

# 1.5% Green Energy Technology

## HB 2496 Program Updates

Oregon state law requires that public entities spend 1.5% of public building construction costs on green energy technology.

HB 2496 (2019) made several amendments to the program, including the addition of battery storage and certain energy efficiency projects that can now qualify as green energy technology or eligible alternatives.

### HB 2496 Program Updates

- Inclusion of battery storage as an eligible green energy technology
- Inclusion of certain energy use efficiency improvements as eligible alternatives to GET
- Providing a definition for “energy use efficiency” and performance requirements within the context of 1.5% GET eligibility
- Clarification for project consolidation and technical review requirements
- Increase of minimum total contract price threshold for buildings from \$1 million to \$5 million
- Clean-up and clarification of total contract price definition, with seismic-retrofit costs now excluded from total contract price
- Clarifications on the process for a public agency to determine and document project appropriateness
- For passive solar and daylight systems, the required whole-building energy use reduction changed from 20% to 10%
- Other clean-up language to make the program easier to implement

### Eligible Green Energy Technology Now Includes:

- Solar technologies like photovoltaic and solar thermal systems
- Passive solar and day lighting systems that reduce whole building energy use by 10 percent or more (*new*)
- Geothermal systems that use temperatures of 140 degree or more (or 128 degrees or more for schools) for space or water heating or to generate electricity
- Battery storage equipment and technology paired with solar or geothermal systems that generate electricity (*new*)

### Eligible Alternative Energy Technology Now Includes:

- A space or water heating system or combined heat and power system that uses fuel material from trees and woody plants
- Certain on-site energy efficiency improvements that reduce or offset energy consumption by 20 percent below baseline code (*new*)

