 ▪ www.oregoncub.org

MAKING UTILITIES AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, RELIABLE, & CLEAN FOR THE PEOPLE IN OREGON

CUB EXPANDS COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

CUB's advocacy has a big impact because of community members like you. When we work together, we make decision-makers listen to us and protect affordability for generations. Organizing builds collective power to push back on energy bill increases and center our communities in utility regulation.

This year, David, CUB's Community Organizer, empowered people all over Oregon to speak out about the utility issues that impacted them most. From Ontario to Ashland, he met people where they were to bring the voices of our communities into the regulatory space. David's work expanded CUB's reach far beyond our office in Portland, **channeling grassroots energy for reform into action.**

TOGETHER, we've stood up to corporate interests, held utilities accountable for broken promises, made data centers pay for their own energy needs, and so much more!

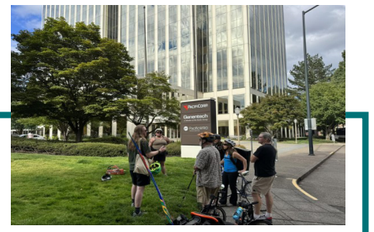
CUB IN YOUR COMMUNITY



CUB spoke with community members about energy bill resources at Bend's Earth Day Fair. This was one of many tabling events this year.



CUB and the City of Milwaukie gathered community members to learn about PGE's 8th consecutive rate increase request.



CUB got moving with our first-ever Grid Infrastructure Bike Tour. Ten community members learned about Portland's electrical grid.



CUB helped organize a packed-house community forum focused on data centers and the threats they pose to energy affordability.



CUB and Verde organized a tour of the North Cully Solar Park to talk about the impacts and opportunities of community solar.



CUB and energy justice advocates organized a workshop for community members to learn about extreme weather disconnection protections.

"MY JANUARY BILL WENT TO $70 WHEN MY AVERAGE WAS $50-55. IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE IN THE SUMMER MONTHS WHEN WE USE THE AC. ALL THEIR COSTS ARE JUST PASSED DOWN TO US, WHILE THE CEO MAKES MORE THAN $6.3 MILLION A YEAR.

THAT MAKES ME RESENTFUL AND **READY FOR COMMUNITY ACTION.** BUT CUB WON'T BACK DOWN.

- MISSY L.
CUB MEMBER

THE WINTER 2026 BEAR FACTS

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK
MEET THE CUB STAFF

The people at CUB are the ones who power our successes!
Meet the team that you trust to represent you.



CASSIE ALLEN
Communications & Development Lead
At CUB since 2023



DAVID BELTRÁN BARAJAS
Community Organizer
At CUB since 2022



EMILY DOUGAN
Utility Analyst
At CUB since 2025



JENNIFER HILL-HART
Policy & Program Director
At CUB since 2022



BOB JENKS
Executive Director
At CUB since 1991



LIZZIE LESCH-ABHAYA
Paralegal
At CUB since 2025



SHARIF MORTON
Office Manager
At CUB since 2023



CHARLOTTE SHUFF
Communications & Outreach Director
At CUB since 2020



RYAN TRAN
Economist
At CUB since 2024



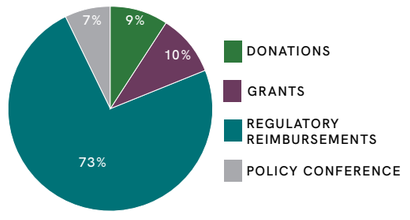
CLAIRE VALENTINE-FOSSUM
Staff Attorney
At CUB since 2024



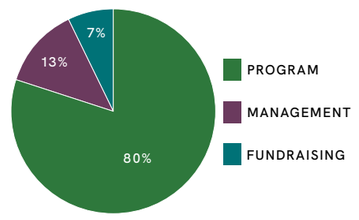
SARAH WOCHELE
Policy Associate
At CUB since 2024

CUB BY THE NUMBERS

2025 REVENUE



2025 EXPENSES



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board ▪ 1618 SW 1st Ave, Suite 210, Portland, OR 97201 ▪ 503-227-1984 ▪ www.oregoncub.org

MAKING UTILITIES AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, RELIABLE, & CLEAN FOR THE PEOPLE IN OREGON

2026 CUB ENERGY POLICY CONFERENCE
HARNESSING LOCAL ENERGY

CUB Energy Policy Conference

Conference Highlights

On October 2nd, CUB's 16th annual policy conference, Changing for a Changing Climate, was held at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Nearly 250 attendees came from all over the Pacific Northwest to engage in a day of networking, discussions, and community building.



Audience asks questions at a panel on data centers



Panelists discuss local efforts to decarbonize the gas system



Energy justice

2026 Consumer Champions
Soledad Molina & Rogelia Martinez Perez



Soledad and Rogelia are both resident of East Portland and participants in the program Lideres Verdes, Energy Justice, and other Advocacy programs. Their personal experiences with public utility debt and disconnection has inspired them to advocate for the reform of public utility policies, giving testimony and raising her voice for all those affected by these policies. Soledad and Rogelia have been players in many CUB wins!

