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FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

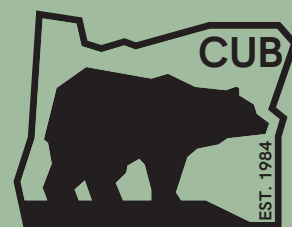
2026 CUB ENERGY POLICY CONFERENCE

Have you registered for this year's CUB Energy Policy Conference yet? This year, leading experts from across the Pacific Northwest will speak on the most pressing energy issues of our time. **Harnessing Local Energy** will explore local solutions to the varied challenges of Oregon's energy landscape. In a world with increasingly globalized energy, we need to start thinking more locally for solutions.



Friday, October 2, 2026
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sentinel Hotel (Portland)

Whether you're passionate about hyperscaled energy demand from data centers, cuts to federal support for customers and utilities, large rate increases, or record disconnections, this conference is for you!



THE BEAR
FALL 2026
FACTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE OREGON
CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD

THE BEAR
FALL 2026
FACTS

DEAR CUB MEMBERS

With fall upon us, my family is enjoying the fruits of this summer. While I cannot share the smoked plum chutney from my garden with you, I am excited to share the fruits of CUB's advocacy. **We've had some big wins already this year that you made possible.**

Last year, CUB worked hard to pass new landmark legislation to address Oregon's energy affordability crisis. After years of seemingly endless energy bill increases, we're finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Oregon's largest electric utilities, PGE and Pacific Power, will both have **strong protections against data centers**, keeping their energy costs off of Oregonians' power bills. While this work is far from over, this is a great step in the right direction.

But while the **FAIR Energy Act will soon be rolled out**, limiting how often utilities can raise rates, we are not out of the weeds yet. **PGE and Pacific Power are both asking for yet another increase to our home energy bills.** CUB will continue to fight for fair prices for one of our most necessary utilities — energy.

Your support makes our advocacy possible. We truly could not do this work without your donations, your time, and your voice. Thank you for being a part of the energy affordability movement in Oregon. Together, we'll keep pushing for more customer protections and utility accountability.



Bob Jenks

Bob Jenks
Executive Director, Oregon CUB

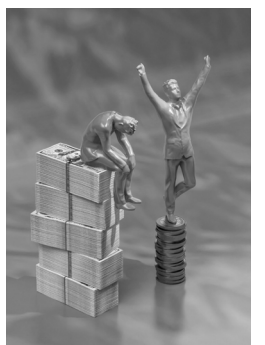
NEW WINS FOR REINING IN ENERGY BILL RATE HIKES

Last year, CUB secured a major victory for customers by passing the FAIR Energy Act (HB 3179). This law reins in energy bill rate hikes, addressing the root causes of Oregon's energy affordability crisis. **Oregon's state regulators are implementing the FAIR Energy Act, and customers just scored another big win!**

Big Wins:

- **Five-Year Plans:** Utilities must create five-year plans for spending and investments.
- **Stick to a Budget:** Utilities have limits on how much money can be added to customers' bills over the length of their five-year plans.
- **Community Benefit Metrics:** Utilities have to meet disconnection, system maintenance, and (for electric utilities) community-based clean energy standards.

With the new rules, **regulators will have more control over when and how often utilities request rate increases**, delivering on a CUB priority.





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

FALL
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**THE BEAR
FACTS**

2026 RATE INCREASES UTILITIES ASK FOR EVEN MORE RATE HIKES

PACIFIC POWER: 11% INCREASE REQUEST

Pacific Power is asking for yet another rate increase starting next spring. The electric utility is requesting an 11.3% increase for residential customers starting in April 2027. If approved, this could add \$15 to the highest winter bills, increasing average households' bills from \$175 to \$190.

Pacific Power is asking customers to pay for infrastructure projects, higher insurance costs (from wildfires), profit margin increases, and coal projects across its system. They also want to raise the base fee from \$13 to \$17 for single-family and \$8 to \$9 for multi-family customers.

With so many Oregonians already struggling, CUB is pushing back hard against this request. We'll keep working to ensure any money added to Oregonians' bills prioritizes customer affordability over utility executive profits.



PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC: 4% INCREASE REQUEST

Yet again, Oregon's largest electric utility is requesting a rate increase from Oregon households. PGE is asking regulators to approve a 3.9% rate increase for residential customers for July 2027, totaling \$65.6 million. **This request marks PGE's eighth consecutive year of new rate increases.**

PGE's household rates are already higher than the national average and the highest among major utilities in Oregon. The utility says it needs the funds to improve its distribution system, but the request includes a slush fund for future costs that aren't tied to any specific project.

CUB continues to believe that PGE assigns too much of its overall costs to residential customers, leading to expensive, unaffordable bills. We won't let customers be left footing the bill, pushing back on PGE's endless bill increases.



CASCADE TO RAISE RATES 12% THIS FALL

NEW BILLING RATES (STARTING OCTOBER 31)

After months of analysis and negotiations, state regulators are expected to approve a **12.3% rate increase for households starting on October 31**, down from the initial ask of 17.4%. An average home can expect to pay about \$133 on a peak winter bill next January (a \$14 increase). Even with this, Cascade still has the lowest gas billing rates in Oregon.

BIG CUSTOMER WINS (DESPITE THE BIG INCREASE)

- Total requests reduced by nearly 30%
- Large profit margin increases rejected
- Expensive renewable natural gas costs removed
- Customer-funded subsidy to add new buildings to the gas system phased out
- Pilot heat pump program funded

Cascade was the last remaining Oregon gas utility charging customers a subsidy to grow the gas system. With this win, **we're delivering on our promise to move away from expensive fossil fuels**, saving customers millions long-term.



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BIG WINS FOR OREGONIANS CUB KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE ON DATA CENTERS

Data centers—and their big energy usage—have been driving up Oregonians' energy bills. Last summer, you helped CUB pass the POWER Act to rein in data center costs, slowing the skyrocketing rise of home energy bills. While this was a big step forward in addressing energy affordability, we are continuing to push to protect Oregonians.

CUB Helps Reach Agreement to Protect Pacific Power Customers

Pacific Power has reached a new agreement on how it will protect home and small business customers from the impacts of data centers. CUB is pleased to announce that this deal is set to be the strongest from a for-profit electric utility yet.

Soon, new Pacific Power data centers will be held responsible for their own energy costs:

- All costs for all distribution investments (local poles/wires)
- All costs for all energy generation/storage (power plants, batteries, etc.)
- Fairly shared costs for shared transmission (longer distance poles/wires, substations)



Data centers over 100 MW will also have to pay a small surcharge to fund energy efficiency upgrades for low-income households. Additionally, data centers will be required to have flexible energy use, **protecting Oregonians from blackouts.** This agreement comes out of the 2025 Oregon POWER Act, with a final approval from regulators expected in October.

Data Centers Challenge PGE's New Consumer Protections

In a landmark decision in May, state regulators directed Portland General Electric (PGE) to add guardrails protecting Oregonians' energy bills from data centers. **And we're already seeing these protections working:** in PGE's latest request to raise rates, data centers are facing an 8% increase as compared to a 4% increase for households.

**NEW PGE
DATA CENTER
RATES**



New Protections Against Data Centers:

- New rules limiting data centers' impacts on our power bills
- New funding for low-income home energy efficiency and repairs
- Restrictions on adding new data centers until sufficient renewable energy is available

But now, **data centers and their allies are starting to fight these protections.** Already, the Data Center Coalition has appealed the decision at the Oregon Public Utility Commission. The first appeal has failed, as regulators upheld their initial decision. We expect to see the fight continue in the courts as soon as this fall.

WHAT CUB SUPPORTERS ARE SAYING



"I AM A LIFELONG OREGONIAN WHO IS SO FORTUNATE TO LIVE IN A STATE WITH AN AMAZING ENTITY LIKE CUB. ALL THE FOLKS AT THE CUB, ESPECIALLY BOB JENKS, FIGHT FOR US EVERY DAY TO ENSURE FAIRNESS IN OUR UTILITY BILLS. THEIR LATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS GETTING PGE TO RAISE RATES ON DATA CENTERS SO THEY PAY MORE OF THEIR SHARE. I OCCASIONALLY DONATE TO CUB, BUT THIS WIN HAS PROMPTED ME TO BECOME A SUSTAINER. THANK YOU, WONDERFUL FOLKS AT CUB."

- LAURIE B., CUB SUSTAINING MEMBER