

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



**Multnomah
County**

Office of Sustainability

multco.us/sustainability

MISSION & VISION

The Office of Sustainability (OS) strives to create a more equitable, livable, resilient, and low-carbon Multnomah County.

To achieve this vision, we:

- + Collaborate with community partners to advance policies, projects, programs, and research that are responsive to the community's needs,
- + Lead and support sustainability efforts within County departments and programs, and
- + Work with County leadership to advance this vision within the County, region, and state.

Guiding our work is the belief that the best solution to environmental problems is to eradicate the root causes of injustice in our community, that our entire community thrives when we meet the needs of our most vulnerable, and that community-driven solutions are more effective and long-lasting.

OUR TEAM



We are a dedicated and diverse group of environmental justice warriors, sustainability advocates, educators, systems thinkers, motivators, doers, and connectors. Our team members are family-oriented, and love to have fun with one another. We are volunteers, teachers, travelers, farmers, community organizers, beer brewers, small business owners -- and loads of awesome. While we work in the cozy southeast corner of the Multnomah Building's 6th floor, our staff of five can be seen all over the County, collaborating with staff from the Yeon to the Lincoln buildings and in between, coordinating policies with local cities, working with legislators in Salem, and building partnerships across our community.



**SAM
BARASO**

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

PropertyFit Project Lead
Research, Analysis &
Policy Development
Geospatial & Financial
Analysis Wiz



**TIM
LYNCH**

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

Climate Action Plan Lead
Research, Analysis &
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Green Building and
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**JERRY
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URBAN AGRONOMIST

Farming Program Lead
Community Engagement,
Restorative Justice &
Mentoring
Bee Whisperer



**JOHN
WASIUTYNSKI**

DIRECTOR

Air Quality & Green
Infrastructure Lead
Policy Analysis, Research
& Strategy
Local Government Geek



**SARA
MIHM**

SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

Employee Education &
Engagement Lead
Internal Operations
Coordination
Communications &
Campaign Creator

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY FUNCTIONS

EXTERNAL POLICY

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

Examples

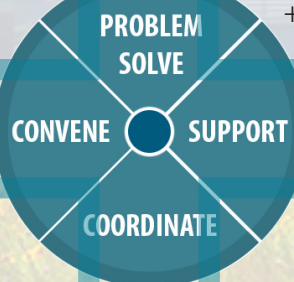
- + Climate Action Plan
- + Climate Preparation Plan
- + Air Toxics Policy
- + State Legislative & Regulatory Advocacy
- + Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE)

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
- + Sustainability Reporting
- + Sustainable Purchasing Policy
- + Toxics Reduction Policy
- + Clean Diesel Contracting
- + Take Back the Tap



BUILD CAPACITY

- + Provide subject-matter expertise
- + Connect resources across departments
- + Leverage external partners
- + Provide policy support to elected officials
- + Coordinate County-wide strategic initiatives

Examples

- + Sustainable Jails Project
- + Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation
- + Sustainability Liaisons, Green Team
- + Jade Greening
- + EcoChallenge, Bike More Challenge

PROGRAMS

- + Directly engage with community partners
- + Directly engage with community members
- + Restorative justice
- + Leadership development
- + Workforce development
- + Support community service providers

Examples

- + CROPS (Community Reaps Our Produce & Shares)
- + PropertyFit
- + Inverness Jail Garden, Hope Garden
- + Green Gresham / Healthy Gresham Tree Planting
- + Summer Internships

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY WHAT WE DO



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Climate Action Plan is a road map for building climate resiliency, reducing carbon emissions, and protecting the community from the impacts of climate change.



AIR QUALITY

OS works with the Health Department, County leadership, and community organizations to address air quality issues, particularly hazardous air pollutants.



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.



CROPS

The CROPS Program provides healthy food to County residents, provides a nurturing space to share skills, and fosters an opportunity to build community.



GREEN BUILDING POLICY

Supporting the County's commitment to be an environmental leader, OS provides support on new construction projects and large renovations to incorporate green construction practices.



