



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



Office of Sustainability

multco.us/sustainability

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



2025 TEAM MEMBERS



John Wasiutynski
Director

- Leads air quality, green infrastructure, and fossil fuels policy
- Policy development, research, and strategy



Sara Mihm
Sustainability Coordinator

- Leads communications
- Leads employee engagement
- Events, educational resources, and online content



Tim Lynch
Senior Climate Policy Analyst

- Leads internal climate and sustainability policy
- Leads community partnerships on climate justice
- Policy research and analysis



Silvia Tanner
Senior Energy Policy &
Legal Analyst

- Leads clean and just energy transition policy
- Leads regulatory engagement at the public utility commission
- Leads energy justice community engagement
- Policy research and analysis



Nicole Buchanan
Senior Climate Resilience
Policy Analyst

- Leads climate resilience policy
- Funding strategy
- Community outreach and engagement
- Policy research and analysis



Monique Smiley
Sustainability Engagement
Specialist

- Leads on Climate Justice Plan
- Community engagement
- Advisory committee and events coordinator

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY **FUNCTIONS**

External Policy & Community Engagement

- Research, gap analysis, and opportunity assessment
- Work with County elected officials and Government Affairs
- Coordinate with external partners
- Convene across departments
- Community engagement

Examples

- Climate Justice Plan
- Climate Preparation Plan
- Policies: Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub (CEI Hub), Ross Island Harmful Algal Bloom
- Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation
- East County Resilience Network
- East County & Portland Learn Share Do Fair

Internal Policy

- Research, gap analysis, and opportunity assessment
- Work with County elected officials
- Coordinate with Departmental leadership
- Convene teams across departments
- Employee engagement
- Reporting and tracking

Examples

- Green Building Policy
- Resource Conservation Report
- Clean Air Construction Standard
- Electric Vehicle Strategy
- Resilience Hubs

Programs

- Directly engage with community partners
- Directly engage with community members
- Secure grant funding to expand or sustain programs
- Leadership development
- Workforce development
- Support community service providers

Examples

- Wood Burning Exchange Program
- Weatherization
- CROPS
- PropertyFit
- Green Gresham/Healthy Gresham Tree Planting
- Summer Internships

Build Capacity

- Provide subject-matter expertise
- Connect resources across departments
- Coordinate funding strategies to advance projects and policy priorities
- Leverage external partners & Resources
- Provide policy support to elected officials
- Coordinate County-wide strategic initiatives

Examples

- Elective Pay for Clean Energy Projects
- East Multnomah County Resilience Initiative
- Vance Vision & Rockwood Green
- Green Team
- EcoChallenge and Earth Month



MISSION

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.

.....

Core Beliefs

Government has a responsibility to address and reverse the past and present harms of racism and colonialism, which have led to environmental injustice and the destabilization of our climate and our community.

Multnomah County is on ceded tribal land and has government-to-government treaty obligations that must be honored.

Acting with transparency, accepting feedback, owning our actions, and providing reliable follow-through are key to rebuilding trust between community and government, and advancing environmental justice.

Solutions that are culturally-responsive and community-driven are the most effective and enduring ways to address the root causes of injustice in our community.

We recognize that racial inequity has been baked into our systems, and is pervasive across all indicators. Leading with race isn't exclusive -- we also recognize all other groups that are marginalized -- but we start with race because that's where the deepest inequities reside, and then we layer in other aspects of marginalization and name the ways those intersect with race.

We recognize the interconnection between the health and stability of Earth's ecosystems with the health and wellbeing of our communities.

VISION

We envision 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.

.....

Approach

Centering the priorities, needs, and solutions of environmental justice communities.

Leading with race in our decision making and internal practices. Leading with race means we're explicit about identifying race as the primary driver of inequity in our systems.

Working with County leadership to advance this vision within the County, region, and state.

Collaborating with community partners to advance policies, projects, initiatives, programs, and research that are responsive to the community's needs.

Leading and supporting sustainability efforts within County departments and programs.



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY **WHAT WE DO**

Climate Justice Plan

Multnomah County's Climate Justice Plan (CJP) is a community-driven plan, creating a shared vision and roadmap for climate justice. Developed collaboratively by community members and local government, the CJP uses a justice-centered approach to address the local impacts of the climate crisis and prioritize the needs of those disproportionately affected. It aims to provide a clear path for policymakers, community organizations, and individuals to reduce pollution, rectify environmental injustices, and enhance preparedness for climate change.



Clean Energy Transition & Energy Justice

OS works in coalition with environmental justice advocates to advance a clean and just energy transition by advocating for appropriate, human-centered programs that address energy burden, scrutinizing utility rate increase proposals, and working to ensure that utilities comply with state decarbonization targets and that they prioritize community benefits in the process.

