



Office of Citizen Involvement  
**MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON**

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501 SE Hawthorne, Room 192  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
(503) 988-3450 phone  
(503) 988-5674 fax  
[www.citizenweb.org](http://www.citizenweb.org)

October 24, 2014

John Wasiutynski, Interim Director  
Office of Sustainability  
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard  
Portland, Oregon 97214

Dear Mr. Wasiutynski:

The Multnomah County Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) extends its sincere appreciation to you for meeting with us. Your presentation did an excellent job of informing and increasing our awareness of the public's current participation within the Office of Sustainability (OS), as well as your community outreach efforts.

The CIC believes that by meeting with the county's various departments and offices we develop a better understanding of the public involvement taking place throughout the county. As a result, we are better equipped to offer suggestions to specific departments and offices on how to further engage citizens within the county. The CIC commends your efforts to conduct public outreach to advance sustainability efforts at Multnomah County. We hope that you will also make similar efforts to invite public input into your programs and policies in the future. Our recommendations to expand both public input and outreach are:

- Carefully consider any decision to disband the Food Advisory Board, since it may reduce public input with regard to sustainable agriculture and food systems, related economic development, and access to healthy food for all residents. Please keep the CIC updated as to future changes regarding the Board's existence.
- We appreciate the efforts OS has made to consider equity as a factor in your programs. Similarly, we urge you to empower historically marginalized groups to increase their participation in OS activities and decision-making by first analyzing which populations are underrepresented and how their voices can be uplifted and engaged. From there, consider actively working with outside cultural organizations and members of the public to spread the word about OS volunteer and input opportunities. Please keep the CIC updated as to future efforts to increase participation and involvement in decision-making by historically marginalized populations.
- Although the Climate Action Plan is an agreement between Multnomah County and the City of Portland, extend opportunities to other cities in the county to participate.

It is our hope that you will consider these suggestions when determining methods for enhancing citizen involvement or in the event of a policy shift within OS. We would be happy to assist with implementation of any of these suggestions.

You are welcome to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns. Additionally, we will invite you to attend a CIC meeting within the next two years to discuss any changes OS has made as a result of our recommendations.

Thank you again for meeting with us, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with you in the future!

Sincerely,

*Ben Brady*  
*Brian Harvey*  
*Dara Snyder*

Ben Brady, Brian Harvey, Dara Snyder  
Citizen Involvement Committee  
Departmental Review Sub-Committee

cc: Chair Kafoury  
Marissa Madrigal  
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