

100% clean by 2040, a data-center load boom, and multibillion-dollar wildfire risk — all landing on one capital plan.

Oregon utilities are decarbonizing on a legislated clock, wiring a fast-growing data-center corridor, and carrying wildfire liability measured in the tens of billions. Each of those forces moves the projects on your list. Invizion helps electric utilities re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click — and defend every decision.

100% by 2040¹ Oregon's clean-electricity mandate for PGE and Pacific Power under HB 2021 — 80% by 2030, 90% by 2035.	\$46B² Wildfire claims PacifiCorp disclosed in 2024 across four class-action complaints tied to the 2020 fires.	270.8 mi³ Length of the Boardman-to-Hemingway 500-kV line, now under construction through 2027.	\$10.7B⁴ PGE's utility plant in service — the capital base now under load, clean-energy, and hardening pressure.
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THE OREGON LANDSCAPE

Four forces are moving your project list at once

None of these is theoretical, and none of them waits for your next budget cycle. Together they mean the capital plan you approved last year may already be the wrong plan.

DEMAND — LOAD GROWTH

A data-center corridor stacking new load

Oregon's electricity demand is growing faster than it has in several decades, led by the proliferation of data centers and industrial growth.⁵ The build-out clusters in the Portland-area "Silicon Forest" and along the Columbia River in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

PGE alone serves nearly two-thirds of Oregon's commercial and industrial activity across a 4,000-square-mile, 51-city territory^{6,4} so every large new customer is a capacity commitment competing for the same capital.

RELIABILITY — FIRE & HYDRO

Wildfire seasons and a hydro-heavy grid

The 2020 Labor Day fires burned more than 1.2 million acres and destroyed over 3,000 structures — the event that reset Oregon's utility wildfire exposure.⁷

The regional grid still leans on federal hydro: the Bonneville Power Administration markets power from 31 Columbia-system dams and moves it over roughly three-quarters of the Northwest's high-voltage transmission,⁸ so drought years and fire seasons hit resource adequacy and reliability at the same time.

GENERATION — THE TRANSITION

Clean by 2040, on a legislated clock

HB 2021 requires PGE and Pacific Power to cut emissions from Oregon retail power 80% by 2030, 90% by 2035, and 100% by 2040, with the DEQ setting each provider's targets under a 6% cumulative rate-impact cap.¹

That sits on top of the Renewable Portfolio Standard — at least 27% renewables by 2025, rising to 50% by 2040 for the large investor-owned utilities.⁹ PGE has committed to 80% below its baseline by 2030 and 100% by 2040.⁶

CAPITAL — GRID & WILDFIRE

Harden, rebuild, and expand at once

A 2023 Oregon jury found PacifiCorp liable for the 2020 fires and awarded \$70 million in punitive damages to 17 homeowners; by 2024 the company disclosed at least \$46 billion in claims across four class actions.²

Wildfire mitigation and public-safety power shutoffs now sit alongside a 100%-clean build-out and transmission like Boardman-to-Hemingway,³ all pressing on a capital base already at roughly \$10.7 billion of utility plant at PGE.⁴ New obligations don't replace the backlog — they stack on it.

WHO RUNS OREGON'S GRID

Two big investor-owned utilities, a federal power backbone, and a deep public-power sector

Oregon's grid is carried by PUC-regulated investor-owned utilities, the federal Bonneville Power Administration, and a wide field of consumer-owned utilities, PUDs, and cooperatives. The pressures are shared; the accountability path differs.

Investor-owned utilities

Rates & capital recovery regulated by the Oregon PUC

Portland General Electric (PGE) ~880,000 customers · 51 cities · ~1.9M people⁴

Pacific Power (PacifiCorp) Oregon's 2nd-largest IOU; part of 6-state, ~1.8M-customer PacifiCorp²

Idaho Power Eastern Oregon & southern Idaho; ~24,000 sq mi¹⁰

PGE carries roughly \$10.7 billion of utility plant in service and serves nearly two-thirds of Oregon's commercial and industrial load⁴⁶

Federal power & consumer-owned utilities

Governed by boards, members & federal statute — not PUC rates

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) 31 federal dams; ~28% of NW electricity; ~15,000 circuit miles⁸

Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) 86,000+ customers · Oregon's largest consumer-owned utility¹¹

PUDs & cooperatives Umatilla Electric, Central Lincoln, Emerald & others — BPA preference customers

Consumer-owned utilities and coops buy the bulk of their power from BPA and set their own rates through boards and members.