Climate Crisis Response & Resilience

OS works with county departments, community-based organizations, and resilience networks to advance strategies and investments to build community resilience to extreme weather events and other climate threats through the development of community resilience hubs, securing funding to advance resilience-building goals, outreach, and education, and tree planting to address urban heat islands.

Air & Water Quality

OS works with the Health Department, County leadership, and community organizations to address air quality issues, particularly hazardous air pollutants caused by wood burning and diesel engine emissions. In addition, OS is a partner in finding solutions to help prevent water contamination from fuel spills and other harmful chemicals, address harmful algal blooms, and advocate for habitat restoration, and fish protection.



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY WHAT WE DO

CROPS

The CROPS Program is a Multnomah County initiative that promotes culturally-specific farming, business development, healthy eating, and community building through a partnership with Feed'Em Freedom, a Black-led Regional Food Hub that focuses on building capacity for Black and Global Majority producers, ranchers, fishers and herbalists.



Property Fit

This innovative financing program enables owners of commercial, industrial, and multifamily properties to improve their buildings through energy efficiency, renewable energy, and seismic upgrades. OS oversees the contractual partnership with Prosper Portland that implements the program on the County's behalf.

Enterprise Sustainability

The community expects Multnomah County to be a leader in sustainability. OS supports the County's commitment to green buildings, energy conservation, reuse and recycling, green procurement, electric vehicles, and decarbonization.

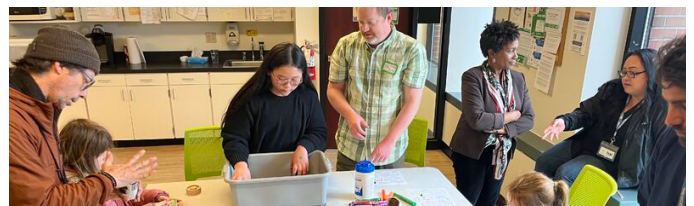
Research

OS researches issues that affect the health of the environment and the community, and works with partners to advocate for solutions.



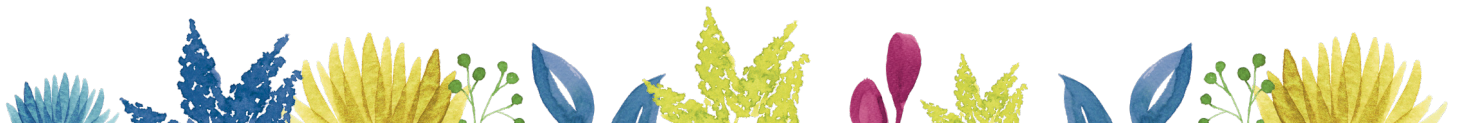
Community Engagement

OS increases community connections, fosters collaboration, builds partnerships, and champions shared priorities with environmental justice communities. To ensure access to resilience-building information, resources, and technical assistance, OS convenes multi-stakeholder work groups, hosts community events and resource fairs, and secures funding for targeted outreach. OS also provides staffing for the County's Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation.



Employee Engagement

Through education, events, and collaborations, OS builds County employee awareness of resource conservation and issues that help connect climate change and public health, and provides ways for staff to engage with the County's mission and values related to environmental justice.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

&

CLIMATE



CLIMATE JUSTICE PLAN



Summary

The Climate Justice Plan (CJP) builds upon Multnomah County's previous Climate Action Plan, representing a significant step forward. As the first plan of its kind for Multnomah County, it establishes a shared vision and roadmap for achieving climate justice by 2030. Rooted in community-driven solutions, the CJP reflects a positive, collective vision developed collaboratively by community members and local government staff. Recognizing the disproportionate impacts of climate change, the CJP prioritizes solutions that address the needs of those most vulnerable to the climate crisis while also benefiting the entire community. Through collaborative efforts focused on clean air and water, expanded tree canopy, clean and renewable energy, and increased community engagement, the CJP aims to create a more equitable and thriving future for all.

Background

The last Climate Action Plan was jointly adopted by Multnomah County and the City of Portland in 2015 and established long term goals of reducing greenhouse emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. While the plan led with a climate justice lens and was guided by an equity workgroup of six community based organizations, the new Climate Justice Plan employs an entirely new approach that shifts away from the traditional government planning process by centering the voices and expertise of frontline communities. This approach seeks to build spaces where community and government show up as equals, recognize the unique roles that community and government play in affecting change, and identify opportunities where collective impact can address the climate crisis.



Partners

A Steering Committee leads the plan development, bringing a range of perspectives and experiences to ensure it is equitable, inclusive, and effective. The plan builds on years of community engagement. Steering committee members include:

- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
- Coalition of Communities of Color
- Community Energy Project
- MultCo Youth Commission
- Neighbors for Clean Air
- NW Energy Coalition
- Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Portland NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Committee
- Rahab's Sisters
- Self Enhancement, Inc.
- Unite Oregon
- Verde
- Multnomah County

Impact

The CJP is rooted in community values and a shared power model that shifts away from the traditional government planning process by centering the voices of frontline communities and analyzing community data to identify emergent themes, values, and a vision. It will be a foundation for community members and organizations who have a role and responsibility in organizing and advocating for climate justice in Portland and Multnomah County.