WHAT CUB MEMBERS WERE SAYING IN 2026

"I DONATED BECAUSE I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE PLACE A CHECK ON PRIVATE UTILITY COMPANIES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE EMERGENCE OF AI DATA CENTERS AND THE FACT THAT THESE UTILITY COMPANIES HAVE DECIDED TO SHIFT THE COST BURDEN TO WORKING-CLASS RATE-PAYERS, AND NOT TO THE BILLIONAIRES WHO OWN THESE AI COMPANIES."

- DAVID A.
CUB MEMBER, PORTLAND

"WE HAVE BEEN A MEMBER/DONOR TO CUB FROM ITS INCEPTION. AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, SERVING AS OUR CITIZEN LAWYER, RESEARCHING, WATCHDOGING, AND TESTIFYING ON OUR BEHALF, WE APPRECIATE YOU. YOU'VE SAVE US UNTOLD DOLLARS IN ENERGY CHARGES OVER THE YEARS.

EVERY USER OF ENERGY IN OREGON WOULD BENEFIT THEMSELVES, AND THEIR NEIGHBORS, BY BEING A MEMBER OF CUB."

- FRAN G.
CUB MEMBER, BEND

CUB 2026 BOARD ELECTION

CUB BOARD ELECTIONS

All ballots must be received in the CUB office by Monday, January 4, 2027.



Members Choose the CUB Board

According to CUB's bylaws, members of the Board of Governors are elected to four-year terms by CUB's members within each of Oregon's five U.S. Congressional Districts. Candidates must run for a position in the congressional district in which they live. The candidates appearing on this ballot have been certified as living in the districts they seek to represent.

OREGON CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

District 1 - Suzanne Bonamici
Includes all of Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties, most of Washington County excluding the extreme southeast, and a portion of southwest Multnomah County in Portland.

District 2 - Cliff Bentz
Includes all of Baker, Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler counties, all but a small sliver of Jefferson County and the southeastern portions of Deschutes (excluding Bend and areas to its northwest) and Douglas Counties.

District 3 - Maxine Dexter
Includes most of Multnomah County, including Gresham, Troutdale, and most of Portland east of the Willamette River. It also includes the northeastern part of Clackamas County and all of Hood River County.

District 4 - Val Hoyle
Includes the southern half of Oregon's coastal counties, including Coos, Curry, Lincoln, Lane, and Benton counties, alongside the northwestern half of Douglas County.

District 5 - Janelle Bynum
Includes a sliver of Multnomah County, the majority of Clackamas County, eastern Marion County, all of Linn County, a small section of southwest Jefferson County, and the northwest portion of Deschutes County.

District 6 - Andrea Salinas
Includes Polk and Yamhill Counties, in addition to portions of Marion, Clackamas, and Washington Counties.

Oregon Citizens' Utility Board ▪ 1618 SW 1st Ave, Suite 210, Portland, OR 97201 ▪ 503-227-1984 ▪ www.oregoncub.org

MAKING UTILITIES AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, RELIABLE, & CLEAN FOR THE PEOPLE IN OREGON

CUB BALLOT

All ballots must be received in the CUB office by Monday, January 4, 2027.

VOTE ONLY FOR THE CANDIDATE IN YOUR DISTRICT

Cut on Dotted Lines and Return Ballot to CUB in the enclosed envelope.

DISTRICT 4:

- ☐ Ashley Lowe Mackenzie
- ☐ Write in: _____

DISTRICT 6:

- ☐ Pam Brown Ordway
- ☐ Write in: _____

VOTE FOR THE BOARD

In order to vote you must:

- Be a current CUB member (donation of $5 or more in the last year)
- Live in the congressional district of the candidate for whom you are voting.

If your membership has lapsed, you can join by sending a donation of $5 or more with your ballot in the attached envelope.

Don't See Your District?
No Need to Vote!

Ballots are sent to all recent and current CUB members. If you do not see a candidate listed in your district, you do not need to vote in this election.

CUB 2026 BOARD ELECTION

CUB BOARD CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 4: ASHLEY LOWE MACKENZIE

About Ashley



Ashley is a marine resource economist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Her research focuses on the economic value of ecosystem services. She earned her PhD in Applied Economics from Oregon State University in 2023. She earned her B.S. in Economics from Portland State University in 2011 and her Master's in Applied Economics in 2020.

Ashley and her husband are lifelong Oregonians from Logsden and Corvallis, respectively. They currently reside in Corvallis, where Ashley represents members in Oregon's 4th Congressional District. She is an outdoor enthusiast and is only one long-distance trail away from her triple crown: the Pacific Crest Trail (2011) and Continental Divide Trail (2014).

DISTRICT 6: PAM BROWN ORDWAY

About Pam



Pam has more than twenty-five years of experience owning and managing investment properties in the Portland area. Prior to that, she worked in the insurance and financial services industries for a decade. Pam received her B.S. from Portland State University.

Pam was on the board of Greater Good Oregon, a non-profit organized to help educate and support impacted landowners trying to protect their rights as they navigated the challenges of pushing back against fossil fuel projects on their land.

An Oregon native, Pam resides with her husband in Tigard where she represents CUB members in Oregon's 6th Congressional District. In her spare time, Pam enjoys hiking, reading, and exploring all the beautiful sights of Oregon.

Oregon Citizens' Utility Board ▪ 1618 SW 1st Ave, Suite 210, Portland, OR 97201 ▪ 503-227-1984 ▪ www.oregoncub.org