



LRAPA

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency



Oakridge Air

LRAPA & Oakridge Air

Oakridge City Council Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Steve Dietrich

Executive Director

Travis Knudsen

Public Affairs Manager



LRAPA

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency



LRAPA monitors air quality in Oakridge. The agency has a monitor at the Willamette Activity Center and has installed multiple commercial grade “Purple Air Sensors” throughout Oakridge.



LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

Mayor Hollett represents Oakridge’s interests on LRAPA’s 9-member Board of Directors.



LRAPA issues outdoor burning advisories and **Green, Yellow, Red** home wood heating days in Oakridge.



LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

Wintertime woodsmoke impacts air quality

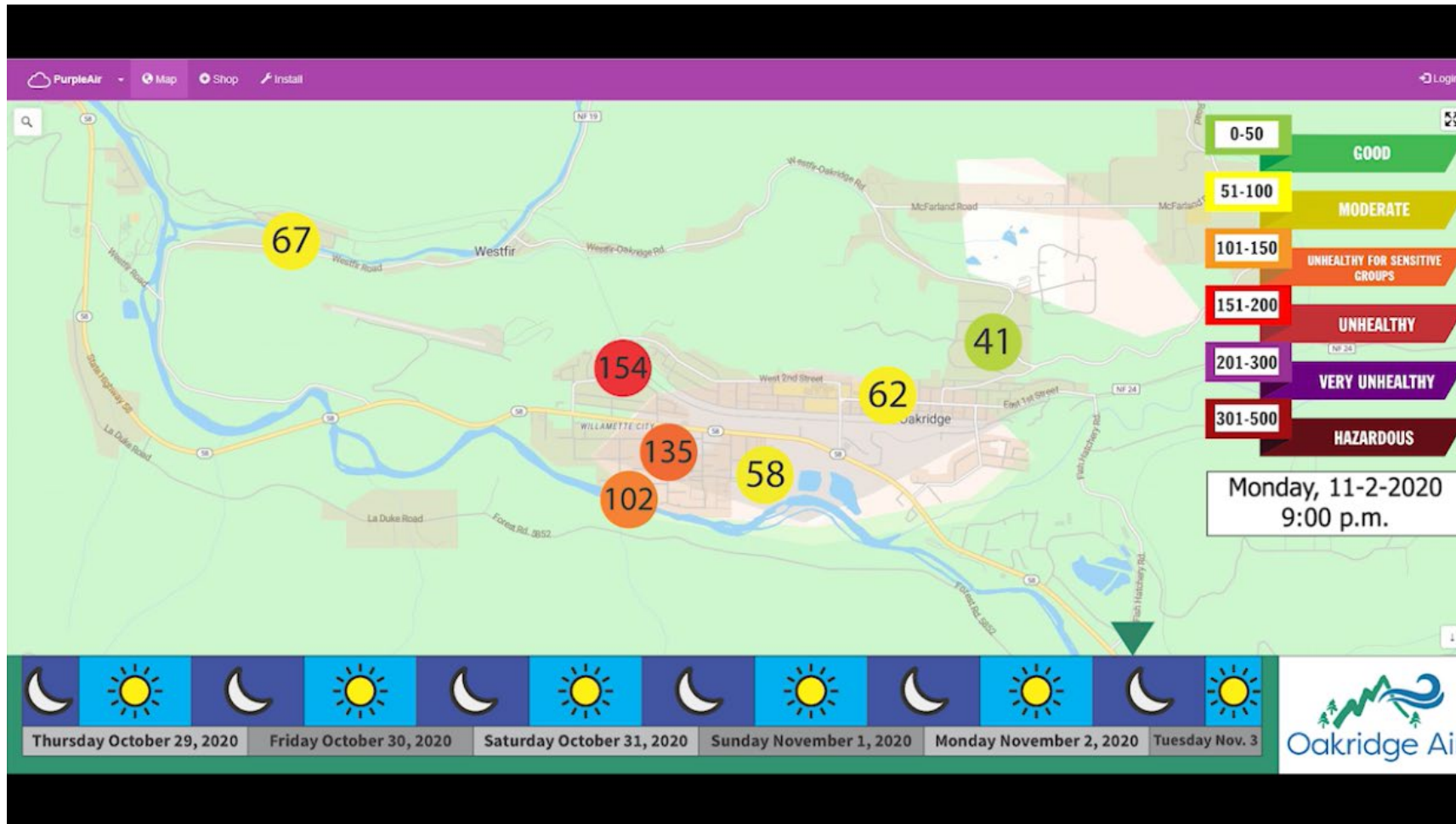


Nightly wood stove smoke degrades air quality, as seen in the above sunrise picture.