What's next

The Climate Justice Plan is currently under development and will soon be released for public comment. The plan will then be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their review and adoption in Summer 2025. Once adopted, the Office of Sustainability will work with internal and external partners, including community-based organizations, to support policymakers in implementing the plan's action items.

AIR QUALITY



Summary

Poor air quality in Multnomah County puts people at risk. County residents get sick, miss school, miss work, and die early because of exposure to particulate matter (PM) and air toxics. Three sources of PM and air toxics are of primary concern: diesel particulate matter (DPM) from both on-road and off-road sources (construction equipment, freight movement, etc.); wood smoke from home wood burning and commercial kitchens; and industrial sources of air toxics. Multnomah County can take action locally and push for statewide solutions to protect people and the environment from the impacts of air pollution.

Background

Point (industrial), area (wood smoke), and mobile (diesel equipment) sources of air toxics create localized neighborhood-scale issues that put particular groups of people at risk. In neighborhoods close to rail yards, highways, and/or factories, air quality can be particularly bad. Air quality, however, is an issue across the County, with DPM putting the largest number of people at risk.

Partners

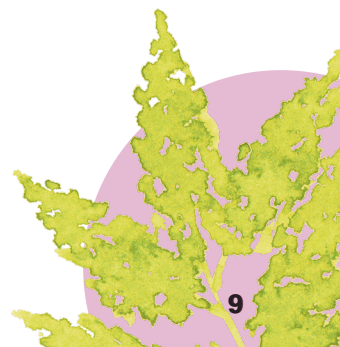
To advance policies that protect the environment and public health from air pollution, the County has partnered with community-based organizations like Neighbors for Clean Air, BluePrint Foundation, and APANO. We also partner with local and state agencies such as Washington County, the City of Portland, Metro, Oregon Health Authority, and the Department of Environmental Quality.

Impact

Air toxics have well-documented toxicological effects that can include cancer, cardiopulmonary disease, low-weight and preterm births, and neurological damage, depending on the toxic. DPM alone results in significant public health impacts in Oregon including 460 premature deaths; 145 non-fatal heart attacks; and 25,910 work days lost.

What's Next

Multnomah County is pursuing a range of local, regional, and statewide policy initiatives aimed at addressing this problem. Statewide policies include: advocating for stronger regulation of diesel emissions; and the rigorous implementation of state industrial permitting rules. Local efforts include: establishing an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Portland to enforce the gas leaf blower phase-out and continue outreach and education; pursuing more funding for wood stove exchange; and continuing to implement the Clean Air Construction Program.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Summary

OS collaborates with internal and external partners to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable community members against climate change impacts. This multi-faceted approach includes empowering local organizations—non-profits, community groups, houses of worship, and mutual aid networks—by providing strategic support and technical assistance to transform their spaces into community resilience hubs, develop knowledge on climate threats and resources, apply for funding, and participate in policy development and advocacy. OS also focuses on direct interventions like increasing access to air conditioning and air purifiers for vulnerable households and planting urban trees to mitigate the urban heat island effect. OS convenes and provides technical assistance to the East County Resilience Network and engages with community-led networks, such as the Centennial Community Resilience Network and ThriveEast to enhance emergency preparedness in underserved areas.

Partners

OS frequently collaborates with the Department of County Human Services, Health Department, Government Relations, Department of Community Assets, community resilience networks, community-based organizations, and environmental non-profits.

Background

Climate change has altered the Oregon we know and love, including more extreme heat, droughts, winter storms, wildfires, floods, and landslides. The effects are wide-ranging in our community, like damage to property, lost income, ecosystem damage, injury, illness, premature death, and intangible impacts like concern over what could come next. These impacts are not distributed evenly; the core injustice of climate change is that the people who contributed the least to the problem are harmed the most. OS has worked on resilience building in a variety of capacities for

over a decade. However, with the addition of the Senior Climate Resilience Policy Analyst position in 2023, OS has expanded its reach in this area through increased community engagement and going after available funding sources to ensure that resilience priorities are funded.

Impact

Since 2023, OS has led or supported the preparation of 11 grant applications and secured over \$4.3 million in federal and state funding to increase climate resilience while reducing air pollution and carbon emissions. Notable awards include a \$1 million EPA Environmental Justice G2G grant, a \$600,000 ODOE Heat Pump Deployment grant, \$2 million for Weatherization Innovation, a \$100,000 ODOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, and \$600,000 in Elective Pay clean energy tax credits. OS also played a pivotal role in convening partners to develop a successful \$3.4 million PCEF application to establish Morningstar Baptist Church, serving the Black and African American community in Cully, as a community resilience hub. Furthermore, OS was instrumental in a statewide coalition that advocated for and secured a \$10 million statewide Resilience Hubs and Networks grant program during the 2023 legislative session.

