

DAS Sustainability Quarterly

Sustainability news and updates from Oregon state government



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY
Oregon Department of
Administrative Services



DAS Ramps Up EV Charging Infrastructure

The DAS Fleet and Parking Services Electric Vehicle Charging Station Project is getting closer

to completion. The project includes installation of EV charging infrastructure in many of the DAS owned parking lots in the Capitol Mall Area in Salem. These chargers will support the ongoing electrification of the state fleet.

Along with EV chargers dedicated to the fleet, DAS is installing chargers throughout the Capitol Mall Area that will be available for employee/public charging. By law, DAS provides public or employee charging on a fee-for-charging basis.

This charging infrastructure effort complements efforts by DAS and other agencies to electrify their fleets in compliance with state statute requiring agencies to prioritize EVs when purchasing new vehicles whenever feasible. Agencies continue to work to address challenges related to costs and vehicle availability. The DAS Procurement program is working to finalize a statewide contract that will allow agencies to more conveniently purchase EV charging equipment and services off one contract.

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About the DAS Office of Sustainability

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Office of Sustainability supports efforts within DAS and across Oregon state government. We do so with technical, policy and staffing support. Visit the [DAS Office of Sustainability](#) pages for more information.

You may reach out to the Office of Sustainability at

DAS.Sustainability@das.oregon.gov.

About the Oregon Sustainability Board

The [Oregon Sustainability Board \(OSB\)](#) was created in 2001 and encourages activities that best sustain, protect and enhance the environment, economy and community for the present and future benefit of Oregonians. Appointed by the Governor, members represent a variety of stakeholders across the state of Oregon.

The Board, which meets quarterly, is actively involved in the oversight of agency sustainability plans and initiatives, as well as statewide projects working to enhance the environment, economy and community.



Building a Greener Oregon: 2025 SEED Biennial Report

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is proud to share the latest results from the State Energy Efficient Design (SEED) Program, a longstanding effort to improve energy efficiency across state-owned buildings.

In this year's biennial report, we explored the success and challenges faced by over 300 state facilities participating in the program. Here are the key takeaways:

Balancing Progress with Challenges:

While 155 buildings achieved their energy efficiency goals; nearly half of the state-owned facilities fell short. Aging infrastructure plays a significant role – with many buildings approaching 50 years in age, outdated systems are struggling to keep up with modern efficiency standards.

Targeted Investments for Impact: To address these challenges, ODOE staff recommends a new approach: an enterprise-wide energy management strategy that will ensure consistent procedures for maintenance, equipment replacement, and training across the state's portfolio with the explicit goal of strategically updating our facilities.

Cost-Efficient Solutions: Grouping similar projects across agencies and using bulk purchasing strategies are key steps toward reducing implementation costs while delivering impactful energy savings.

Planning for the Future: By shifting to long-term capital planning, beyond biennial budgeting, Oregon can bundle longer payback projects, such as equipment replacement with short-term, high-impact projects to offer deeper energy savings and favorable returns.

DAS Offers Agencies Innovative Systems Furniture Recycling Options

With agencies working to remodel and reconfigure spaces to increase space use efficiency support more hybrid work, the DAS Sustainable Procurement Program created a service offering allowing agencies to re-purpose or recycle office furniture that cannot be taken by the agency's Surplus Program. In doing so, agencies can keep more items out of landfills and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste.

DAS Policies help Agencies with Building, Fleet, and Procurement Sustainability

In 2024, DAS completed a comprehensive review and update of its statewide policies, several of which support agency sustainability efforts. DAS is authorized to write such policies - which generally apply to all executive branch agencies - to help implement statute and executive orders from the Governor.

Energy and Resource Conservation Policy:

Directs agencies on efficient use of energy and water in state buildings to conserve resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Provides best practices for recycling and guides agencies on employee education and engagement.

Sustainable Procurement Policy:

Lays out principles and best practices for the procurement of goods and services by state agencies. Includes specifications for select products such as IT equipment, janitorial supplies, other water and energy using equipment, and more. The DAS Sustainable Procurement Program is hard at work implementing the policy and integrating sustainability into new and revised contracts.

Green Chemistry Guidelines:

Implements Executive Order 12-05 with guidance to agencies on avoiding toxic materials in the goods they buy. Updates to this policy will be completed in 2025 to include revisions to

Energy efficiency is more than a numbers game – it is an essential step toward sustainability, cost savings and environmental stewardship. By adopting a forward-thinking, holistic approach, Oregon is setting the stage for smarter and greener building management. This approach can serve as a model for both the public and private sectors ahead of the new Building Performance Standards set to take effect in 2028.

As we continue these efforts, your support and engagement are invaluable. We invite you to learn more and [explore the full report here](#).



State Agencies Gear Up for 2025 Recycling Changes

In 2022, Oregon enacted Senate Bill 582, the [Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act](#). This legislation updated Oregon’s recycling system by building on existing community programs and leveraging producer resources to streamline and improve recycling practices. The law became effective Jan. 1, 2022, and recycling program changes will start in July 2025.

This system-wide update will make recycling easier for the state of Oregon and the public by expanding access to recycling services, upgrading facilities that sort recyclables and creating environmental benefits while reducing social and environmental harms, such as plastic pollution.

The Act will help further support the effectiveness of recycling practices for DAS, its contractors and other state agencies. In creating one unified list of recyclable materials that will apply to all parts of the state, state agencies will be able to create clear, consistent recycling messaging that state employees can apply at work and at home.

third-party standards and expansion of products listed.

Fleet Management Policy: Provides agencies guidance on the efficient use of state fleets to conserve resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Implements statute by directing DAS and other agencies to procure electric vehicles whenever feasible, or the most efficient vehicles available. Agencies must also prioritize use of efficient vehicles when using state fleet vehicles.

In 2025, the Office of Sustainability is working on policy guidance for agencies on the sustainable design of new buildings and renovations, and for managing landscapes.

Upcoming Sustainability Board Meetings

All Sustainability Board meetings are open to the public to listen in. Meetings are held in person and on Zoom. For more meeting information, please visit the [Office of Sustainability web site](#) or contact Jeni.Hall@das.oregon.gov.

- March 14, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, 9:30-2:30pm
- June 20, Gresham, location TBD, 9:30-2:30pm
- September 25/26, Newport, location TBD, 9:30-2:30 (both days)
- December 5, DAS Executive Building, 155 Cottage St NE, Salem, 9:30-2:30pm

Seeking to lead by example, the DAS Office of Sustainability is working with DAS facility managers to revamp its recycling and composting practices with new recycling stations, clear signage and messaging on best practices for recycling paper, cans and bottles, mixed recycling, electronics, cardboard, and batteries. As the same time, the Office of Sustainability and DAS Sustainable Procurement Program will be further exploring ways to reduce packaging when agencies procure products.



DAS Executive Building Leads Enterprise by Example

DAS recently completed a deep renovation of its Executive building, which houses DAS leadership and several other agency divisions. The renovation includes several sustainability elements, and it also demonstrates how agencies can adapt with a hybrid workplace design. Notably, the renovated building includes a large “drop-in” space available to agency employees in need of temporary workspace. It also includes several wellness elements such as bike storage, a wellness room, and a fitness room. On the sustainability side, the renovated building was designed to be 38 percent more efficient than code. It also includes low-toxicity materials and finishes throughout, replacement of lawn with native landscaping, and an ability to add greenhouse gas reducing electric heat pumps in the future. More information about the project can be [found here.](#)