RESEARCH

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



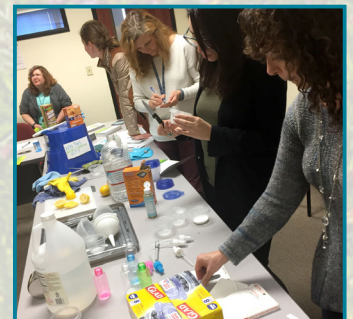
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OS collaborates with community members through work groups and events to ensure the entire community is part of the sustainability conversation.



SUSTAINABLE JAILS PROJECT

This ongoing project with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office saves money, conserves natural resources, and incorporates sustainable practices into jail programs and operations.



EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Through education, events, and collaboration, OS builds staff awareness on issues that help illustrate the link between climate change and public health.

HISTORY

Key

R = Resolution

O = Ordinance

AP/EO = Administrative Procedure/Executive Order

C/I = Campaign/Initiative

☐ = Plan/Strategy

CLIMATE ACTION, ENERGY, GREEN BUILDINGS

- 2000 Authorized the purchase of renewable energy for County bridges and libraries (R, C/I)
- 2001 Approved a joint City of Portland and Multnomah County Local Action Plan on Global Warming (R) ☐
- 2002 Adopted Travel Smart; employee commute options and parking strategies (R)
- 2002 Adopted an energy policy and energy reduction goal for County buildings (EO)
- 2004 Adopted a high-performance green building policy for County buildings (R)
- 2005 Supported legislation to promote the use and production of biofuels in Oregon (R)
- 2007 Authorized the development of solar energy projects on County facilities (R)
- 2007 Initiated the update of the 2001 Portland Multnomah Local Action Plan on Global Warming, formed a citizen-advisory committee to support the work (R)
- 2008 Adopted the LEED-Gold and high-performance green building policy for the County (R)
- 2008 Approved the construction of the Central Library Green Roof Project (R)
- 2008 Adopted the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration with Clackamas County (R)
- 2008 Authorized the installation of solar PV systems at the Yeon and Juvenile Justice Center Buildings (R)
- 2009 Adopted the 2009 Climate Action Plan in partnership with the City of Portland (R, C/I) ☐
- 2010 Completed Mead Building Eco-Roof (C/I)
- 2011 Held a community Climate Short Film Contest and award ceremony (Event)
- 2012 East County Courthouse certified LEED-Gold (C/I)
- 2013 Completed Climate Change and Public Health Preparation Plan ☐
- 2013 Achieved Sustainability at Work Silver-certification for the Multnomah Building through the City of Portland (C/I)
- 2014 Achieved Sustainability at Work Gold-certification for Inverness Jail through the City of Portland (C/I)
- 2014 Adopted the joint County and City of Portland Climate Change Preparation Strategy & Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (R) ☐
- 2015 Adopted the joint County and City of Portland 2015 Climate Action Plan (R) ☐
- 2015 Established a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) program (R)
- 2015 Achieved GREAT-certification for the John B. Yeon facility through the City of Gresham (C/I)
- 2015 Adopted a fossil fuel divestment policy for Multnomah County (R)
- 2016 Adopted resolution opposed to oil shipments by rail (R)
- 2016 Established a Commercial Property Assessed Seismic Rehabilitation Program (R)
- 2016 Sellwood Bridge Project completed, on track to receive Bronze Greenroad Certification (C/I)

ORGANIZATIONAL, PURCHASING

- 1989 Established a policy on purchasing environmentally-sound and reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable products (O)
- 1996 Committed to purchasing post-consumer recycled-content products (R)
- 2001 Established the Sustainability Initiative (C/I)
- 2002 Approved County/City of Portland Sustainable Procurement Strategy (R)
- 2002 Created the Sustainable Procurement Strategy ☐
- 2003 Adopted a policy for paper and paint purchasing (R)
- 2004 Adopted Sustainability Principles for Multnomah County (R)
- 2004 Supported SOLV and encouraged the community to get involved on Earth Day (R)
- 2005 Renamed the Multnomah Building Eco-Roof to the Amy Joslin Eco-Roof (R)
- 2007 Established the Health Equity Initiative (C/I)
- 2010 Enacted the Sustainable Purchasing Policy (AP)
- 2010 Established the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Diversity and Equity (O)

