

ODOE Grant Information for City Council discussion Aug. 16, 2023:

At this time, I would like to clear up some misunderstanding around the Oregon Department of Energy Grant.

- This grant was submitted to the City for review by me, as a private citizen, through the newly developed CIP Project Application process. Not as a Planning Commissioner.
- From the first meetings to discuss how Yachats could benefit from this opportunity the Emergency Planning Committee was involved.
- It was understood from the beginning that there are no matching funds required from Yachats if awarded the grant. Within the application an amount of \$40,000.00 has become an issue. There is no mandate that Yachats spend this amount. That does not mean there will be no additional costs at all, there is always the possibility of some costs related to, for example, staff time.
- The second round of grants from the ODOE is for construction costs for the plan as developed through this planning process. The city can apply for up to \$1 million in construction funding. There is no requirement of a match for that funding stream.
- What the city can do is through this planning process design and scope a larger plan and apply for additional funding through other sources to build it.
- Yachats can also develop partnerships with other entities, such as the Yachats Rural Fire District, and they can apply for a construction grant through ODOE as well, creating a larger integrated energy system.

Being prepared for a once in a lifetime devastating tsunami is necessary, but there are more pressing and increasingly consistent, events happening around the globe and here locally. Extreme weather, wildfires, and landslides all can impact the regional electrical grid. Understanding that the possibility of a long-lasting power outage is not only possible, but a probability, is why federal and state governments are making grants such as this ODOE grant available to cities. Small communities located, as Yachats is, in the rural-urban divide will be left to fend for themselves both during and after an event. Our dependence on electricity for communication and operation of key systems looms large when it comes to safety and security of the residents and visitors here.

This is a planning grant. What a planning grant such as this does is it allows a community to work cooperatively to develop plans and options through data collection, integration of community partners, and conversations with residents. This is an amazing opportunity for Yachats to look at how the changing environment and climate is currently affecting us, and how we can best mitigate for probable energy related emergencies.