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SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

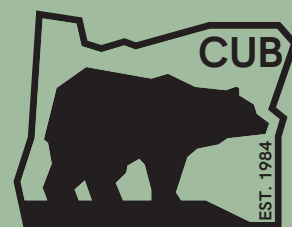
FROM MEMBER TO LEADER CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Do you have experience in utility policy? Experience in nonprofit board management, fundraising, or HR? Expertise in social media or outreach? Are you committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Apply to Join the CUB Board!

CUB's Board of Directors advises our team and oversees the organization. And we have openings! CUB's Board of Directors represents people across the state of Oregon. Board members are elected from Oregon's six Congressional Districts. Elections for 2027 will be held this December.

Email outreach@oregoncub.org — deadline to apply is August 31.



**THE BEAR
FACTS**
SUMMER 2026



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE OREGON
CITIZENS' UTILITY BOARD

**THE BEAR
FACTS**
SUMMER 2026

DEAR CUB MEMBERS

Summer has officially arrived in Oregon, and I hope you are enjoying the sun as much as I am. On long days like these, I find myself reflecting on the wonderful community that CUB has built. **Thank you for being a part of what makes CUB special.**

Our team is jumping head-first into the busy season by pushing for more protections from data centers. When you helped us pass the POWER Act, it was never meant to be a silver bullet. We're advocating for policymakers to **take further action on data centers** now, keeping you and your neighbors protected long-term.

Utility costs are still on the rise in Oregon. **Pacific Power and Cascade Gas are both asking for big increases** in home energy bills this year. We're working hard to slash utility requests and make sure regulators only approve what's absolutely necessary.

We're also supporting **local efforts to reduce emissions**. CUB helped pass the Climate Pollution Fee in Bend, incentivizing developers to build all-electric homes. In Eugene, we're supporting the Eugene Clean Energy Fund, a ballot initiative to fund local clean energy projects.

Your support makes our advocacy possible. 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

NEXT STEPS FOR REINING IN ENERGY BILL RATE HIKES

FAIR Energy Act Moves Forward to Becoming Reality

Last year, CUB spearheaded efforts to pass the FAIR Energy Act (HB 3179), tackling several of the root causes of Oregon's energy affordability crisis. Now, regulators are faced with the challenge of implementing the new law. Our staff is deeply involved in this process and is working hard to ensure the new affordable energy law is rolled out fairly.

HB 3179 requires rate increase requests to be spread out to at least every 3 years by 2027, with added customer protections before next year. It stops increases in home energy rates during the winter months, when energy usage and bills are highest. And it increases transparency, so you know what you are paying for and what to expect from any increases.





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

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FACTS**

2026 RATE INCREASES UTILITIES ASK FOR BIG RATE HIKES

PACIFIC POWER: 11% INCREASE REQUEST

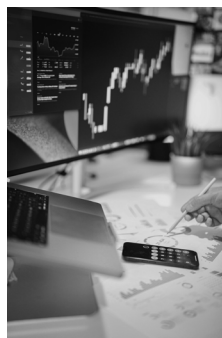
This year, Pacific Power is asking Regulators to approve an 11% increase in residential customer bills. With many Oregonians already feeling the pinch from rising energy costs, CUB will be pushing back hard against yet another attempt to raise household bills.

Initially, Pacific Power requested a special rate increase before regulators or advocates had a chance to review the proposal. Thanks to community pushback, regulators rejected this unusual ask. Now, any approved increase would go into effect next spring.



Interested in Speaking Out on This Increase?

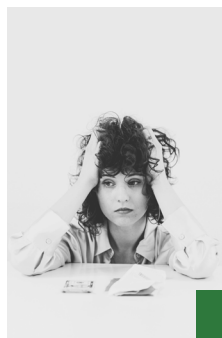
Customers can expect regulators to hold a public hearing on the proposed Pacific Power increase within the next two months. Reach out to CUB's Community Organizer, David, for more information. Email david@oregoncub.org or scan the QR code to get involved today! Regulators need to hear how this bill increase could impact your household and community.



CASCADE: 17.4% INCREASE REQUEST

Cascade Gas asked regulators to approve a 17.4% increase for household gas customers that would go into effect on October 31, 2026. This is the first time Cascade has asked for a big increase since 2020. Cascade's initial request includes infrastructure projects, higher profits for shareholders, and investments in expensive renewable natural gas.

Overall, Cascade is requesting \$16.4 million from all customers. \$10.3 million of the request would apply to residential customers. Households could see average home gas bills rise to \$75 per month, an \$11 per month increase. CUB is also investigating the gas utility's policy that requires customers to subsidize new hookups for homes and businesses, expanding the gas system.



CUB IN YOUR CITY: LOCAL EFFORTS



BEND CLIMATE IMPACT FEE (ADOPTED!)

The Bend City Council adopted the Climate Pollution Fee in early June. The new ordinance establishes a fee on natural gas appliances in new home construction in Bend, incentivizing developers to build all-electric homes. Building with modern, all-electric systems now will avoid the charge entirely and ensure customers aren't stuck on an expensive gas system down the road. CUB supported this local effort to reduce new gas homes.

EUGENE CLEAN ENERGY FUND (BALLOT INITIATIVE)

In Eugene, community activists launched a campaign to establish the Eugene Clean Energy Fund, a ballot measure that would establish a fee on large corporations to fund local climate action. Modeled after Portland's Clean Energy Fund, the fund will take two percent of massive corporations' profits to invest in clean energy initiatives. CUB supports this local effort to build a clean energy future.



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DATA CENTERS CUB FIGHTS FOR MORE ACCOUNTABILITY

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 need to keep pushing to protect Oregonians.

CUB Speaks at the Governor's Data Center Advisory Committee

This June, CUB's Executive Director, Bob Jenks, spoke at the Governor's Data Center Advisory Committee meeting. He pushed for policymakers to take further action to protect Oregonians from data center costs. Without new policy intervention, Oregonians are at risk as more data centers come to town. Bob emphasized the need to act soon on adding more proactive protections for affordability, health, and safety while we still can.

Oregonians Joined CUB to Speak Up on Data Centers

"I'm not against Data Centers, but I believe that the general public has shouldered too much of the costs for these monstrosities. And our Environment is getting unfairly hit too!" - Craig G., Keiser

Big Win: Regulators Direct PGE to Protect Oregonians from Data Centers

In a landmark decision in May, state regulators directed Portland General Electric (PGE) to add guardrails protecting Oregonians' energy bills from data centers. PGE was the first utility to begin implementing the POWER Act, setting the standard for how the new law was implemented.

Oregonians won big with this decision:

- 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

+29%
PROJECTED
NEW PGE
DATA CENTER
RATES

Regulators also approved creating a new customer category to charge data centers for their energy usage. PGE can now track the energy costs of data centers and bill them appropriately, protecting Oregonians and small businesses. By July, we will see data centers paying rates that more accurately reflect the costs they are putting on our energy grid.



Up Next: Pacific Power Needs to Rein in Data Centers

In January, Pacific Power began its own data center investigation. Unlike PGE, Pacific Power isn't providing clear information on how it plans to protect Oregonians. Pacific Power says it's planning to hold data centers accountable, but it's **choosing to focus on only one part of the equation: contracts**. This means no rate changes, limited protections, and a lot of uncertainty.

It's not clear how Pacific Power intends to factor in differences in data centers when creating new individual contracts. Oregonians deserve clear protections from data centers. CUB is pushing Pacific Power to come up with a real plan to hold data centers accountable, not just an outline. Regulators are expected to decide on this case in November 2026.