What's Next

OS will continue to work with partners to identify and apply for funding to advance the county's climate resilience priorities; provide technical support to community-based organizations and mutual aid groups that provide services to the community during climate emergencies; advocate for continued investments in climate resilience initiatives; and coordinate with county departments to deepen relationships with community organizations, improve service delivery, and remove barriers to accessing services. Climate resilience will also be incorporated as a key goal within the Climate Justice Plan to better facilitate a coordinated response across government and community.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE EVENTS



Summary

The East County Learn Share Do Fair is a large-scale community event that connects people to each other, place, and community resources. As its name suggests, events are designed as a space for education, conversation, and action. Elements of the events are entirely free to community members, and include exhibitors whose work relates to resilience and resources, a Repair Cafe, a clothing swap, creative reuse, household sharps, batteries, and medication collection, and practical giveaways like air purifiers, bike helmets, lunch, pantry food, and chiropractic services.

Background

The City of Portland's Fix-it-Fair recently sunsetted, providing an opportunity for Multnomah County to help shape a new community event with a foundation built on climate resilience; preparing our community for the extremes of climate change and addressing public health concerns as a result. As an co-organizer of for this event, OS provides a strong and collaborative voice to ensure residents, including our most vulnerable, and culturally- and linguistically-diverse neighbors are included in a helpful, fun, and engaging gathering.

Partners

OS organizes the events with the City of Gresham, the City of Portland, and Community Services Network.

Impact

Since 2023, the East County Learn Share Do Fair has served approximately 1,100 members of our community. Of those who shared their information, attendees included people who speak English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, and Chinese, and their household income hovers at \$60,000 and under.

In 2025 alone, PGE enrolled 4 households and re-enrolled/updated the two year expiration for 7 households. The Repair Cafe welcomed 57 participants and 126 items were addressed.



What's Next

The Learn Share Do Fair will be held in Portland for the first time in May 2025 at Floyd Light Middle School, which is in District 3. This neighborhood:

- Includes 42% of people living there who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color,
- Is an urban heat island,
- Has a majority of people renting
- Is home to older adults, a majority of whom live alone.

Topic areas that will be enhanced in the Portland and future East County events include utility bill discount programs, planting trees and native plants, and weatherization.



CROPS



Summary

CROPS (Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares) is a Multnomah County initiative that promotes culturally specific farming, business development, healthy eating, and community building. Now in its 17th season, CROPS is managed in partnership with Feed'em Freedom, a Black-led Regional Food Hub that focuses on sourcing from Black and Global Majority producers, ranchers, fishers, and herbalists. The CROPS initiative is located in Troutdale on 3 acres of County-owned land.

Background

The farm was conceived as an innovative way of using vacant County land to grow vegetables for communities in need. Since its inception in 2010, its purpose has expanded to serve as a demonstration site for innovative farming practices that also promotes business development for Black and African-immigrant farmers, while continuing to support communities in need through community-supported agriculture that is subsidized through the Oregon Health Authority and other partners. Over the last two years, the farm was updated with an access road, barn, greenhouse, fruit tree orchard, wash pack station, an irrigation system, and more.



Partners

The farm is managed by Feed'em Freedom Foundation and Mudbone Grown. These culturally specific community-serving organizations have a wide range of partnerships with schools, businesses, and other government agencies.



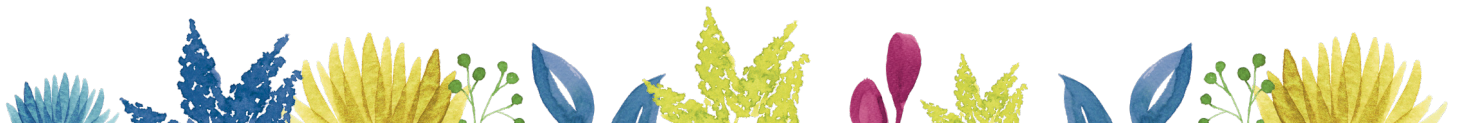
Impact

Under Feed'em Freedom's leadership the farm has become a hub for entrepreneurship, training, and community building. Feed'em Freedom leverages the CROPS farm and shared resources to help new farmers gain access to land and markets.



What's Next

Feed'em Freedom is deploying state-of-the-art farming equipment at the CROPS location including a hydroponic "freight farm" and biodigester. Combined with the greenhouse and other farm infrastructure Feed'em Freedom will not only grow food for sale and distribution through their food pantries but also work to connect new farmers with markets.



CLEAN

& JUST

ENERGY

TRANSITION



GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION



Summary

Since 2001 Multnomah County has been working on addressing the root cause of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions from the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels. To keep the planet habitable, fossil fuel use and associated GHG emissions must functionally stop by 2050. The Board of County Commissioners has recognized that Multnomah County should lead the way locally in addressing GHG emissions.



