Vision and Guiding Principles

Climate Action - A community solution that brings us together

Vision: Neighbors, businesses, and community leaders working together to preserve our natural environment while promoting economic opportunity and resilience for current and future generations.

Goals:
- Develop and implement a Climate Action Plan that serves as a roadmap in supporting our community’s path to a sustainable future.
- Harness the resources and talents within Bend’s community to take practical action across a wide range of sectors and activities.
- Achieve a 40% decrease in carbon emissions by 2030 and a 70% decrease by 2050 (from a baseline year of 2016).

How we’ll get there: Our community has a long and storied history of adaptation, entrepreneurship and collective action. We believe in the citizens of Bend and our ability to come together and meet ambitious challenges head on. Our Climate Action Plan will take a multi-faceted approach to carbon reduction. This means boldly tapping into our “can do” spirit to tackle complex issues like reducing fossil fuel use and protecting and sustaining our diverse ecosystems and communities. We’ll succeed by performing and tracking the individual steps needed to achieve the bigger picture. We’ll reach sustainability by increasing efficiencies and decreasing overall consumption. We’ll build relationships by learning from one another and working toward beneficial and equitable outcomes.

Together, we call on the community of Bend to lead on climate action through the following principles:

1. **Reflect Local Values.** Develop a Climate Action Plan that is by Bend, for Bend. Identify solutions that fit our unique challenges and opportunities, and complement our other community priorities.

2. **Smart about Energy.** Reduce and manage our fossil fuel use through programs that promote more efficient and renewable consumption of energy, ensure energy supply reliability, increase energy affordability wherever possible, and protect our Central Oregon natural environment.

3. **Practical, Achievable, Flexible.** Create clear pathways to achieving measurable goals that allow the community to dynamically adapt to Bend’s needs, capacities, and opportunities over time.
4. **Act Inclusively and Respectfully.** Seek diverse community perspectives and ensure all viewpoints are considered in an authentic and meaningful way. Prioritize climate actions that will benefit those who stand to be most adversely impacted by climate change and have been historically underserved.

5. **Promote Economic Wellbeing.** Ensure actions taken to reduce fossil fuel use are well-researched and support positive outcomes. Build and bolster economic resources and resiliency for generations to come.

6. **Create Alliances.** Collaborate to find common ground that brings us together as a community. Create new partnerships and find alignment among community resources and efforts to develop the Climate Action Plan.

7. **Focus on Triple Bottom Line.** Consider the economic, equity, and environmental impacts of all our decisions.

8. **Keep Eyes on the Horizon.** Explore new technologies and other community approaches on an ongoing basis. Recognize that some climate actions are long-term endeavors that may take time to bear fruit. Commit to regular evaluation, refinement and collaboration to ensure lasting success.