

Multnomah County FY 2026 Budget Work Session Follow Up

Office of Sustainability

May 29, 2025



Commissioner Brim-Edwards (District 3) - Please provide/clarify the entire definition of community wide as it relates to the performance measure: Decrease in community wide greenhouse gas emissions over 1990 levels based on trend line analysis.

Response:

The Board of County Commissioners in Resolution 2015-076, “Adopts the joint Multnomah County and City of Portland 2015 Climate Action Plan,” committed the County to the goal of reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The Board in Resolution 2017-046 also adopted the goal of meeting 100% of community-wide electricity needs with renewable energy by 2035 and meeting 100% of all community-wide energy needs with renewable energy by 2050.

Multnomah County community-wide scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gas emissions are tracked annually by the City of Portland. Scope 1 refers to emissions from the consumption of fuels like natural gas, gasoline, and diesel at the point of combustion, for example a car engine or home furnace. Scope 2 emissions refers to emissions from the consumption of electricity, where emissions occur outside the County’s borders, but the energy is consumed within the County, for example electricity used at a home or business. This data is collected and compiled for all residential, commercial, industrial and

transportation related energy use within the borders of Multnomah County.

As of 2022, the most recent year for which [data](#) is available, community-wide greenhouse gas emissions were 21.1% below the 1990 baseline level (and 30% below peak communitywide emissions in 2000). The Office of Sustainability's [Program Offer](#) outcome measure reflects the Boards stated commitment to ongoing communitywide greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The FY 2026 Program Offer outcome measure "Decrease in community wide greenhouse gas emissions over 1990 levels based on trend line analysis" sets the target of a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below the 1990 baseline for the coming fiscal year, or a 3.9% reduction from the current level.

The anticipated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over the coming year is mainly due to an increasingly clean electricity mix with more clean energy and less fossil-fuel derived electricity. The changing composition of the electricity mix is driven by State policy that the County, through the Office of Sustainability, advocated for and supported, including HB 2021 (signed into law in 2021) that requires both electric utilities that serve Multnomah County to fully decarbonize their supply by 2040, with interim decarbonization goals in 2030 and 2035.

To ensure clarity for the Board and the public, I will work with the budget office to determine if there is a clearer way to present this measure in the program offer (#10018).

Commissioner Brim-Edwards (District 3) - Please provide more information regarding the Fleet Decarbonization Accelerator (accelerator) cohort.

Response:

A team made up of staff from the Office of Sustainability, Fleet Services, Facilities and Property Management, and DCA leadership participated in the accelerator. The accelerator cohort took place over the course of several months of this calendar year (2025). The accelerator included classes, peer learning, and team coaching.

Following the completion of the accelerator the team is developing a next-steps memo to help prioritize further County action. Priority actions may include pursuing grants for fleet electrification and charging infrastructure, potential development of administrative procedures to support an EV-first strategy for fleet procurement, and the further prioritization of fleet electrification opportunities in the near and medium term.

DCA and Sustainability have committed to a joint presentation to the Board regarding fleet and building decarbonization.

Commissioner Brim-Edwards (District 3) - Please provide more information about efforts to promote green spaces in SE Portland.

Response:

During the Office of Sustainability's budget presentation on May 29th, Commissioner Brim-Edwards asked

In 2017 the Office of Sustainability, in partnership with APANO, secured a \$50,000 technical assistance grant from the EPA to support community-led design for the Jade District to build a more health and sustainability community. The [Jade District](#) is a neighborhood prosperity initiative that centers on a predominantly Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) neighborhood in SE Portland and is geographically centered at the intersection SE 82nd Ave and Division Street. This area experiences adverse environmental impacts related to air pollution from mobile sources (cars and trucks) due to its proximity to major transportation corridors (SE 82nd Avenue, I-205, and Powell Boulevard) and a pronounced urban heat island effect due to the lack of green space and tree cover. The neighborhood southeast of SE 82nd Avenue and SE Division Street rates in the [99th percentile of heat vulnerability risk](#).

The [Greening the Jade](#) report was prepared after extensive community engagement co-led by APANO, the Office of Sustainability, and the Multicultural Collaborative, a local community-based consulting team. The project built on years of organizing work in this area by APANO, and was intended in part to help the community inform transportation projects slated for surrounding arterials. The process included extensive culturally-responsive community engagement, including a three day community design sessions conducted in-language with the

Vietnamese and Chinese communities. The report identified a number of priority sites that would promote greater connectivity, support businesses, and add green space to areas that were otherwise cut off from parks because of busy arterial roads.

One of the priority sites is in the area of SE 89th Avenue just south of SE 90th Place (see page 14 of the [report](#)). In this area, SE 89th Avenue is an unimproved road with large un- and under-developed occupied lots that present a rare opportunity for adding a neighborhood park and potentially affordable housing. At the time the properties were not on the market and funding was not readily available to acquire development rights. Supported by the Greening the Jade vision and with the perseverance of APANO and Jade District Staff, the vacant parcels, including the most important at the corner of SE 89th Ave and SE 90th Place, have now been secured for the community. APANO is now in the process of securing development funding for the site.

This project is one of three EPA technical assistance projects that the Office of Sustainability has supported. These include a [2016 Supporting Equitable Development](#) partnership with the City of Gresham and the Rosewood Initiative, and a [2023 collaboration with Portland Public Schools](#) to evaluate options for reducing risk from extreme heat and smoke at schools.

Commissioner Singleton (District 2) - Please provide more information regarding the East County Homelessness Resource Center (ECHRC) resilience hub project and any resilience hub legislation this session.

Response:

In coordination with former District 4 Commissioner Lori Stegmann, the Office of Sustainability partnered with DCA Facilities and Property Management and the Homeless Services Department to explore resilience features for the ECHRC. For the analysis we worked with Carleton Hart Architects to look at the physical plant of the building and potential improvements to strengthen the resilience of the site in the event of an emergency. The goal was to see if the site could be a focal point for disaster recovery and also serve the day to day needs of the community.

Following completion of the study the Office of Sustainability submitted multiple grant applications to fund recommended resilience-hub enhancements to the site. The project was included as part of a \$20 million grant application to EPA that was not reviewed by the agency prior to the transition in presidential administration. Based on all available information, EPA does not intend to complete the reviews or award grants. We also applied for funding through the state's OEM FEMA application, but our application was not accepted.

The Office of Sustainability is on the lookout for other sources of funding and continues to consult with Portland-based community organizations as they look to apply for PCEF funding. We also continue to look for other opportunities that could fund the ECHRC

resilience project or other similar opportunities related to County facilities.

[HB 3170](#) would increase funding for a state resilience hub grant program by \$10 million for the upcoming biennium. Public Health Director Kirsten Aird and I submitted a [letter of support](#) for the bill. As we note in the letter, the initial round of funding requests for the program resulted in \$170 million of requests for \$10 million in available funding (note that the OS Climate Resilience Senior Planner coordinated with the East County Resilience Network for an unsuccessful application to this program by partner organizations). The bill is currently in the Joint Ways and Means Committee and has not been referred to a subcommittee as of today.