MIDLAND LIBRARY HAS BEEN RENOVATED WITH SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND SYSTEMS SUCH AS HIGH-EFFICIENCY HVAC WITH VRF AND ERV, AS WELL AS LED LIGHTING, ESTIMATED TO SAVE THE LIBRARY 85,600 KWH PER YEAR.

Background

Eliminating fossil fuel use by transitioning to renewable energy will lead to better air quality and eliminate the vast majority of the County's GHG emissions. Multnomah County, in close partnership with the City of Portland, has a track record of emissions reduction through the implementation of new policies and practices. However, we need much steeper reductions to meet our goals, and we must pursue emissions reductions through strategies that also make our communities healthier and more resilient. These strategies include targeted energy efficiency and heat pump deployment in low income communities, development of new renewable resources that lower bills for energy burden households, policies that directly limit the use of fossil fuels, and a regional transportation system that supports safety, access and improved air quality by reducing fossil fuel use.

Partners

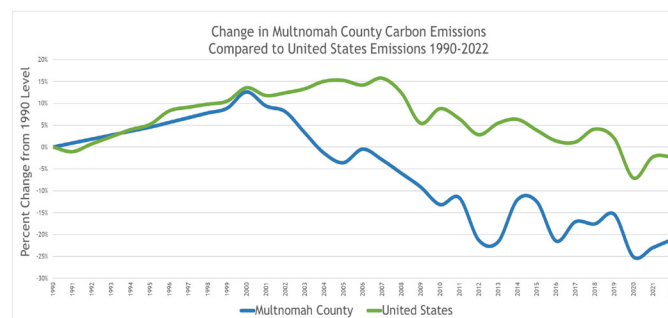
The Cities of Portland, Gresham and other local/regional governments; Environmental Justice organizations like Verde, the Coalition of Communities of Color, Community Energy Project, and Environmental Advocacy Organizations like Climate Solutions, 350 PDX, the Green Energy Institute, among others.



EAGLE CREEK FIRE 2017. CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES RISK OF WILDFIRE AND ITS SMOKE.

Impact

GHG emissions in Multnomah County peaked in 2000. As of 2022 (most recent data available) the County has successfully reduced countywide emissions 21% below 1990 baseline levels. Through significant advocacy in regulatory and legislative spaces, new statewide programs are supporting local emissions reduction, including: HB 2021 and HB 2475, Climate Protection Program, Oregon Community Heat Pump Deployment Program, Clean Fuels Program, and many other new and ongoing policies and programs.



What's Next

The Climate Justice Plan will set updated GHG emissions targets in line with those of the City of Portland and the International Panel on Climate Change. OS is actively engaged with policy work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, both at the local level, and through the State Legislature.

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION & ENERGY POVERTY



Summary

In 2017, the Board of Commissioners adopted clean and just energy transition goals in recognition that energy is both our largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions and critical to the health and wellbeing of the community we serve. A suite of policies at the state level are consistent with those goals, including decarbonization targets for the energy utilities that serve us, and their regulator receiving authority to consider the level of burden imposed by energy costs. To realize the potential of those policies and get closer to our County goals, we must ensure compliance with those decarbonization targets, scrutinize utility rate increase proposals, and advocate for appropriate, human-centric programs that address energy burden. We can continue working in coalition to ensure that utilities decarbonize in ways that benefit, not burden, environmental justice communities, provide reliable and resilient service, and adopt programs, policies, and practices that recognize energy as a human right.



Partners

We work closely in coalition with environmental justice advocates like the Coalition of Communities of Color, Community Energy Project, Verde, and the Oregon Just Transition Alliance. We also work with the Citizens Utility Board of Oregon, and with energy and environmental advocates like the NW Energy Coalition and Climate Solutions.

Background

Most of the energy we use in Multnomah County continues to come from fossil fuels. As energy utility costs continue rising, 27% of Multnomah County households are now energy burdened despite years-long, collective advocacy to establish discount programs available to low-income households. With hotter summers, and more frequent severe weather events, the importance of reducing our energy-related emissions while simultaneously securing affordable access to energy for health and wellbeing continues to grow.

Impact

Our coalition work supported the passage of HB 2021 (2021) setting decarbonization targets for our electric utilities, and HB 2475 (2021) enabling bill discount programs and other approaches to reducing energy burden. We have worked to ensure low enrollment barriers for bill discount programs, stronger disconnection protections, and other regulatory wins on access to energy. We are a key stakeholder in enhancing procedural justice in energy spaces, and in ensuring that community-benefitting projects are central to utility decarbonization.

What's Next

In 2025, we will advocate for the permanent adoption of temporary disconnection protections adopted for this winter heating season, as well as for better programs to reduce energy burden. We will remain invested in breaking down procedural engagement barriers in energy spaces, and will continue to monitor, and advocate for, more decisive utility action on decarbonization and community-benefitting resources. Finally, we will continue to monitor utility rate increase requests.



MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY & SUSTAINABILITY



ENTERPRISE SUSTAINABILITY



Summary

OS promotes sustainable practices and decarbonizing County operations including employee engagement, green buildings, energy conservation, and fleet electrification. OS staff provide education, technical support, and resources for recycling and sustainability initiatives for County departments and programs. Through employee engagement campaigns, communications, and reporting OS fosters a culture of resource stewardship among County employees.

Background

Multnomah County is committed to protecting people and natural resources while prudently stewarding public resources. OS works with County leadership, departments, and programs to advance Board-adopted sustainability priorities, including reducing the County's energy costs through smart investments in operational efficiency. OS also works directly with departments and programs to advance sustainability initiatives, provides internal customer services, and develops educational campaigns supporting organizational values and goals.

Partners

OS collaborates frequently with the Board of County Commissioners, department leadership, County programs, and all County staff. Monthly meetings are held to facilitate the Green Team Employee Resource Group and bimonthly meetings with the Climate Leadership Team.

Impact

Through efforts like the green building policy, strategic energy management, employee engagement campaigns, and outreach, County operations generate fewer greenhouse gas emissions and use less energy. As of FY23, greenhouse gas emissions were 67 percent below the 2007 baseline year and the County's energy efficiency has improved despite more square footage.

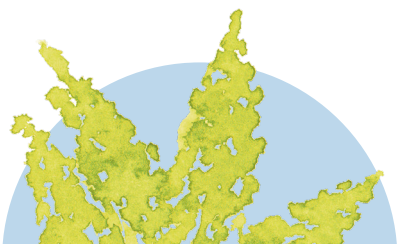
OS engaged at least 2,159 county staff in FY 2024 through educational activities and even more through countywide internal communications.



MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S FIRST NET ZERO BUILDING: LIBRARY OPERATIONS CENTER

What's Next

OS is working with county departments to develop an electric vehicle transition plan. In addition, OS continues to look for opportunities to build new features for County-owned facilities that strengthen climate resilience like solar-powered micro-grids. In 2025 OS will collaborate with the Employee Wellness Program to launch a five-part series of events supporting mental health, sustainable living, and wellbeing. And, OS will expand the East County Learn Share Do Fair into Portland, building climate resilience leading up to summertime through fun community events.



ACSI

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION

Summary

The Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI) provides advice and advocacy to Multnomah County on sustainability issues affecting our community, the environment, and the economy. Members of the ACSI provide recommendations on safeguarding public health in the face of extreme weather, sustainable government operations, improving social equity, and promoting a healthy, prosperous and resilient community. The committee includes 13 residents who live and/or work in Multnomah County. ACSI meets quarterly in addition to subcommittee meetings throughout the year.

Background

ACSI was established in 2010 as a committee that advises the Board of County Commissioners and the Office of Sustainability. Members can serve up to 3 two-year terms and are appointed by the Multnomah County Chair. Members are experts in sustainability, equity, energy, air quality, law, affordable housing, transportation, youth employment, worker rights, and many other areas.

Partners

ACSI partners with numerous departments across the County to advance equitable sustainability solutions. Partners include Environmental Health, Department of Community Services, Department of County Human Services, and Government Affairs, among others. ACSI meetings are open to the



public, and subcommittees collaborate with experts and interested community members.

Impact

ACSI has been instrumental in bringing key issues to the board, often through an annual letter and presentation. Key initiatives advanced by ACSI include the renaming of the Sauvie Island Bridge to Wapato Bridge, County Green Building Policy, Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy, energy justice, building code standards, the impacts of diesel particulate matter, and quality affordable housing criteria and its impacts on long-term viability of affordable housing.

What's Next

Current work includes thought partnership on energy justice including regulatory and legislative advocacy, supporting the development of the Climate Justice Plan, exploring new opportunities to address air quality concerns, protecting access to culturally specific foods, and considering policies that protect “rights of nature”. New issues will also emerge through ongoing collaboration between ACSI members and County Commissioners and County staff.



HALF A CENTURY OF SUSTAINABILITY

AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY

● Resolution ● Administrative Procedure/Executive Order ● Campaign/Initiative ● Report ● Ordinance ● Event

