

“Tim and his wife Joni needed to make more than 10 trips to the doctor last month for surgery and other medical issues. It’s an hour-long drive from their home in the country, and all the extra gas was a major expense that caused them to fall behind on their other bills, like energy.

Oregon Energy Fund helped them catch up so they could pay the bills, keep their home warm, and get healthy.”



POWERING OREGON SINCE 1989

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

oregonenergyfund.org/winternews

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear friends,

Back in August, I had the opportunity to meet Nancy, a low-income senior who lives in Salem and had received energy assistance for several years. Nancy told me something I haven't been able to stop thinking about. When she received her stimulus check in January, she wanted to use it to give back to the community. She decided to donate to Oregon Energy Fund in thanks for the help she'd received over the years.

Nancy's story is remarkable. It's also a beautiful example of the ways our community has supported us – and each other – through this time of crisis. As the COVID-19 pandemic raged into a second year and thousands of Oregonians struggled to afford the basic costs of light and heat, **you helped us raise over \$1.60 million and keep the power on for more than 3,800 people.** We expanded our funding to help low-income students and rural Oregon communities pay their bills, and kept our program open through the summer so our neighbors could stay cool during June's deadly heat dome.

This would be a triumph at any time. But I'm deeply humbled to see this level of compassion and humanity from our donors in such a difficult year. When lost work, illness, and extreme weather roiled the lives of vulnerable Oregonians, your support ensured they could count on a warm, healthy, and stable home, empowering them to lead the lives everyone deserves.

Our work is far from finished; many of our neighbors still face the difficult math of keeping the lights on or putting food on the table. But as we prepare to launch a slew of new programs next year to help them recover, I'm inspired by the unwavering support you've shown us and our mission to power lives. **On behalf of OEF and all those we serve, thank you for helping us build a brighter future. See you in 2022.**

Brian Allbritton
Executive Director



COVID-19: OUR IMACT

Since March 1, 2020...



\$872,044
paid in energy assistance
to households in crisis.



5,136
Oregonians assisted
with their bills.



15,000+
total donations made to
OEF by people like you

VOICES OF OREGON ENERGY FUND



“On my budget, everything is significant, and when COVID hit, we had extra expenses. **Without energy assistance, it would’ve been a much, much harder journey.** I just have that little bit of extra money each month...that’s able to go to things like food, family essentials, health care.

What OEF is doing is huge. **I’m extremely grateful for what I’ve received from you.”**

- Nancy, OEF client & donor



“As the Program Coordinator for my agency’s energy assistance program, **I get to witness firsthand the impact that a gift to OEF has on a family.**

From a single mom working full-time who lost childcare due to COVID-19, to an elderly couple who had increased medical and safety costs on their fixed income, **I see the hardworking people who have impossible choices to make, that none of us should ever have to consider.**

I hear firsthand the crack in their voice when we are able to ease the burden someone has been carrying. That’s one reason I do the hard work that we do. I get to help people who really need it.”

-Jess, OEF Board Member & Community Action employee



“Luanne, Beth, and James live in a low-income community in eastern Oregon. When their landlord failed to keep up with maintenance, the building’s HUD subsidy was revoked, **driving up the rent and utility costs.**

After years of not needing assistance, the three seniors found themselves unable to keep up with their bills. They reached out for help, and **Oregon Energy Fund was able to help all three of them** (and several others) pay off their energy costs while they looked for a more affordable home.”

1 in 7
Oregonians
are behind
on their bills.

**SUPERCARGE
YOUR
SUPPORT!**

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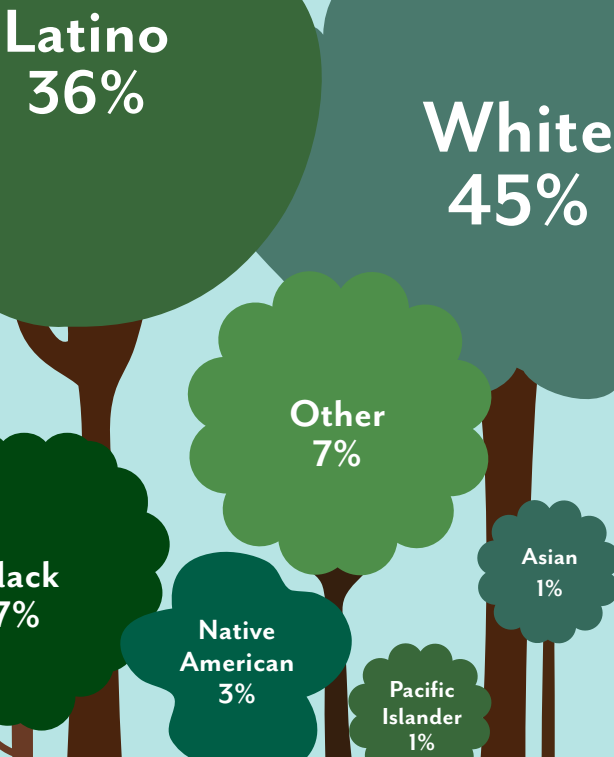
Zöe Pettit
Program Coordinator

**Energy assistance
isn’t just for the
winter anymore.**

Help your neighbors
keep the lights on all
year long by becoming
a monthly donor.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

WHO WE HELPED



In 2021, Oregon Energy Fund provided energy assistance to **1,453 HOUSEHOLDS** and **3,802 PEOPLE**.

WHERE WE HELPED



\$1.60M REVENUE

SPENDING



FUNDING SOURCES



“Thank you for being here for us during these difficult times.”
- OEF Client

THANK YOU, DONORS!

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OEF EXPANDS YEAR OF THE STUDENT PROGRAMMING

The COVID-19 years have been hard for everyone. But few have felt the pinch as acutely as students, who have needed to take classes from home in the midst of a global crisis. To make matters worse, many college students and families with children experience major financial hardship and struggle to pay for basic expenses like food and utilities, making it difficult to focus on learning and succeed in school.

No one can read or do homework in a cold, dark house!

Last year, Oregon Energy Fund launched the Year of the Student, a dedicated effort to help low-income students pay their bills. Our first program provided a monthly energy assistance stipend to the families of students at KairosPDX, a K-5 charter school.

We're delighted to announce this program has been renewed for a second year thanks to a \$10,000 grant from our partner CareOregon, allowing us to create a productive home environment for even more students.

We also established two new programs to help older students pay their expenses. The first, a partnership with Portland State University, will create an on-campus energy assistance fund for PSU students facing financial hardship – the first of its kind in the nation. We've also partnered with Get Schooled, a digital counseling service that prepares high schoolers for college and the job world. By reaching low-income students through texts and online tools, we can connect them directly with necessary resources like energy assistance.

We're proud to address this overlooked need and look forward to adding more programs soon. **Support our work today with a donation to Oregon Energy Fund.**