



Council Business Meeting

December 19, 2023

Agenda Item	Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Planning Grant Application Authorization	
From	Brandon Goldman	Community Development Director
Contact	brandon.goldman@ashland.or.us 541-552-2076	
Item Type	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/>	

SUMMARY

Staff is requesting authorization to prepare and submit an application requesting a Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) Planning Grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to receive consultant assistance in drafting the legislative amendments necessary to implement Climate Friendly Area zoning overlays within the City of Ashland.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

Ashland Climate Friendly Area Study: <https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/CL/Documents/AshlandCFASudy.pdf>

Ashland Climate Energy Action Plan (CEAP)

Goal: Reduce community and City employee vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.

- Strategy ULT-1. Support better public transit and ridesharing.
 - ULT-1-3. Establish policies to support development near transit hubs without displacing disadvantaged populations.
- Strategy ULT-2. Make Ashland more bike- and pedestrian-friendly.
 - ULT-2-1. Implement bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly actions in the City's Transportation System Plan and Downtown Parking Management Plan
- Strategy ULT-3. Support more efficient vehicles.
 - ULT-3-2. Revise land use codes to require EV charging infrastructure at multifamily and commercial developments.
- Strategy ULT-4. Support more climate-ready development and land use.
 - ULT-4-2. Revise community development plans to favor walkable neighborhoods and infill density.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) received \$2.7m in legislative funding for the 2023-2025 biennium to support local governments in their work to implement the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) program. The CFEC program increases housing and transportation choice for Oregonians, while improving equity and reducing climate pollution. The Community Development Department endeavors to submit a CFEC Planning Grant to obtain assistance in amending zoning maps and development regulations for climate-friendly areas, and to conduct market studies to examine the development potential of designated climate-friendly areas.





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The City Council approved Ashland's Climate Friendly Area Study on September 19th, 2023, which will provide the basis for the analysis and CFA land use code amendments explored through this project. The potential Climate Friendly Areas (CFAs) identified for consideration in this initial study included the Croman Mill District, the Railroad property, the Transit Triangle, and the downtown.

Ashland has been fortunate to be the recipient of 2019-21, and 2022-2023 planning assistance grants from DCLD which allowed the City to work with a consultant to update Ashland's Housing Capacity Analysis and to develop Ashland's Housing Production Strategy. Most recently the City was notified that we will be awarded a 2024 Technical Assistance grant by DLCD to update to Ashland's Economic Opportunity Analysis (EOA).

Application for a CFEC Planning Grant requires a formal application, and submission of a letter of support authorized by the City Council. Upon the Council's direction, the Community Development Department will prepare the grant application which is due by January 23, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The City is not required to provide any matching funds for this grant application. The City will seek to receive assistance from consultants through contracts managed by the Department of Land Conservation and Development. Should the City receive a DLCD grant as part of the competitive award process, this award would reduce the need for the City to expend general funds on this activity, with the exception of dedicating Planning Staff time to complete the State mandated code amendments to implement CFA areas by December 31, 2024.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Not Applicable

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

Staff recommends that the Council authorize staff to prepare and submit an application for a CFEC Planning Grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development to hire a consultant to assist the City in drafting a Climate Friendly Area zone and implementing ordinances.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

I move to authorize staff to prepare and submit an application for a CFEC Planning Grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development and include a letter of support on behalf of the Council.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft Council Letter of Support



December 19, 2023

Cody Meyer, Land Use and Transportation Planner,
Department of Land Conservation and Development
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150
Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Re: DLCDC Technical Assistance Grant Application

Dear Mr. Meyer,

The Ashland City Council fully supports the City of Ashland's application for the 2024 Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) Planning Grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

We are excited about the prospect of creating Climate Friendly Areas through the zoning amendment process, a venture that would greatly benefit from the CFEC Planning Grant. This project, aimed at implementing Climate Friendly Areas, will involve comprehensive community engagement, advanced transportation planning, market analysis for employment and housing development, and significant changes to zoning laws, all of which are crucial for its success.

We recognize the extensive work required for effective implementation, which surpasses our staff's current capabilities, and without State support could not be completed within the one-year deadline set by CFEC rules. Thus, the support from the DLCDC Planning Grants is critical for us to meet our objectives under the CFEC program.

We understand the CFEC program's potential to transform Oregon communities by encouraging diverse housing and transportation options, promoting equity, and reducing environmental impact. Ashland is eager to leverage the resources and expertise provided by the DLCDC through this grant. The opportunity is particularly appealing as it requires no financial contribution from us, other than staff involvement. We plan to use the grant to work with expert consultants overseen by the DLCDC. This partnership is expected to advance Ashland towards a sustainable and equitable future, in line with the goals of the CFEC program.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mayor Tonya Graham, City of Ashland

Date

Office of the Mayor, City of Ashland

20 East Main St.
Ashland, Oregon 97520
ashland.or.us

Tel: 541.488-6002
Fax: 541.552.5311
TTY: 800.735.2900