Climate Action. Energy. Green Buildings

- 2000** ● ● Authorized the purchase of renewable energy for County bridges and libraries
- 2001** ● Approved joint City of Portland & Multnomah County Local Action Plan on Global Warming
- 2002** ● Adopted a Travel Smart; employee commute options and parking strategies
Adopted an energy policy and energy reduction goal for County
- 2004** ● Adopted a high-performance green building policy for County buildings
- 2005** ● Supported legislation to promote the use and production of biofuels in Oregon
- 2007** ● Authorized the development of solar energy projects on County facilities
Initiated the update of the 2001 Portland Multnomah Local Action Plan on Global Warming, formed a citizen-advisory committee to support the work
- 2008** ● Adopted the LEED-Gold and high-performance green building policy for the County
● Approved the construction of the Central Library Green Roof Project
● ● Authorized the purchase of renewable energy for County bridges and libraries
● Adopted the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration with Clackamas County
● Authorized the installation of solar PV systems at Yeon & Juvenile Justice Center Buildings
- 2009** ● ● Adopted the 2009 Climate Action Plan in partnership with the City of Portland
- 2010** ● Completed Mead Building Eco-Roof
- 2011** ● Held a community Climate Short Film Contest and award ceremony
- 2012** ● East County Courthouse certified LEED-Gold
● Report: Climate Change and Public Health Preparation Plan
- 2014** ● Adopted the joint County and City of Portland Climate Change Preparation Strategy & Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- 2015** ● Adopted the joint County and City of Portland 2015 Climate Action Plan
● Established a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) program
● Adopted a fossil fuel divestment policy for Multnomah County
- 2016** ● Adopted resolution opposed to oil shipments by rail
● Established a Commercial Property Assessed Seismic Rehabilitation Program
● Sellwood Bridge Project completed, on track to receive Bronze Greenroad Certification
- 2017** ● Adopted a resolution affirming Multnomah County's commitment to meeting community-wide energy needs with 100 percent renewable energy by 2050
- 2018** ● Developed "Roadmap to Solar for Affordable Housing" in collaboration with Portland State University's Institute of Sustainable Solutions
- 2019** Filed Amicus Brief to be a friend of the court in a long-running lawsuit on climate change pitting Oregon teens against the state they call home
- 2020** ● Designated an enforcement mechanism for Property Fit Program, declared an emergency
- 2021** ● Report: June 2021 Heat Event Preliminary Findings and Action Steps
- 2021** ● Reaffirmed Multnomah County's Commitment to fossil fuel-free buildings, affirmed support to update of Multnomah County's LEED Gold and High-Performance Green Building Policy

HALF A CENTURY OF SUSTAINABILITY

AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY

● Resolution ● Administrative Procedure/Executive Order ● Campaign/Initiative ● Report ● Ordinance ● Event

Climate Action, Energy, Green Buildings, cont.

- 2022** ● Report: Health Impacts from Excessive Heat Events in Multnomah County, Oregon, 2021
- 2023** Completed Cook Plaza Resilience Hub Assessment
- 2023** ● Filed a lawsuit against several of the largest fossil fuel and coal-producing corporations, seeking to hold them accountable for damages from the 2021 heat dome
- 2023** ● Publication: Rooted in Values Guided by Vision, Community-Driven Climate Justice Framework for Multnomah County
- Publication: Cultivating Justice in a Changing Climate: A Collection of Stories and Art Rooted in Multnomah County's Communities of Color zine
- 2024** Co-created 12 universal goals for the Climate Justice Plan
Enrolled two Multnomah County projects in the Clean Air Construction Program

Air Quality

- 2007** ● Adopted a policy to reduce Benzene pollution
- Adopted County policies to reduce idling in County fleet vehicles to reduce pollution
- 2009** Awarded EPA Grants for Clean Diesel Retrofits for County Fleet
- 2011** ● ● Adopted a No Idling Policy and created the Idling Gets You Nowhere campaign
- 2012** ● Completed clean air retrofits on County diesel equipment and East County Courthouse contractor equipment
- 2017** ● Expressed support for accelerating the county's transition from the use of gas-powered leaf blowers at county facilities and for convening a workgroup
- 2018** ● Affirmed Multnomah County's intent to establish a clean diesel procurement policy for County construction projects
- Adopted wood burning restrictions on poor air quality days from October 1 to March 1
- 2022** ● Updated the 2018 wood smoke ordinance
- 2023** ● Report: Schools as Community Cleaner Air Centers and Cooling Spaces
- 2024** ● Partnered with the City of Portland to pass a phase-out of gas leaf blowers

Equity and Engagement

- 1974** Halted the construction of the proposed Mt. Hood Highway
- 2001** ● Established Sustainable Development Commission
- 2008** ● Adopted the "Local Government Green Jobs Pledge"
- Began the Sustainability Film Series
- 2010** ● Dissolved the Sustainable Development Commission and Launched the Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation
- 2011** ● Authorized the Board Chair to sign the Declaration of Cooperation to form the Portland Regional Sustainable Communities Consortium

HALF A CENTURY OF SUSTAINABILITY

AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY

.....

● Resolution ● Administrative Procedure/Executive Order ● Campaign/Initiative ● Report ● Ordinance ● Event

Equity and Engagement, cont.

