

ACSI QUARTERLY MEETING

Date	Wednesday, 1/22/25, 1PM - 3PM
	Remote access only
Next Meeting	Wednesday, 4/23/25, 1PM - 3PM

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT

- Willenton Bridges
- Jona Davis, Portland NAACP Environmental Justice Committee
- Annabelle Rousseau
- Noelle Studer-Spevak, Families for Climate
- Briar Wray
- Amanda Zuniga, Energy Trust of Oregon

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner staff None	Office of Sustainability John Wasiutynski Nicole Buchanan Tim Lynch Sara Mihm Monique Smiley Silvia Tanner	Other Multnomah County staff, Public None

ACTION ITEMS

- **Office of Sustainability staff** will:
 - Share a poll for quarterly meeting times
 - Share a poll for areas of interest for subcommittees
 - Request interest in Chair/Vice Chair positions
 - Request **ACSI members** submit their names and affiliation for the [ACSI website](#).
- **Sara Mihm** will format the 2024 letter and send it to **Amanda Zuniga** and **Jona Davis**.

DECISIONS MADE

- None.

- **Jona Davis** shared that she joined ACSI because the work done here can translate into day to day. She feels like it's a great way to connect the dots between the many other groups that she works with.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** shared her community activism in shade equity and home decarbonization. She works with **Families for Climate**. She loves this family of people coming together and thinks of it as one of the most effective ways to spend time.
- **Annabelle Rousseau** (she/her) shared that she's the Advocacy Coordinator at **Verde**. She comes from a multicultural background and believes in treating the Earth better than how she found it. A passion of hers to find community through work. She wants to better serve the environmental justice community in our region.
- **Amanda Zuniga** (she/her) works at **Energy Trust of Oregon** as a program manager in the commercial sector. Her personal experience with utility bills and air quality concerns inspired her to be a part of **ACSI**. She brings a lens of environmental justice and reproductive rights into her work and wants to think about how we are respectful to raising families, being healthy, and taking care of ourselves and the community. She has served as Chair of **ACSI** for about two years.
- **Briar Wray** (she/her) is an Associate Dean at **Portland Community College** (PCC). She is heavily involved in institutional and student-based sustainability initiatives at **PCC**. She hopes to align work at the college with broader regional efforts and at the County, supporting green workforce development and collaborating with others.
- **Silvia Tanner** (she/her) focuses on energy policy, the clean energy transition, and community benefits of clean energy infrastructure for the **Office of Sustainability**.
- **Willenton Bridges** (he/him) goes by "Will" is an engineer at **Tetra Tech**. He is a part of the [Change is in the Air program](#) through **Blueprint Foundation**, working with Black youth and youth of color, emphasizing the importance of the science of air quality. He hopes for additional collaborations amongst the community.
- **Nicole Buchanan** (she/her) is a Senior Policy Analyst at the **Office of Sustainability**, focusing on climate resilience policy. Her interest in sustainability was spurred by the 2021 heat dome. Bringing resources to Multnomah County and different organizations in the area through various funding sources, including the Inflation Reduction Act.
- **Sara Mihm** (she/her) is the communications lead for the **Office of Sustainability** and also provides employee engagement and creates events for Multnomah County and in the community.

- **Monique Smiley** (she/her) co-leads the County's Climate Justice Plan. The intersections of housing, race, and justice have impacted her work tremendously.
- **Tim Lynch** (he/him) has seen the team grow and loves working in the same space as **ACSI**. He's evolved in his thinking about problems being based in engineering and now believes they are based in humanities. He thinks that we can challenge each other and address issues with an inside-outside strategy, and move work forward through community organizing.

REVIEW ACSI CHARTER, ROLES, AND CADENCE

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that **ACSI members** may be subject to public records requests. He discussed the importance of public meetings notices and reviewed the [charter](#). He highlighted its section on treaty rights, expressing Native Americans' ongoing history of stewardship and our obligation to respect these rights.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared how **ACSI members** can influence the **Board of Commissioners**. An [annual letter](#) is shared with the **Board of Commissioners**, followed by a presentation. There are also letters that are more timely and topical, some of which can be seen on the same website. **Office of Sustainability** staff can also help to coordinate meetings with **Commissioners**.
- **Jona Davis** brought up the timing of submitting annual letters with consideration to consider elections, the County's budget processes, and any other important timelines.

REVIEW 2024 LETTER, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES, DISCUSS 2025 ACSI PRIORITIES

- **Amanda Zuniga** provided an overview of the [2024 ACSI letter](#). She shared how the recommendations were informed by discussions in the subcommittee meetings.
- **Jona Davis** shared an observation of how **Commissioners** connect with different issues recommended in the letters. Hopefully, they see **ACSI members** as a resource to bolster this work.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared that when a **Commissioner** and **ACSI members** are interested in the same topic we can make large progress.

SUBCOMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS, UPDATES, AND NEXT STEPS

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that when **ACSI members** form subcommittees, staff capacity is a consideration.
- **Tim Lynch** shared that staff are available to help think through where the County has clear authority, responsibility, positionality, and leverage to troubleshoot and identify opportunities to make ideas real. He also expressed

that there is space and interest for all **ACSI members** and their respective organizations to add new ideas. He shared that with new subcommittees, at least one **ACSI member** needs to be the champion to chair and organize. The hope is for each **ACSI member** to choose at least one subcommittee to join.

- **Briar Wray** shared that workforce development is of interest to her and would dovetail nicely with the work she's doing at **PCC**. She may consider leading or co-leading in that space.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** shared that getting youth into jobs that will transition our community is an area with huge opportunity to streamline systems; weatherization, HVAC, electricians, and so on.
- **Annabelle Rousseau** shared interest in resilience hubs. She would like to talk more about how they can take on different forms and connect communities to resources, particularly as it relates to non-County resources. In the chat she shared: "It's so expansive: They can provide community classes. They can provide workforce training. They can provide power/charging stations. They can provide fresh produce or freshly cooked meals."
- **Will Bridges** shared that he's also interested in workforce development.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** shared in the chat: "Workforce development for resilient communities."
- **Jona Davis** gave a shout out to several community groups who are already addressing workforce development and the strong overlap with groups like **Kijani Collective**, **Blueprint Foundation**, and **Portland Youthbuild**.
- **Tim Lynch** expressed that **ACSI members** do not need to start from scratch and **non-ACSI members** can be invited to subcommittees to build on existing work.
- **Noelle Studer-Spevak** shared that bigger planning may be helpful to identify and align needs from likeminded groups.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

REVIEW MEETING ACTIONS AND ADJOURN