

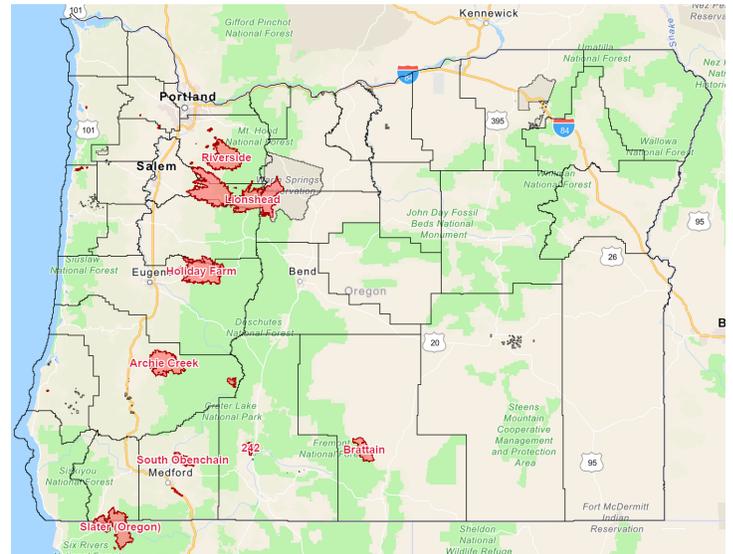
Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding Incentive

Investing in the energy efficiency of Oregon's rebuilt structures

The 2021 Oregon Legislature passed HB 5006, providing the Oregon Department of Energy with \$10.8 million for a program incentivizing energy efficient rebuilding after the 2020 wildfires.

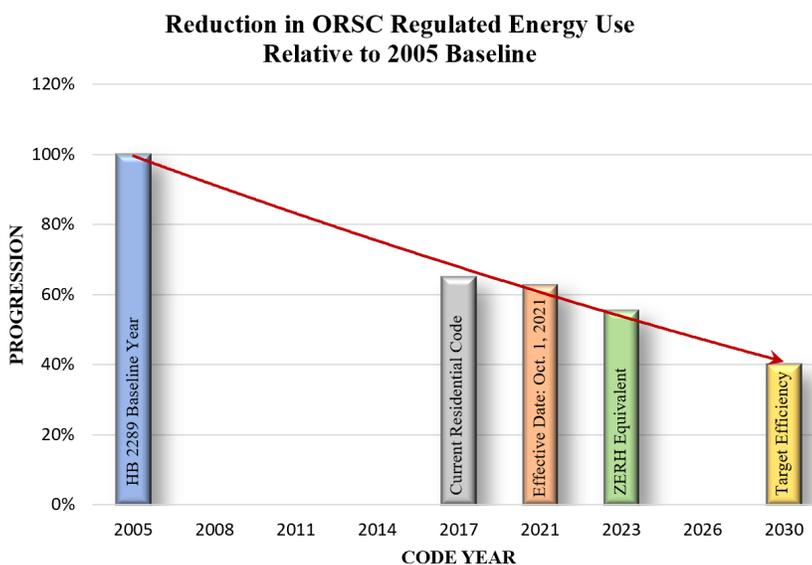
Background

Oregon's Office of Emergency Management determined that 5,109 structures were destroyed in the [Labor Day 2020 wildfires](#). To support quick and affordable reconstruction, the Oregon Legislature passed [HB 2289](#), establishing guidelines and requirements for rebuilding properties affected by the 2020 wildfires. If a property was constructed prior to 2008, the replacement structures must at least comply with the building codes that were in effect on January 1, 2008. Those codes include the 2005 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC), and for commercial structures, the 2007 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC). Structures built after 2008 are required to build at least to the version of the building code that was in effect at the date of original construction.



Oregon Emergency Management GIS Mapping of Wildfires After September 7, 2020

Oregon Building Codes Division Analysis of Reduction in ORSC-Regulated Energy Use, Relative to 2005 Baseline



Building Codes

Oregon's current building codes and market practices have significantly improved the energy efficiency of new structures being built in the state. The chart at left shows the steady [decrease in estimated energy consumption](#) in Oregon's Residential Specialty Code since 2005. ODOE estimates an average new home built to the 2021 ORSC is **30-35 percent** more energy efficient than a home built to code in 2008. Construction market practices and standard equipment efficiencies, such as those for lighting and heating, have improved since 2005.

Taking into account current commercial and residential building practices, 2021 building codes still represent a substantial efficiency improvement compared to 2008 building code requirements. Over the life of a new home, increased efficiency results in significant long-term savings for homeowners, improving the affordability and performance of Oregon's housing stock while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Program Development

ODOE is in the process of designing a program to implement HB 5006. One option under consideration is to offer owners of single-family, multi-family, and commercial buildings an incentive to rebuild to the current building code, including all energy efficiency measures required by the current residential or commercial code.

- Oregon's current residential building code is the 2021 Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC).
- Oregon's current commercial building code is the 2019 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC).

ODOE may also support the replacement of manufactured homes with more energy efficient versions through collaboration with Oregon Housing and Community Services and Energy Trust of Oregon's manufactured homes programs, bolstering resources and opportunities already established in the market.

In designing an energy efficiency incentive program, ODOE is collaborating closely with the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, which also received \$10 million to provide incentives for fire hardening in rebuilt structures. ODOE's goal is to ensure the two agencies work together to support wildfire survivors rebuilding lost structures while protecting themselves from future events.

ODOE is collaborating with Energy Trust of Oregon and consumer-owned utilities in affected areas, identifying opportunities to bolster existing above-code energy efficiency programs. Building on code-related savings with support for additional measures that reduce energy use will provide survivors with significant energy savings over the life of the home, leading to greater long-term affordability, performance and lower GHG emissions.

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