When the day warms and wood stove use ends, air quality improves.



Wintertime woodsmoke impacts air quality



Oakridge Air works to solve this problem



LRAPA's Role in Oakridge Air

LRAPA secured \$4,938,190 in funding from the federal government for Oakridge Air.



LRAPA administers the grant funding, provides oversight, and is accountable to the EPA through quarterly/annual reporting.



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Home Heating Upgrades



Provide homes with (1) certified woodstoves, (2) weatherization and small home repairs, (3) ductless or ducted heat pumps.



Qualification Questionnaire: +200 homes
Home currently enrolled: 46
Initial Home Energy Audits: 29
Wood Stoves installed: 6
Ductless heat pumps Installed: 12
Homes weatherized: 6
Final Post Audits: 3
Completed Homes: 3

*\$15,000 available
per home.*



Community Firewood Program



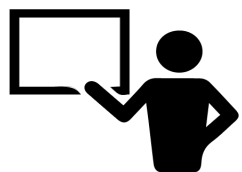
Provide community dry seasoned wood to seniors, low-income, and disabled.



This winter 100 cords of wood were delivered to residents.



Community and School Education



Communicate the health impacts of degraded air quality and educate air quality solutions.

313131

LRAPA
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY

OAKRIDGE AIR: Increased smoke production from wildfires has again impacted air quality in Oakridge and Westfir. LRAPA issued an Air Quality Advisory for central and eastern Lane County through late Saturday.

MIDDLE FORK RANGER DISTRICT
CONDUCTING
PRESCRIBED BURNING TODAY
North of Oakridge & Westfir

AirNow

Permanent Monitors
Temporary Monitors
Low-Cost Monitors

Active Fire Info
Satellite Fire Detections
Smoke Plume Tracking

Air Quality Forecasts
Suggested Actions
Air Quality History

DOWNLOAD THE APP!

Google Play
App Store

STARTING AT 4PM TODAY:
RED DAY IN OAKRIDGE

HELP OUR COMMUNITY STAY HEALTHY BY KEEPING OUR SHARED AIR CLEAN.
Use alternative forms of heating besides wood stoves, or ensure no smoke is created by your fire.

LRAPA crafts and issues this messaging.

City of Oakridge
Smoke Safety Plan
Oakridge Smoke Sensitive Receptor Area
May 2021

Oakridge
Mountain Biking Capital of the Northwest

Oakridge Air

Smoke Safety Plan coordination.

Oakridge Air
Published by South Willamette © - 2 November 2021

Pile burning continues 11/02/21!

The Middle Fork Ranger District checked the smoke and weather forecasts and both looked favorable for conditions and consumption in this area. All safety precautions will be taken i.e. notifications and signs will be posted on roadways.

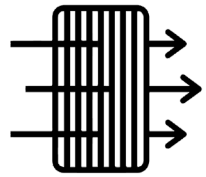
There are approximately 20 personnel that will be conducting pile burning as long as conditions are favorable. Ignitions should start between 10-11 am and conclude around 4 pm. All pile burning should be acco... See more

Oakridge Air

MIDDLE FORK RANGER DISTRICT
PILE BURNING CONTINUES 11/02/2021
West of Oakridge & Westfir



Air Filters in Homes and Schools



Provide HEPA air purifiers to the community and fund HVAC retrofits and air filter installs at Oakridge High School, Elementary School, and Oakridge Library.



Over 450 air purifiers distributed throughout Oakridge and Westfir. The program is no longer offering air purifiers, but it is providing annual replacement filters with remaining funds.

