

Bend to consider carbon reduction plan in December

By **MICHAEL KOHN**
Bend Bulletin

A plan to slash greenhouse gas emissions in the city of Bend by changing commuting habits and energy sources, and creating incentives to encourage eco-friendly construction, could be up for consideration by the City Council as early as December.

If implemented, the plan could reduce fossil fuel consumption by 49% within a decade, Cassie Lacy, senior management analyst for the city of Bend, said Thursday at the Go Clean Energy Conference in Bend.

As cities around the globe seek ways to become carbon neutral by the middle of this century, and climate activists are pushing governments to reduce fossil fuel consumption, the city of Bend is looking to revamp its rules on promoting renewable energy and cutting carbon emissions.

In 2016, Bend's City Council set targets for community fossil fuel use reduction of 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050.

"We did some modeling to see if we could achieve those goals, and we found that by 2030, if we implemented these strategies, we would reduce our fossil fuel consumption by 49%," Lacy said.

Bend's City Council will review the strategies in November and possibly vote on them by December, Lacy said. A variety of funding sources can be used to pay for the projects, including external grants and taxpayer money.

"There's a lot the city wants to do with the transportation system and affordable housing. Those are of high importance for the community. So we would seek external funding (for climate projects). There are many different pathways, but there could be impacts to the general fund," Lacy said.

Renewable sources would make up 100% of Bend's electricity profile, according to the proposals to be considered by the City Council.

Pacific Power, a subsidiary of PacifiCorp,

sources its electricity from several power stations for use in Bend. Coal makes up 56% of the mix, according to Bob Gravely, spokesman for Pacific Power. Natural gas makes up 15%, wind 9%, hydro 5% and solar 4%. Pacific Power also receives 10% of its power through wholesale market purchases. Pacific Power's coal plants are out of state, mainly in Wyoming and Utah.

While all of Pacific Power's customers receive energy from the same pool of power, communities can choose carbon off-setting options.

"Cities can make choices so they are supporting the development of renewable energy," Gravely said.

On Thursday, Portland-based PacifiCorp announced plans to retire most of its coal plants within two decades. A draft plan calls for larger investments in solar and wind plants to off-set the losses of the coal plants.

Bend's climate action goals include achieving carbon neutrality for its city facilities by 2030. If carbon offsets are needed, then priority would go to verifiable projects in Central Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Fossil fuel use from the year 2010 will be used to establish a baseline.

The project is expected to include incentives and tax breaks for solar projects that would offset energy use from the grid, and requirements for solar on all new city buildings. Programs would be put in place to retrofit buildings across the city for energy efficiency. And there are plans to streamline waste collection and improve recycling.

In addition to using renewable sources of power, Bend's Climate Action Steering Committee is working on plans to encourage a greater use of electric vehicles, electric bicycles and public transportation.

"If the city can offer incentives to move more people into electric vehicles that would be a win," said Casey Bergh, transportation program manager for Oregon State University-Cascades.

No need to be friends

Dear Annie: My boyfriend broke up with me pretty suddenly and over the phone right after spring semester ended. We haven't talked over the summer, and now that school started this fall, it's been pretty awkward. I still have feelings for him and a lot of questions. Since we haven't talked to each other for about four months, I don't know how to start talking to him again. I don't even know if talking to him is a good idea.

After he broke up with me, he said he still wanted to be good friends, and I told him that I honestly didn't think I could be friends with him. I don't know what to do. What do you think I should do? — *Uneasy at University*

Dear Uneasy at University: I think you ought to listen to your heart, which seems to be saying that it needs more time to heal. So, be cordial when you run into your ex-boyfriend — wish him all the best — but put your energy into nourishing friendships, interests and your sense of self. One day you might be able to be friends with this ex, but that day is not today. And that is 100 percent OK.

Dear Annie: I was shocked to read that "Fearing the Future" is so pessimistic at 67. I am 91 and recently wrote the following poem:

"The Optimist"
"Why live to one hundred?" asked my friend.
"Isn't ninety enough to make a good end?"
"I think of the things I would miss," I replied,
"If, at ninety, I stopped and simply died."
Thousands of mornings to see the sun rise
In a glorious blaze in the eastern skies.
Moons to wax and wane anew,
Trillions of stars in the midnight blue.

Ten springs to see the lilacs bloom
As their fragrance drifts across my room.
To see new leaves on the maple tree
As the birds return and sing to me.
Ten summers to feel the ocean breeze
As whales cavort in blue-green seas,
To watch the hawks on the thermals rise
Into the blue of summer skies.
Ten more harvests to celebrate
Of apple and peach and pear and date.

To anticipate the vintner's wines
From fresh new grapes on ancient vines.

Ten more autumns in which to see
The change of color on every tree,
Russets and golds and reds ablaze
To brighten the ever-shortening days.

Ten winters of freshly fallen snow
On mountains above and valleys below.

Of cherry-cheeked children on
skis and sleds,
Of blazing hearths and soft warm

beds.
Ten Christmas seasons of church bells
rung,

Of mince pies eaten and carols sung.
Of families gathered to celebrate
The wonder of that age-old date.

Ten more New Years to welcome in,
To wonder what the year will bring.
Will there be a new baby for me to see?
A great-grandchild on my family tree?
I strive for another decade of living,
Of hoping and praying and loving and giving.

And, if I reach one hundred, what then?
Why, I'd plan to live to one hundred and ten!

— *Beryl in Keizer, Oregon*

Dear Beryl: Thank you for lighting the way with optimism. Your poem made my day a little brighter, and I'm sure it will do the same for many readers.

DEAR ANNIE



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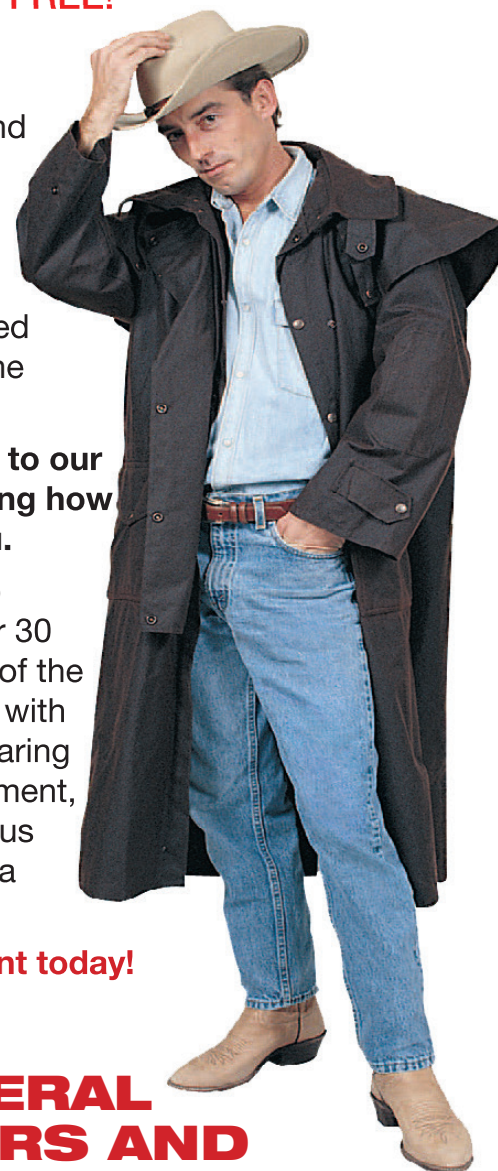
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