

Oregon Energy Affordability Efforts

Kate Ayres

Policy Advocate

Oregon's Energy Affordability Act

- In 2021, Oregon passed <u>HB 2475</u>: The Energy Affordability Act
- Directs the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) and Oregon's Investor-Owned Utilities to consider energy burden on customers and other economic, social equity or other environmental justice factors that affect affordability
- <u>UM 2211</u> PUC's HB 2475 implementation docket has authorized interim Income Qualified Bill Discount (IQBD) programs



Interim Bill Discount Programs - Electric

Portland General Electric

	SMI %	Bill
		Discount
Tier 1	0-30%	25%
Tier 2	31-45%	20%
Tier 3	46-60%	15%

Pacific Power

	SMI %	Bill
		Discount
Tier 1	0-20%	40%
Tier 2	21-60%	20%



Interim Bill Discount Programs - Gas

Northwest Natural Gas

	SMI %	Bill Discount
Tier 0	0-15%	40%
Tier 1	16-30%	25%
Tier 2	45%	20%
Tier 3	60%	15%

Cascade Natural Gas

	SMI & FPL %	Bill
		Discount
Tier 1	0-15% SMI or 0-25% FPL	95%
Tier 2	16-30% SMI or 26-50% FPL	70%
Tier 3	31-45% SMI or 51-100% FPL	45%
Tier 4	46-60% SMI or 101-150% FPL	15%



Interim Bill Discount Programs - Gas

Avista Utilities

	SMI %	Bill Discount	Arrearage Programs	
Tier 1	0-5%	90%	Λ	
Tier 2	6-20%	60%	Arrearage forgiveness	
Tier 3	21-40%	25%	Arrearage Management Program	
Tier 4	41-60%	15%		



Self-Attestation and Auto Enrollment

• Customers can self-attest income to the utilities, or in some cases to local Community Action Agencies and be placed in the proper tier level.

 Utilities have collaborated with Oregon Housing and Community Services to receive customer data on LIHEAP sign ups so customers can be auto-enrolled into the correct tier.



Ongoing Investigations and Program Development

- Further investigations into Oregon's energy burden
 - Low Income Needs Assessments of utility service areas
 - Measuring energy burden reduction what does energy burden in OR look like?

 Potential for deeper discounts and other possible affordability efforts, including energy efficiency and weatherization