- 2012** ● County adopted the Equity & Empowerment Lens
- 2013** ● Climate Equity Work Group formed
- 2016** Convened EPA-sponsored Equitable Development Workshop in Rockwood/Rosewood
- 2018** ● Adopted a resolution affirming support for environmental justice (EJ) and encouraging the adoption of an EJ policy and preparation of an EJ snapshot
- 2022** ● Adopted a resolution directing a process to rename the Sauvie Island Bridge to honor the island's Native American history and communities
- 2023** ● Publication: Rooted in Values Guided by Vision, Community-Driven Climate Justice Framework for Multnomah County
- Publication: Cultivating Justice in a Changing Climate: A Collection of Stories and Art Rooted in Multnomah County's Communities of Color zine
- 2023** ● Report: Environmental Justice Snapshot
- Report: 2012-2022 Regional Climate and Health Monitoring Report
- Heat Vulnerability Index tool developed
- 2023** ● Co-created the East County Learn Share Do Fair with City of Gresham, City of Portland, and Community Services Network, to strengthen climate resilience.
- 2024** Developed a Fuel Tank Financial Responsibility Policy

Waste and Toxics

- 1989** ● ● Established a recycling program for County facilities
- Prohibited food providers from using Styrofoam packaging products
- 2004** ● Directed the development of a Toxics Reduction Strategy jointly with the City of Portland
- 2005** ● Established waste prevention and recycling goals for County operations
- Adopted a green cleaning policy for County facilities
- 2006** ● Adopted the Toxics Reduction Strategy, incorporating the Precautionary Principle
- 2007** ● Developed the Waste Prevention and Recycling Plan
- 2010** ● ● Banned the purchase of bottled water with County funds and implemented the 'Take Back the Tap' campaign
- Adopted a green meeting and event policy
- 2012** ● Reaffirmed the Healthy Purchasing Initiative in collaboration with City of Portland
- Adopted Sustainable Jails Project
- 2014** ● Established solid waste regulations in unincorporated areas of the County
- Held Sustainability in Prisons Regional Summit at Inverness Jail
- 2015** ● Supported the productive reuse and safe recycling of County surplus information technology
- 2019** ● Opposed infrastructure expansion for transporting or storing fossil fuels in County. Supported efforts to require fossil fuel industry to bear full cost of damages caused by transporting, storing, or using fossil fuels

HALF A CENTURY OF SUSTAINABILITY

AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY

● Resolution ● Administrative Procedure/Executive Order ● Campaign/Initiative ● Report ● Ordinance ● Event

Waste and Toxics, cont.

- 2022** ● Report: Impacts of Fuel Releases from the CEI Hub
- 2023** Letter from the Board of Commissioners to oppose approval of Zenith Energy's Air Contaminant Discharge Permit application
- Report: Risk of Earthquake-Induced Hazardous Materials Releases in Multnomah County, Oregon

Organizational Purchasing

- 1989** ● Established a policy on purchasing environmentally sound and reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable products
- 1996** ● Committed to purchasing post-consumer recycled-content products
- 2001** ● Established the Sustainability Initiative
- 2002** ● Approved County/City of Portland Sustainable Procurement Strategy
- Created the Sustainable Procurement Strategy
- 2003** ● Adopted a policy for paper and paint purchasing
- 2004** ● Adopted Sustainability Principles for Multnomah County
- Supported SOLV and encouraged the community to get involved on Earth Day
- 2005** ● Renamed the Multnomah Building Eco-Roof to the Amy Joslin Eco-Roof
- 2007** ● Established the Health Equity Initiative
- 2010** ● Enacted the Sustainable Purchasing Policy
- Established the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Diversity and Equity
- 2012** ● Adopted the Healthy Purchasing Initiative, reaffirming the County's commitment to sustainable purchasing in collaboration with the City of Portland.

Food

- 2007** ● Authorized the County Digs program to develop urban agricultural projects in the County
- 2008** ● Enacted nutrition labeling requirements
- 2009** ● Authorized a County "Hope Garden" to encourage production of community-grown food
- Approved the creation and implementation of the County CROPS Program
- 2010** ● Started the Hands of Wonder Garden Program
- 2011** ● Adopted the Multnomah Food Action Plan
- 2012** ● Launched the Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship program
- Completed Jobs & Food System Cluster study
- 2021** Establish license agreement with Mudbone Grown to manage the CROPS farm
- 2022** Board allocates resources to develop farm infrastructure at CROPS
- 2025** Capital improvements are completed, including a new barn, greenhouse, driveway, water, and electrical



WE ENVISION A COMMUNITY
AND A WORLD WHERE
EVERYONE EXPERIENCES
LIFE IN A STABLE CLIMATE,
HAS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE,
CAN ACCESS CLEAN AIR,
CLEAN WATER, AND
THE RESOURCES THEY NEED
TO THRIVE.



@MULTCOSUSTAINABILITY



@MULTCOSUSTAIN.BSKY.SOCIAL



@MULTCOSUSTAINABILITY



**Multnomah
County**

Office of Sustainability

MULTCO.US/SUSTAINABILITY

