

Department: Nondepartmental

Program Contact: John Wasitynski

Program Offer Type: Existing

Program Offer Stage: Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Multnomah County Office of Sustainability was established in 2010 to help plan, implement and coordinate the County's environmental sustainability policies and programs. The Office of Sustainability's mission is to work with County Departments and the community to promote programs and policies that lead to a more equitable, prosperous, and environmentally sound Multnomah County. We envision a Multnomah County that is: Equitable, Livable, Healthy, Resilient, and Low-Carbon. Equity and environmental justice are core guiding principles that shape the office's approach to policy and programs.

Program Description

The Office of Sustainability works with the community and County departments to develop unique partnerships that help make Multnomah County a better place to live, work, and do business. The Office is not only committed to a healthy planet but also firmly roots our work in the County's mission to protect the most vulnerable in our community. This value shapes how we approach sustainability, an approach based on achieving social, economic, and environmental justice.

Major focus areas for FY 2023 include implementing the Climate Justice Initiative, implementation of the Commercial Building Property Assessed Clean Energy program (PropertyFit), planting trees in low income low tree canopy neighborhoods in Gresham, advancing the County's ability to engage in Environmental Justice work through the development of the Board adopted Environmental Justice Snapshot, increase community resilience in the face of a warming climate, pursue policies that reduce human exposure to harmful air pollutants, and supporting a culture of resource-conservation in County operations. The Office will accomplish these goals by working with the County's elected leaders to develop and respond to new policies; by providing technical support to County departments and community organizations; through direct program delivery; partnership and co-creation with frontline-led community based organizations and community members; and through research, data analysis, and reporting.

The Office will lead the Climate Action Plan update in a new direction, one fully rooted in a community vision of a just transition and that centers frontline community voices. This reimagining of climate action rooted in environmental justice and committed to a community led process of co-creation will produce a new type of climate action plan based on a community driven consensus on how to build a more resilient and decarbonized community. The Office of Sustainability will also work to implement the Board's commitment to 100% renewable energy by 2050 through a partnership with business and community to develop sound strategies that will decarbonize our economy and build wealth and autonomy in our communities. The Office will prioritize the decarbonization of the electric grid.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Number of unique County employees engaged with programming offered by the Office of Sustainability.	1,032	500	684	800
Outcome	Decrease in community wide greenhouse gas emissions over 1990 levels based on trend line analysis.	25%	17%	20%	20%
Output	Total number of advisory committee meeting volunteer hours	216	100	200	200
Outcome	Percent Energy burdened Multnomah County Households	24%	24%	24%	24%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Greenhouse gas emissions data are several years lagging, in this case the most recent year for which data is available is 2020. These data are also reported on a calendar year basis. Since 2020 data are impacted by the pandemic induced economic slow down, an emissions rebound is anticipated. 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 Oregon Department of Energy biannual report.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

The Office of Sustainability will support the County's ability to obtain grant funding from both the state and Federal government in light of unpresidented funding being directed at emissions reduction, pollution reduction, and environmental justice communities.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Personnel	\$888,936	\$7,000	\$969,912	\$7,000
Contractual Services	\$16,558	\$42,749	\$17,390	\$42,749
Materials & Supplies	\$30,796	\$0	\$32,360	\$0
Internal Services	\$57,644	\$251	\$45,508	\$251
Total GF/non-GF	\$993,934	\$50,000	\$1,065,170	\$50,000
Program Total:	\$1,043,934		\$1,115,170	
Program FTE	6.00	0.00	6.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$251 in indirect revenues.

Local - The Office of Sustainability has secured grant funding from the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation district, \$50,000 for the CY 2023.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2023: 10018A Office of Sustainability

This program combines 10018C Climate Resilience Coordinator from FY 2023.

In FY 2023, the Office added a Senior Climate Resilience Policy Analyst position. This position will build on ongoing work to address community vulnerabilities to the impacts of the climate crisis. This will include partnerships with Multnomah County Communications, Emergency Management, Departments, other jurisdictional partners, and the community. The impacts of global heating are dramatically altering the local environment and creating unprecedented risks to community safety. This requires renewed emphasis on partnership, policy development, and program implementation.