Every capital dollar has to be defensible

Whether you answer to the Public Utility Commission or an elected board, the question is the same: why this project, why now, why at this cost?

Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulates rates, capital recovery, and resource plans for the investor-owned utilities — PGE, Pacific Power, and Idaho Power.⁹

HB 2021 Clean Energy Plans must show the path to 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2040, with the DEQ setting targets under a 6% cumulative rate-impact cap — approvals are not a formality¹

Idaho Power's eastern-Oregon service answers to both the Oregon PUC and the Idaho commission — dual dockets for one capital program.¹⁰

Wildfire cost recovery is the live question for PacifiCorp: with \$46 billion in claims outstanding, how much mitigation and rebuild capital lands in rates — and how fast — runs through the PUC²

The money is moving — can your plan absorb it?

Oregon utilities have more grid and clean-energy capital available than they've had in a generation. The constraint is readiness: which projects qualify, which are shovel-ready, and how the timing lines up.

DOE GRIP: \$7.6 billion across 105 projects in all 50 states through rounds 1–2 — grid-resilience and hardening dollars Oregon utilities compete for.¹²

HB 2021 Community Renewable Energy Grant Program funds tribes, public bodies, and consumer-owned utilities to build community-scale renewable and resilience projects¹

BPA's federal power & transmission backbone — ~\$4.7 billion in annual operating revenue (2022) financing the hydro and high-voltage system most Oregon public power depends on⁸

IRA elective (direct) pay puts utility-scale solar, storage, and transmission credits within reach of EWEB, PUDs, and cooperatives that historically couldn't monetize tax credits.

OREGON'S GRID, IN BRIEF

Questions Oregon utility leaders are asking

Short, sourced answers — the same facts we dig into with utilities looking at their capital programs.

How fast is Oregon's electricity demand growing?

Oregon's energy demand is growing faster than it has in several decades, led by the proliferation of data centers and industrial growth — concentrated in the Portland metro and the Columbia River corridors⁵

What does HB 2021 require of Oregon utilities?

PGE and Pacific Power must cut emissions from Oregon retail electricity 80% by 2030, 90% by 2035, and 100% by 2040, with the DEQ setting targets under a 6% cumulative rate-impact cap¹

What happened with PacifiCorp and the 2020 wildfires?

The 2020 Labor Day fires burned more than 1.2 million acres⁷ A 2023 Oregon jury found PacifiCorp liable and awarded \$70 million in punitive damages to 17 homeowners; by 2024 the company disclosed at least \$46 billion in claims across four class actions²

Who sets my utility's rates in Oregon?

The Oregon PUC regulates rates and resource plans for the investor-owned utilities — PGE, Pacific Power, and Idaho Power⁸ Consumer-owned utilities like EWEB and the PUDs set their own rates through boards and members¹¹

What is the Boardman-to-Hemingway line?

It's a 270.8-mile, 500-kV transmission line led by Idaho Power, now under construction across five eastern-Oregon counties and forecast to continue through 2027 — new capacity to move power across the region³

How does Invizion help Oregon electric utilities plan capital?

Invizion is scenario-based capital portfolio optimization for utilities. It lets you model how a data-center load surge, a wildfire-mitigation mandate, a clean-energy deadline, or a grant reshuffles your whole project list, re-sequence the portfolio automatically, and keep a defensible record of every decision for the PUC or your board.

REFERENCES

Sources

Every figure in this briefing is tied to a primary or authoritative source.

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ABOUT INVIZION

Capital program optimization for utilities

Invizion is a purpose-built capital lifecycle management platform for utilities. It integrates budgeting, CIP, scenario analysis, and funding-source tracking in one system — so utilities can re-sequence a capital portfolio in a click and demonstrate audit-ready, defensible decisions to regulators, boards, and rating agencies.

See how utilities keep capital plans current and defensible with Invizion.

Explore Invizion →