HISTORY

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P = Plan/Strategy

AIR QUALITY

- 2007 Adopted a policy to reduce Benzene pollution (R)
- 2007 Adopted County policies to reduce idling in County fleet vehicles to reduce pollution (R)
- 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 (R, C/I)
- 2012 Completed clean air retrofits on County diesel equipment and East County Courthouse contractor equipment (C/I)

EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT

- 1974 Halted the construction of the proposed Mt. Hood Highway
- 2001 Established Sustainable Development Commission (O)
- 2008 Adopted the "Local Government Green Jobs Pledge" (R)
- 2008 Began the Sustainability Film Series (C/I)
- 2010 Dissolved the Sustainable Development Commission and Launched the Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (O)
- 2011 Authorized the Board Chair to sign the Declaration of Cooperation to form the Portland Regional Sustainable Communities Consortium (R)
- 2012 County adopted the Equity & Empowerment Lens (C/I)
- 2013 Climate Equity Work Group formed (C/I)
- 2016 Convened EPA-sponsored Equitable Development Workshop in Rockwood/Rosewood neighborhood **P**

WASTE, TOXICS

- 1989 Established a recycling program for County facilities (O, C/I)
- 1989 Prohibited food providers from using Styrofoam packaging products (O)
- 2004 Directed the development of a Toxics Reduction Strategy jointly with the City of Portland (R)
- 2005 Established waste prevention and recycling goals for County operations (R)
- 2005 Adopted a green cleaning policy for County facilities (R)
- 2006 Adopted the Toxics Reduction Strategy, incorporating the Precautionary Principle as a framework (R) **P**
- 2007 Developed the Waste Prevention and Recycling Plan **P**
- 2010 Banned the purchase of bottled water with County funds and implemented the 'Take Back the Tap' campaign (R, C/I)
- 2010 Adopted a green meeting and event policy (R)
- 2012 Reaffirmed the Healthy Purchasing Initiative in collaboration with City of Portland (R)
- 2012 Adopted Sustainable Jails Project (C/I)
- 2014 Established solid waste regulations in unincorporated areas of the County (O)
- 2014 Held Sustainability in Prisons Regional Summit hosted at Inverness Jail (Event)
- 2015 Supported the productive reuse and safe recycling of County surplus information technology (R)

FOOD

- 2007 Authorized the County Digs program to develop urban agricultural projects in the County (R)
- 2008 Enacted nutrition labeling requirements (R)
- 2009 Authorized a County "Hope Garden" to encourage the production of community-grown food (R)
- 2009 Approved the creation and implementation of the County CROPS Program (R, C/I)
- 2010 Started the Hands of Wonder Garden Program (C/I)
- 2011 Adopted the Multomah Food Action Plan (R) **P**
- 2012 Launched the Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship program (C/I)
- 2012 Completed Jobs & Food System Cluster study (C/I)



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY

The 2015 Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a roadmap for Multnomah County to become a climate resilient community, reducing carbon emissions to limit future impacts from a changing climate, and preparing its people and institutions from harm. The CAP establishes a long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the County by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, putting the County at the forefront of local government action on climate change. But while the County is doing its part, a slow global response to the issue means significant climate impacts are now inevitable. The CAP guides the County's work on how to prepare its residents, natural systems, and built infrastructure for change.

BACKGROUND

The 2015 CAP was jointly adopted by Multnomah County and the City of Portland, and builds off the success of the 2009 CAP. The 2015 update leads with a climate justice lens, focusing on the intersection of equity and climate action. This includes a focus on how we can protect the most vulnerable community members from climate impacts, many of whom are County clients.

PARTNERS

New focus areas means a need for new partnerships. An equity workgroup of six community based organizations was formed to explore issues of climate justice. Those community partnerships have continued to deepen with CAP implementation. The public health community has become a critical ally in raising awareness of climate change as a major public health risk.

