



Green energy eugene oregon

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Eugene is a leader in sustainability with a history of commitment to climate action. The Office of Sustainability strives to accelerate actions that will reduce emissions and strengthen the community's resilience against climate change. Our City Council has set forth aggressive climate goals that will require community-wide collaboration. Achieving these goals also requires a comprehensive approach that places equal importance on advancing social equity, economic prosperity and environmental health.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is a global alliance of cities committed to tackling climate change in three focused areas: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, identifying and adapting to the risks associated with climate change, and increasing access to clean and affordable energy. The city of Eugene is proud to be a partner city within this alliance, and was recently recognized by GCoM for the city's ambitious goals and targets towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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An Oregon proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by producing green hydrogen gas and blending it into natural gas for consumers in Eugene could come with record costs.

The company says the goal is to experiment with creating its own emissions-free hydrogen to make its fuel cleaner in the future. Some experts say greener natural gas could play a larger role in future energy supplies. But the costs of producing the hydrogen are far greater than the costs of electrifying homes and powering them with emissions-free solar and wind energy. Each ton of emissions cut would cost three times the next most expensive method that exists, which is to suck carbon from the atmosphere using large machines, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

Environmentalists are skeptical and concerned about the plan. They say it is a way for NW Natural to delay a transition away from natural gas and that the fuel does not have a place in a zero-emissions energy economy of the future. Natural gas is almost entirely methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases, and it can trap up



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to 25 times the heat of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Utilities watchdogs say the high costs of creating hydrogen to blend into natural gas don't justify the benefits, and they are concerned that the company will pass those costs to customers.

NW Natural is proposing to lease land from the west Eugene facility of the Eugene Water and Electric Board to build a 1-megawatt electrolyzer that separates water into hydrogen and oxygen. The board will provide NW Natural with water and electricity from 90% renewable energy sources to power the electrolyzer and to create the hydrogen. It's considered green because the electricity would come from renewable sources, and the hydrogen would be produced from water. There are no emissions in the process of making the hydrogen. The hydrogen is then trapped and used as energy, which is emissions-free. The company would blend 5% hydrogen with its natural gas and pump that to about 2,500 customers in west Eugene.

This would be the first such project in Oregon as it joins Washington in attempting to be a national hub of green hydrogen production.

The company hopes to offset the costs of the electrolyzer, which could run up to \$10 million, and the cost of creating the hydrogen with state and federal subsidies. It says the project is an experiment as it prepares for a future of more and cheaper hydrogen in the energy sector.

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