

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** John Wasitynski
Program Offer Type: Operating **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed
Related Programs: 25121B
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Office of Sustainability works to create a just, equitable, livable, resilient, and low carbon community by centering the priorities of frontline communities and advancing sustainability efforts within the County, region, and state.

The Office of Sustainability envisions a community and a world where everyone experiences life in a stable climate, has a safe place to live, and can access clean air, clean water, and the resources they need to thrive. An example of how the mission and vision of the office are put into practice include the development, with community, of the first Climate Justice Plan for the County.

Program Description

The Office of Sustainability focuses on collaborating with community partners to advance policies, projects, initiatives, programs, and research that are responsive to the community's needs. In FY 2024 this approach has been used in developing the first ever Climate Justice Plan for the County. This project started with the development of a framework document, Rooted in Values Guided by Vision: Community-Driven Climate Justice Framework for Multnomah County. The framework document was released in July 2023. Now, a Steering Committee made up of a broad representation of individuals and organizations who can speak to the experience and perspective of frontline communities, along with local government staff, are co-creating the Climate Justice plan. The plan will go from the vision and values of the framework to specific goals and actions.

The Office also leads and supports sustainability efforts within the County departments and programs. In FY 2024 numerous examples of this collaboration are evident. The Office collaborated with Facilities and Property Management to develop bird safe construction standards and an EV charger strategy. The Office also continued the collaboration with the Department of County Human Services implementing the Wood Stove Exchange Program and securing an additional \$1.3 million in grants to fund additional heat pump exchange over the coming three years. Finally, the Office continued to seek out grant opportunities, with a successful collaboration with the Health Department resulting in a \$1 million EPA grant.

The Office works with County leadership to advance County's sustainability goals. This was evidenced in June of 2023 when the Chair and Board of County Commissioners, with support from the Office of Sustainability and the County Attorney's Office, initiated a lawsuit against major fossil fuel companies. The lawsuit seeks to hold large fossil fuel companies accountable for the damages arising from the 2021 Pacific Northwest Heat Dome, one of the most deadly and destructive human-made weather disasters in American history. Other policy decisions supported by the Office included the renaming of the Sauvie Island Bridge to the Wapato Bridge, opposition to Zenith Oil terminal, and policy solutions to the risk of toxic gasses stored in seismically unstable areas.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Number of unique County employees engaged with programming offered by the Office of Sustainability.	629	800	400	800
Outcome	Decrease in community wide greenhouse gas emissions over 1990 levels based on trend line analysis.	21%	20%	21%	22%
Output	Total number of advisory committee meeting volunteer hours	158	200	175	200
Outcome	Percent Energy burdened Multnomah County Households	23%	24%	23%	22%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Greenhouse gas emissions data are several years lagging, in this case the most recent year for which data is available is 2021. An individual or family is considered energy burdened if they spend 6% or more of their income on energy costs. Energy burdened household data comes from the Oregon Department of Energy, biannual report.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Personnel	\$969,912	\$7,000	\$1,023,634	\$0
Contractual Services	\$17,390	\$42,749	\$17,392	\$340,000
Materials & Supplies	\$32,360	\$0	\$32,360	\$60,000
Internal Services	\$45,508	\$251	\$50,538	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,065,170	\$50,000	\$1,123,924	\$400,000
Program Total:	\$1,115,170		\$1,523,924	
Program FTE	6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$400,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$400,000

Explanation of Revenues

State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Supplemental Environmental Projects program - \$400,000. The program allows for a portion of environmental penalties to be used locally for environmental remediation. In this case penalties from a Title V air quality permit violation will be paid to Multnomah County for the Wood Burning Exchange Program.

Local grant funding from the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District ended in FY 2024 and The Office of Sustainability will not be reapplying for it. In FY 2024 it was budgeted at \$50,000.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 10018 Office of Sustainability

In the year ahead the Office will focus on completing the Climate Justice Plan, explore new funding opportunities, and pursue climate resilience initiatives in East Multnomah County, among other priorities.