IMPACT

Local climate action on the part of Multnomah County and the City of Portland has resulted in a 21% decline in countywide carbon emissions (a 40% reduction per capita!) from 1990, well ahead of the nation. Climate-smart planning has cemented the County's reputation as a national leader and has supported a high-quality of life in healthy, connected neighborhoods for an increasing number of residents. However, as many continue to be left behind, more needs to be done to ensure benefits are shared equitably.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Office of Sustainability will continue to work with internal and external partners to ensure the actions contained in the CAP are on track to be completed by 2020. This includes expanding community based partnerships to ensure that communities with the most need are equitably benefitting from climate action, and pushing for a just carbon pricing program at the statewide level.



AIR QUALITY

SUMMARY

Poor air quality in Multnomah County puts people and profits 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 onroad and off-road sources (construction equipment, freight movement, etc.); wood smoke from home woodburning 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, OPAL, 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; 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: legislative initiatives to curb emissions from dirty diesel engines; and the governor's regulatory reform effort, "Cleaner Air Oregon." Local efforts include: wood smoke curtailment policy; clean diesel procurement policy; and air quality policy study.



PROPERTY FIT (COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY)

SUMMARY

The PropertyFit program helps commercial, multifamily (>5 units), and industrial property owners complete energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades. It does so by leveraging the County's property tax collection authority to encourage private capital providers to finance these upgrades by providing greater security. This allows property owners to undertake comprehensive energy improvement projects that holistically address a building's performance needs with no up front capital.

BACKGROUND

In September 2015, Multnomah County became the first jurisdiction in Oregon to authorize a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) program, locally branded as PropertyFit Oregon, showing continued leadership in creating a more resilient, sustainable, and just place for all County residents.

PARTNERS

The Portland Development Commission is contracted to administer the program, and the Energy Trust of Oregon provides technical resources. The County Attorney's Office and Department of Assessment, Recording, and Taxation provide regular feedback for both the design and implementation of the program.

IMPACT

In 2013, 24% of emissions in the County came from the commercial building sector. Based on a County-commissioned study, about 1000 buildings in the County would benefit from PropertyFit. If we reach these buildings, PropertyFit will create 210 person-years of employment (= to 42 people employed full-time for 5 years) and would tackle a significant portion of commercial building emissions.

WHAT'S NEXT

We are in year two of the pilot with the Portland Development Commission acting as program administrator. Year two will involve an aggressive push to move projects forward, including a strong focus on equitable contracting. We will also be developing program guidelines for a recently authorized seismic retrofit program using the underlying financing mechanism.



CROPS (COMMUNITY REAPS OUR PRODUCE AND SHARES)

SUMMARY

CROPS (Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares) is a Multnomah County initiative that includes the CROPS Farm (a formerly vacant, County-owned lot in Troutdale), the Inverness Jail Garden, and the Hope Garden. With a focus on the community, the food from CROPS is largely donated to SnowCap Community Charities, among other local organizations and groups. Currently in its 9th season, the gardens are thriving with bountiful harvests and an engaged volunteer base. Not only does the CROPS initiative help people in need, but it enables people to eat healthier, provides a nurturing space for sharing skills, and fosters an opportunity to build community.

BACKGROUND

The farm was conceived as an innovative way of using vacant County land to meet a community need. Now in its 9th season the farm serves as a place for community members to complete court mandated community service in a restorative environment. It also brings together hundreds of individuals who come to volunteer, learn, share skills, and build community.

PARTNERS

A wide range of community organizations, businesses, schools, local government partners, and individuals support the program. Some key partners include Multnomah County Department of Community Justice Adult Community Services, City of Troutdale, POIC Rosemary Anderson Academy, SnowCap Charities, Hands On Greater Portland, and Multnomah County Education Services District.

IMPACT

Since the 2014 growing season the program has produced 48,457 pounds or 344,041 servings of fresh organically grown fruits and vegetables for hungry families in Multnomah County. Over the same period Alternative Community Services clients provided over 7,760 hours of labor and volunteers worked 7,400 hours at the farm.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Edgefield property, where the farm is located, has been sold to McMenamins, Inc. However, three acres of that site has been set aside for CROPS in perpetuity, where the farm will move into its permanent home. Over the coming year the Office of Sustainability will focus on establishing infrastructure at the site, including irrigation and out buildings.