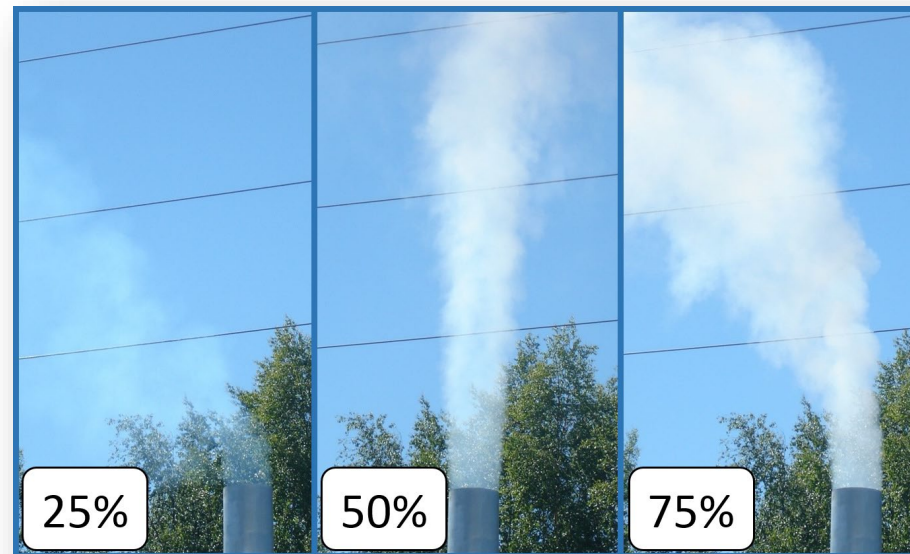


Code Enforcement

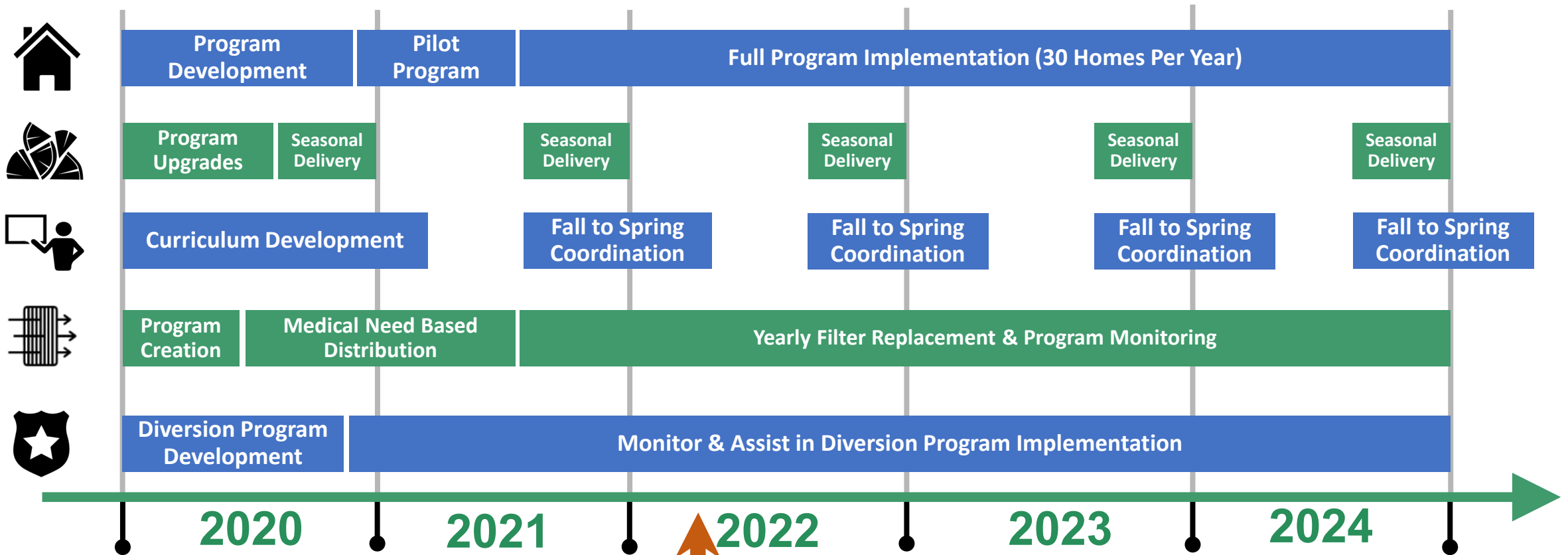


Provide funding to the City of Oakridge to enforce the city's smoke opacity ordinance and expand the city's education focused diversion program.

This grant funding source provides the Oakridge Police Department with \$71,000 a year for five years.



How old is the program?



