

# Energy Resilience at Home

Resilient power is the ability to provide a facility with continuous, reliable power even when the electric grid goes down. Truly resilient power is clean, renewable, and has the ability to provide benefits throughout the year, not just during natural disasters and emergencies.



## UNDERSTAND BACKUP POWER OPTIONS

Backup power systems can reduce impacts of power outages by maintaining power for critical activities but not all options offer the same reliability and benefits. Consider system safety, effects on air quality, and the availability and costs of refueling. Consult with industry professionals when selecting and installing systems.

**Traditional fossil fuel backup systems**, like diesel generators, are well known. However, they create toxic air emissions, rely on fuel deliveries that may be difficult during a disaster, and because they are only designed to run during emergencies, they do not save energy and offer monthly bill savings.

**Solar plus battery storage** can be a [reliable backup power option](#) that does not require refueling or create toxic air pollutants that are dangerous to your health. Systems also reduce monthly energy bills.

- **You may be eligible for Energy Trust of Oregon** ([energytrust.org/solar](https://energytrust.org/solar)) **cash incentives, state rebates or federal tax credits.** The first step is to contact a solar contractor ([energytrust.org/solar](https://energytrust.org/solar)) and find out what incentives you are eligible for and if solar + battery storage is right for your home." Solar trade allies work in and outside of Energy Trust territory.
- **Solar systems alone do not provide power in outages.** [Talk to an installer](#) about how to retrofit an existing system or to ensure a solar system is "storage ready."

**SAFETY FIRST.** Always review and follow manufacturer instructions for installation and maintenance. Improperly installed backup systems can create health and safety hazards. Never install generators indoors.



## REDUCE ENERGY LOSS, WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME

Weatherization measures, including insulating, air sealing, caulking and weather-stripping can reduce energy loss. These measures help maintain livable temperatures for longer in an outage and extend the duration of backup power. They also reduce energy bills and improve air quality and comfort.

- **Mid-Columbia Community Action Council** offers "do it yourself" weatherization training and incentives for income qualified customers. Learn more at [mccac.com/energy-assistance](https://mccac.com/energy-assistance) or call 541- 298-5131.
- **Utilities may offer weatherization assistance.** Contact your utility to identify resources.
- **Energy Trust of Oregon** provides incentives as well as lists of tips and resources that may help: Home Upgrades + Cash Incentives ([energytrust.org/residential/incentives/](https://energytrust.org/residential/incentives/)) Low-Cost & No-Cost Tips ([energytrust.org/residential/low-cost-and-no-cost-tips-to-save-energy-and-money/](https://energytrust.org/residential/low-cost-and-no-cost-tips-to-save-energy-and-money/)) Income Qualified Incentives ([energytrust.org/residential/income-qualified-services/](https://energytrust.org/residential/income-qualified-services/))
- **Personalized Home energy scores**, completed by a qualified energy assessor, can help you understand your home's energy use and identify energy saving activities. Contact Oregon Department of Energy for more information: 503-580-7469 or choose from the list of assessors: [earthadvantage.org => Oregon Home Energy Assessors.](https://earthadvantage.org)



This resource list was created in coordination with the **Hood River County Energy Council.** To learn more about Hood River County's Energy Goals visit [mcedd.org/industry-development/special-projects/](https://mcedd.org/industry-development/special-projects/)