SUSTAINABLE JAILS PROJECT

SUMMARY

The mission of the Sustainable Jails Project (SJP) is to provide excellent stewardship of public funds by saving money, conserving natural resources, and reducing recidivism rates by incorporating informed, sustainable decision-making and practices into Multnomah County jail facilities, operations, and programming. Since the launch of SJP in April 2012 the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) leadership, the MCSO Sustainability Team, and Office of Sustainability have worked to make that mission into a reality. Since SJP launched and tracking has begun, the Sheriff's office has avoided over \$588,149 in operational costs.

BACKGROUND

Since the project's inception, MCSO aims to not only reduce the economic and environmental costs of incarceration, but to also the human cost of jails. To do this end, programming and partnerships have been pursued to connect inmates with nature, match inmate needs with appropriate programming, and pursue innovations that create a safer environment for both inmates and staff.

PARTNERS

The Department of County Assets Facilities and Property Management staff are among the most important partners, contributing expertise to energy efficiency and water savings projects. Oregon Food Bank and the City of Portland have also supported gardening efforts. Food grown at the jail garden is donated to SnowCap Charities.

IMPACT

From the 2010 baseline year, overall energy use has decreased 12%, water has decreased 5%, and total waste generation has decreased 10%. In addition, MCSO started the Inverness Jail garden growing over 4,400 lbs of lbs of organically grown vegetables donated to a local food pantry, and volunteers have delivered Seed to Supper gardening classes to over 430 inmate students.

WHAT'S NEXT

With the successful implementation of nature imagery in the Inverness Jail treatment-readiness-dorm the SJP team will look for new places to implement this approach. Facilities and Property Management is also implementing a major water efficiency project at Inverness Jail which will dramatically decrease potable water use, and water bills.



EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

SUMMARY

Office of Sustainability (OS) staff encourage employee-driven solutions by providing education, technical support during projects, and ongoing collaboration. OS is an internal customer service contact for recycling a variety of materials and serves as a resource to County offices and Departments for both small- and large-scale initiatives. By coordinating several employee engagement campaigns each year and maintaining a consistent presence through events, presentations, and Countywide communications, OS continues to build staff awareness on important issues that help foster a culture of resource stewardship among County employees.

BACKGROUND

The OS team has developed relationships throughout the County that have been invaluable in spreading sustainability messaging and programs throughout departments. OS provides internal customer service and assistance on topics that include, but are not limited to, energy conservation, reducing toxics, reuse, and recycling.

PARTNERS

OS supports monthly meetings with the Green Team Employee Resource Group, Sustainability Liaisons, and MCSO's Sustainable Jails Project. Ongoing collaborations occur with the Board of Commissioners, the Department of County Assets' Facilities and Property Management team, Employee Wellness Program, Office of Diversity and Equity, and the Library's Environmental Team.

IMPACT

Since 2011, over 900 staff participated in EcoChallenge, and since 2014, more than 740 staff registered for the Bike More Challenge. In addition to managing campaign efforts and promoting participation, volunteer and Lunch and Learn events were offered that, in 2016 alone, attracted more than 200 attendees. In FY14, Multnomah County used 6,000 MWh less energy than FY07, saving nearly \$500,000 each year!

WHAT'S NEXT

In 2017, OS will collaborate with County departments to produce a Resource Conservation Report, coordinate an educational and engagement campaign for April's Earth Month, encourage participation in May's Bike More Challenge, celebrate the Central Library's achievement of Sustainability at Work Gold certification, and host educational pop-up tabling events throughout County facilities.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION

SUMMARY

ACSI provides advice and advocacy to Multnomah County on sustainability issues affecting our community, the environment, and the economy. ACSI members provide recommendations on implementing the 2015 Climate Action Plan, sustainable government operations, improving social equity, and promoting a healthy, prosperous and resilient community. Members also evaluate proposals for innovations in technology and business processes that may be applicable to County operations. 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 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, 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 County Green Building Policy, Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy, 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 advising on a County Environmental Justice Policy, prioritizing actions in the Climate Action Plan, developing clean air strategies, and advocating for enhanced energy efficiency codes. New issues will emerge with the addition of new members and ongoing collaboration with County Commissioners and County staff.



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