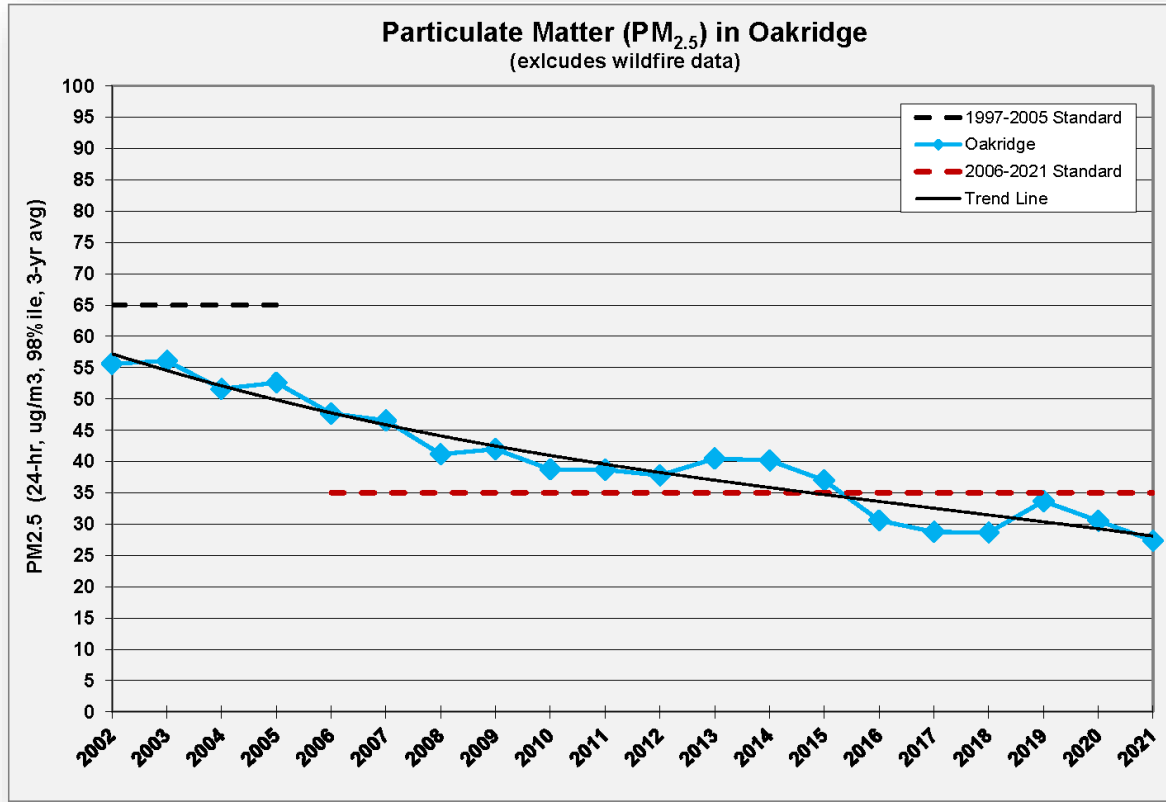
*Timeline is approximate

**COVID-19 has delayed some progress

We Are Here



Are these efforts improving air quality?



Historical wood stove changeout and education programs have improved air quality. Oakridge Air will further reduce smoke pollution as more heating upgrades are delivered and installed.

Oakridge-Westfir is in “nonattainment” for exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set by the EPA in 2006.

