

**BILL BRADBURY**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

PADDY J. MCGUIRE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE OF OREGON  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
136 STATE CAPITOL  
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0722

April 30, 2003

The Honorable Peter Courtney, President  
Oregon State Senate  
State Capitol S-203  
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Karen Minnis, Speaker  
Oregon House of Representatives  
State Capitol H-269  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Sustainability Report to the Oregon Legislature

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Minnis:

This report has been compiled and submitted in accordance with ORS 184.423 (The Oregon Sustainability Act). The Act requires the Oregon Sustainability Board to report on its activities and provide recommendations for future action to the legislature.

First, we would like to thank the legislative assembly for its foresight in passing the Act and creating this Board. The Board has met three times since its creation last year and we'd like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a long list of accomplishments that have been achieved. These accomplishments are divided into the following Internal and External activities consistent with the legislation and the objectives established by the Act:

- **Internal:** Accomplishments changing the way state government does its own business. This includes not only the way agencies operate their buildings and purchase supplies, but also how their programs impact sustainability in the broader Oregon community, such as through rules, grants, guidelines, and the like. Appendix A provides an executive summary of the report on sustainability-related activities of state agencies who responded to a survey conducted by the Department of Administrative Services. The report shows that many state agencies have aggressively implemented the sustainability goals of ORS 184.423. The detailed Oregon State Agencies report is available at <http://www.oregonsolutions.net> or by request from my office.
- **External:** Accomplishments influencing or directly assisting the spread of sustainability into communities. Several agencies including Energy, Forestry, Economic Development, DEQ and Agriculture have been active in implementing sustainable practices outside of state government. Details of their activities can be seen by visiting <http://www.oregonsolutions.net>. Additionally, external activities have also been implemented through Oregon Solutions, an entity created in 2001 as a public-private non-profit partnership. Oregon Solutions is located at Portland State University and during the 2001-2003 biennium was supported with both state and private funding. A summary of Oregon Solutions Projects is available on their website, <http://www.orsolutions.org>.

## **Recommendations**

Oregon is a national leader in sustainability. As such, Oregon can set the agenda and be the prime venue for determining how to implement sustainability. We can't rest on our laurels, however, and retaining our leadership position will require continued investment, research and innovation. As the national leader, Oregon will economically benefit as other states and countries send persons here to study Oregon's success in sustainability.

At this time, the sustainability initiative needs to help get the economy going again. In a non-regulatory way, Oregon's existing laws and standards should be enhanced to assist, encourage and incentivize Oregon residents and businesses to go "above and beyond" legal minimums and continuously move toward sustainability. An early effort of the sustainability initiative should be improving the productivity (efficiency) of government. This means it should focus on the broader goal of making government substantially more efficient by using a set of performance criteria to evaluate actions. Sustainability is not a stand-alone activity – it needs to be woven into the way the state conducts business.

Given this background, the Board recommends that the State take a two-pronged approach to implementing the Act:

1. Create a sustainable economic development strategy that builds on the State's reputation as a national leader in the field; and
2. Improve the efficiency and productivity of government operations by taking actions that integrate economic, environmental and social objectives.

### **Specific Recommendations**

1. It is critical that a Cabinet-level sustainability advisor be designated. This person should have the responsibility and the authority to implement the program.
2. The Oregon Progress Board should be maintained and fully engaged in this process given their leadership in performance-based measurement.
3. The Department of Administration Services should continue implementing and expanding its sustainability program for government operations.
4. The State should provide support to the Oregon Solutions Network in carrying out community-based projects that integrate the economic, environmental and social objectives of the Act.
5. The Legislature should restore the moderate level of funding originally appropriated for the Board.
6. The State should adopt a policy requiring agencies to ensure that all types of investments made by the state do not undermine, but attempt to address the 10 community objectives and the 10 internal operations objectives included in the Oregon Sustainability Act. This will ensure that every state dollar goes as far as it can to address multiple economic, environmental and social objectives.
7. The Legislature should advise the Oregon Sustainability Board on what role it wishes to play in further developing a plan for the State's sustainability strategy.

Again, the Board appreciates the legislature's leadership in the adoption of the Oregon Sustainability Act. We look forward to working with the legislative body to refine a state sustainability strategy.

My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Bradbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Bill Bradbury, Chair  
Oregon Sustainability Board