



# Lane County Public Works Department

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March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Public Utility Commission of Oregon  
201 High St. SE #100  
Salem, OR 97301

Regarding: ADV 1245, NW Natural revising Smart Energy commercial enrollment options

Dear Commissioners,

With a population of 378,000, Lane County is the fourth most populous county in Oregon, containing 12 incorporated cities and the third largest metropolitan area in the state, Eugene-Springfield. Spanning from the coast, across the Willamette Valley, to the Cascade Mountains, the county covers more than 4,700 square miles. In order to serve the residents living here, Lane County government has services spanning the entire county. As a result, Lane County has NW Natural accounts at several different facilities in many different locations

In October 2020 Lane County committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of measures in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. This will include reducing the use of fossil fuels and purchasing carbon offsets for those services that cannot be eliminated. One commitment spelled out in the October Climate Action Plan is to participate in the SmartEnergy program for all the natural gas Lane County uses.

ADV 1245 will help Lane County achieve our greenhouse gas reduction goals by allowing NW Natural to aggregate our use so that we reach the 100,000 therm threshold. This allows Lane County to negotiate prices for carbon offsets and to choose the type of offset that best fits our County's goals for community-wide climate action.

Lane County has already begun discussing SmartEnergy options with NW Natural and this change will allow us much more flexibility in the future.

Thank you for your consideration in adopting this proposal from NW Natural, we believe it will benefit all the residents of Lane County.

Sincerely,

Dan Hurley  
Public Works Director  
Lane County  
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