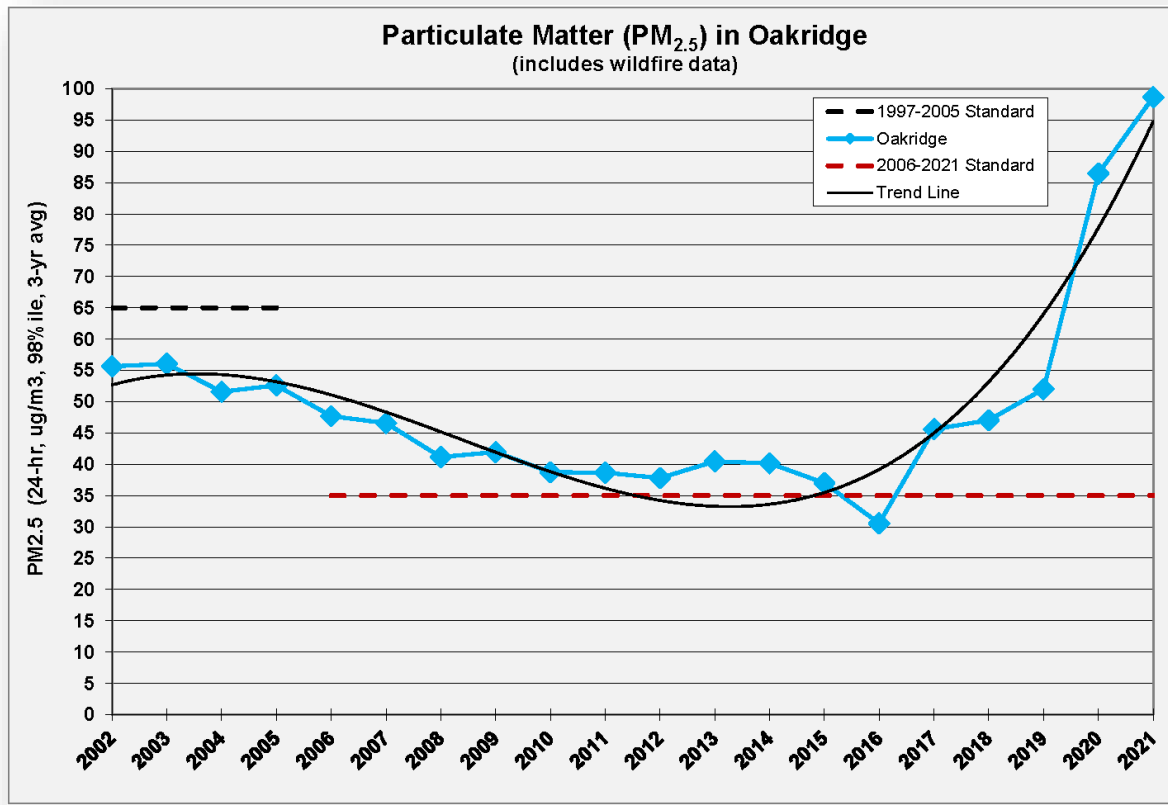
Oakridge has met the standard since 2016. LRAPA has requested the EPA redesignate Oakridge and Westfir as a “maintenance” airshed.

EPA approval expected in May 2022.

EPA may lower NAAQS standards by 2024.



Wildfire Impacts on Air Quality



The introduction of PM_{2.5} pollution from wildfires is a growing air quality problem in Oakridge and the entire Pacific Northwest.

LRAPA must create and submit an “exceptional event” report to the EPA for every wildfire NAAQS exceedance, so the data isn’t held against Oakridge when determining Oakridge’s “nonattainment” status.

Exposure to wildfire smoke emphasizes the need for cleaner wintertime air.



Connect with Oakridge Air

Local Office

- **Oakridge Air:** oakridgeair.org
- **Facebook:** facebook.com/oakridgeair
- **Phone:** 541-782-3244
- **Location:** 48513 Hwy 58, Suite 2 (old mill offices)



How can Oakridge's City Council help?

Spread the word!

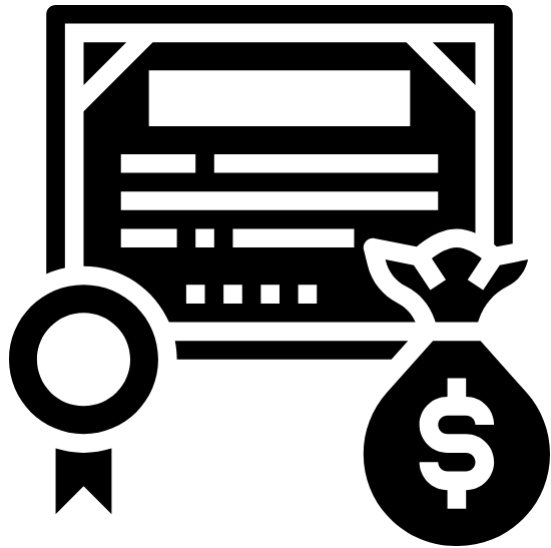


Both homeowners **AND** renters can fill out a heating upgrade questionnaire to enroll in a program: <https://oakridgeair.org/upgrades>

Oakridge Air begins a new cohort of homes each season.



Additional Targeted Airshed Funding



A second Targeted Airshed Grant awarded by EPA!

\$2,739,425 in additional funding.

Reach more homes in the community.

Support for the city's yard waste disposal program.

Chimney sweep vouchers, wood moisture meters, and wood stove thermometer provided to the community.

Air quality research projects with UofO and OSU.





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Thank you!

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