

Federal stimulus money for Portland, Oregon, building upgrades

By [Janie Har](#), [The Oregonian](#)

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(UPDATE BELOW)

The city of Portland will get \$535,000 in federal stimulus money for some seriously unsexy -- but energy-saving -- government building upgrades.

The award is part of \$7.3 million handed to Oregon this month, itself part of a federal jobs and project stimulus package approved by Congress in February. Portland Community College will get \$1 million for a campus retrofit. Multnomah County is slotted for nearly \$1 million for lighting and heating systems, and the county jail laundry another \$375,000 to save on dryer heat. (See the complete state list [here](#).)

About \$15,000 will go toward a revamp of the heating and cooling system at Portland City Hall. The option of slower motor speeds, officials say, should cut the building's electricity bill by \$4,000 a year. The Portland Building next door, which houses several of the city's largest bureaus, will get \$275,000 for new lighting and energy digital-control systems expected to cost \$1.6 million and save \$80,000 a year over the long term.

David Tooze, a senior energy specialist with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, said the electric bill at City Hall was \$84,000 in 2007-08. The much larger Portland Building sucked up 7.5 million kilowatt hours, which came to a \$575,000 bill in 2007-08. The projects are in the early stages.

Four [SmartPark](#) garages downtown will receive \$170,000 for a lighting upgrade and about \$48,000 will go toward a new boiler, cooling tower and heat pumps at the Southwest Third Avenue and Alder Street parking garage retail space. The St. John's Racquet Center will get more than \$27,000 for lighting retrofits.

The money award was announced today, but not committed or spent. All of the projects must be approved by City Council. Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Portland Mayor Sam Adams released separate press statements touting the benefits of these projects.

-- Janie Har