



Home Energy Score Public Hearing Testimony Guide

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When and Where To Testify:

City Council

[Sign up to testify in person or online](#) on the day of the meeting by 5:30pm (note that more information on how to engage in the public hearing will be posted by 9/18) on September 21, 2026

WHERE: New City Hall 500 E 4th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401 North Building

>>> [RSVP Here.](#)

Can't make the public hearing? Your voice still matters!

Send an email with your testimony. Find your ward and representative on the [Contact List](#) or <https://www.eugene-or.gov/532/Find-Your-Ward>. When emailing your council member, you can cc mayorcouncilandcitymanager@eugene-or.gov to make sure the mayor and City staff see it as well. Make sure to include "Support for Home Energy Score Ordinance" in subject line.

Talking Points

Topline:

I Urge the Council to pass the Home Energy Score Ordinance

- The Home Energy Score Ordinance (an Ordinance Establishing a Residential Energy Performance Disclosure Requirement) ensures that prospective home buyers receive

accurate, customized information on a home's energy usage and any rebates or incentives that could help them improve energy efficiency, reducing their costs and usage. Those who are most energy burdened have the most to gain from this information.

- A Home Energy Score is a standardized tool developed by the US Department of Energy that can help people understand how their home uses energy and where there are opportunities for improvement. Similar to a car's miles per gallon for fuel efficiency, it provides a rating of a home's energy efficiency based on a variety of energy features, such as insulation, heating and cooling systems, windows, roof and more.
- Home energy score requirements are tried and true in other cities in Oregon. Four other Oregon cities already require energy score reports at the time of sale of a home or residential unit - Bend, Hillsboro, Milwaukie and Portland. It's past time for Eugene to adopt this common sense measure
- EWEB has extremely generous existing incentives for climate friendly electric appliances for homeowners that reduce emissions and energy costs, but the biggest obstacle for uptake is public education and outreach. The home energy score initiative would put up to date information about existing incentives into the hands of home buyers and remove barriers to accessing existing incentives
- As our community is increasingly facing a cost of living crisis, the home energy score would help to distribute key information and tips to lowering energy costs, along with incentives to increase energy efficiency.
- The City has made commitments to reducing emissions, transitioning off of fossil fuels, and electrifying the building sector. The Home Energy Score Ordinance is a key first step to meeting these goals and transitioning our homes and buildings off of fossil fuels like methane gas.
- The Home Energy Score ordinance will help the City and EWEB to get more accurate information about energy use in our City, and in turn target outreach to more effectively reduce emissions and energy use.
- The vast majority of upgrades to a home are made within one year of its purchase. By ensuring that home buyers are provided with a home energy score that identifies potential upgrades along with key incentives, this policy will support a significant uptick in energy efficiency upgrades to happen quickly and at minimal cost to the owner.

Tips for Testifying

We recommend you write out your testimony in advance and practice reading it. You will typically have 2.5 minutes to speak for a regular public forum — that is about 300-350 words typed. Time may be shortened if there are a large number of people testifying.

→ Address the Council or Board formally, by naming and thanking them and introducing yourself:

◆ *“Mayor Knudson, City Council and City Manager Haruyama, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is NAME and I live in WARD.”*

- ◆ Reference any special qualifications or life experiences that might make your words more compelling or make it personal by sharing your first hand experiences of climate change. Explain how this relates to your testimony to give it greater impact.
- Keep it short and to the point; don't try to cram too much information in. Focus on what your concern or ask is and why it matters to you.
- Remember to always end your testimony with a final thank you.

Sample City Council Testimony

Mayor Knudson, Eugene City Council, and City Manager Haruyama, thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is ___ and I live in Ward _____. I am testifying to support the proposed Home Energy Score ordinance. **1-2 SENTENCES ABOUT WHO YOU ARE, AND WHY COUNCIL SHOULD LISTEN TO YOU.**

I am deeply concerned about the extreme heat we are expecting this summer and the impacts of smoke from wildfires across our region. **PERSONAL STORY ABOUT HOW CLIMATE IS IMPACTING YOU.**

The City of Eugene has made commitments to reducing pollution with our Climate Recovery Ordinance, which requires a 50% emission reduction from 2010 levels by 2030. Homes and buildings are the second largest source of climate pollution in the City, with just residential units making up 11% of the cities total emissions based on the City's 2021 GHG inventory. The proposed Home Energy Score ordinance would help to give Eugene home owners the information and tools that they need to understand their climate impacts, and to access the existing and generous subsidies from EWEB in order to reduce city-wide emissions associated with the building sector and meet our climate goals.

Additionally, the adoption of high efficiency all electric appliances such as heat pumps come with many co-benefits. A growing body of research has found that burning gas in home appliances pollutes both indoor and outdoor air with harmful nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, and dramatically increases respiratory conditions such as asthma.

Additionally, heat pumps provide both heating *and* cooling. This is particularly important as our community is facing increasing days of life threatening extreme heat, while the vast majority of homes and rentals in the city lack mechanical cooling.

In light of these points, I strongly support the Council's adoption of the proposed Energy Score Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

More Talking Points & Quick Facts

- The climate crisis is here and Eugene residents are already paying the costs. These costs will continue to rise and will disproportionately impact low-income and vulnerable community members. We must prioritize those most at risk as we take action to address the climate crisis.
 - [A 2024 study](#) found that the 2021 heatwave cost between \$1.3 billion and \$4.6 billion, and the 2018 fire season cost roughly \$6.8 billion. The average Oregonian could lose \$12,000 in income/year.
 - All-electric homes are cheaper to build: an [analysis by RMI](#) finds that all-electric homes built in Eugene with an ENERGY STAR-rated heat pumps would cost \$3,446 less to build than a similar mixed fuel home.
 - [Heat](#) will increase hospitalizations, bringing higher health and fiscal costs.
- The sooner we act, the more money and lives we save. We are behind on our goals, but each action we take now will have tangible, measurable positive improvements.
 - [Eugene's Climate Recovery Ordinance](#) sets goals to reduce community-wide fossil fuel use by 50% by 2030; The City has also adopted a goal of full building decarbonization by 2045.
 - Local action is more important than ever as the federal government fails to protect our community. Your leadership matters.
- Buildings are the city's second largest emissions section after transportation; approximately 30% of Eugene's economy-wide emissions (Climate [dashboard](#)).
 - Studies have shown that pursuing electrification can greatly reduce emissions associated with homes and buildings, with an [RMI analysis on electrification in Eugene](#) showing that transitioning a home to all-electric would, on average, reduce emissions by 70%.
 - Statewide, homes and buildings consume [nearly 43% of all energy in Oregon](#) and cause about [one-third of the state's climate pollution](#).
- "Natural" gas is not the benign transition fuel the industry wants us to support.
 - Dangerous and destructive explosions from gas leaks occur all over the country, including here in Eugene, with [hundreds of calls](#) made to the fire department each year to report leaks. Many go unreported, so exact numbers are unknown but [a review](#) found gas caused an average of 4,200 fires each year in the United State, with many more leaks leading to evacuations and poisoning.
 - Homes with gas stoves have [50 percent to over 400 percent higher nitrogen dioxide levels](#) in their indoor air than homes with electric stoves, which can lead to heart failure and asthma.
 - [A recent study](#) found that gas stoves leak benzene at a rate that is comparable to secondhand smoke.
 - [Another study](#) found that nearly 13% of childhood asthma in the US can be attributed to gas stoves— that is about 650,000 people aged under 18.

Contact List

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Ward Boundaries 2022

