

Yachats Announces Workshops on Renewable Energy & Service Improvements at Civic Campus

City of Yachats, October 6, 2023: The City of Yachats announces public engagement events this Fall to support a renewable energy and resiliency planning process for Yachats Civic Campus.

In May 2023, The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) awarded the City of Yachats a \$100,000 Renewables & Resiliency grant. This ODOE grant will help with planning, special studies and community involvement to plan for renewable power, power storage, and emergency preparedness that can help reduce risks for this coastal city and be a model for others.

This grant funds a process to build on existing City planning work in the Civic Campus with community input to:

- Anticipate hazard events and the needs of the community.
- Plan renewable energy and power storage improvements to adapt to and recover from hazard events.
- Identify priority projects to reduce power, communication, and access disruptions.
- Tailor improvements for the people of Yachats who rely on essential civic services.

The six-month planning time-frame will include three large public engagement events to gather community input:

- Thursday, October 19, 2023 6:00-8:00 pm - Community Workshop
- Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:00-8:00 pm - Open House
- Thursday, December 14, 2023 6:00-8:00 pm - Online Open House

The City will work with an advisory group of community and city members to advise on goals and criteria for decision-making on priorities that will then be reviewed with the larger community to select a final priority project.

“After seeing how natural disasters have made life especially challenging in places like Puerto Rico and Maui, with the long-term loss of power, clean water and secure locations for basic first aid and information, I’m excited to get to work on this grant. Yachats is in a very isolated location that is vulnerable to disasters like we are seeing more and more all over the world. This project can make us safer and more secure.” – Rick Sant, Yachats Interim City Manager

The process will be guided by the City of Yachats leadership staff and support from energy and design consultants. The planning process will help Yachats to plan for emergency preparedness, reduce power outages and risks of natural hazards, improve access to vital services, and support efficient government operations.

The final outcome will be a Resiliency Plan for the Civic Campus and a community selected “renewable energy and storage priority project” with a clear scope and budget that is eligible for a subsequent ODOE one million dollar grant to build it.

The kick-off workshop will be held in the Commons Multi-purpose Room on Thursday, October 19. The workshop will be an opportunity to collaborate with the City in identifying local needs and priorities, learn about potential civic projects that can improve critical facilities and hazard response, share ideas and help inform decision-making criteria. All are welcome. The event is free, with food and drinks provided by the City.

Learn more about the project, see the schedule and how you can get involved here:

www.yachatsoregon.org/418/Renewable-Energy-and-Resiliency-Planning