

MINUTES

Oregon Sustainability Board



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY
Oregon Department of
Administrative Services

Meeting Date: June 14, 2024

Time: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Location: Lane County Administration, Eugene; Zoom

Attendees: OSB: Rex Burkholder (Chair), Johanna Anderson, Webly Bowles, Tanea Browning, Serena Dietrich, Cheyenne Holliday, Josh Proudfoot, Elin Shepard, Tom Kelly
DAS: Dave Wortman, Steven Markham

Guest Presenters: Ian Penn (City of Eugene), Aaron Orlowski (EWEB), Adam Helvey (DAS Sustainable Procurement Program Manager), Steve Mital (U of O Sustainability Director), Steve Adams (Lane County Policy Advisor), Kirstin Green and Josh Hardage (DLCD), Andrew Stolfi (DCBS)

Welcome

9:30 – 9:45 am

Meeting called to order. Brief Introductions. Review of agenda.

Board business, ODOT sustainability plan feedback

9:45 am – 10:15 am

Approval of meeting minutes, moved and seconded. Approved.

Board sent their acceptance letter to the ODOT Director with suggestions. ODOT accepted comments on their plan and provided a revised plan. Board letter to Governor on HB 3409 was received, no specific response back from Governor's office. Dave to follow up with Karin Power of Governor's office on status.

City of Eugene/Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) sustainability efforts

10:15 – 10:45 am (Ian Penn, Aaron Orlowski)

Ian Penn, City of Eugene: Presentation focused on broad policy overview and the City's climate work, City Council priorities related to climate, and building local partnerships. Big challenge is understanding what's happening at different government levels and how to pay for priorities.

They are focusing on three areas: policy development, climate action plan and Climate Recovery Ordinance, and their core functions. Tracking progress is also important, including the dashboard and annual report for city operations and the community. Eugene is unique in having climate goals embedded in city code. Latest Climate Action Plan approved in 2020, large institutions in city as partners (e.g., U of O). Also include resilience. Trying to get connections made across disciplines to get people out of stovepipes. Plan includes over 100 actions, many of which are completed or in progress. City is halfway to its climate goals in operations. They do purchase carbon offsets, but trying to figure out how those can be applied locally.

Main challenges are funding, collaboration and partnerships (silos), how to best work with the state. Funding is flowing through states, how can Eugene capitalize on that? Coordination with state agencies is important, particularly the PUC and working with state building codes (DCBS).

Q&A:

Can you explain the issues you're having with building codes? *There's a uniform code and the state sets that code, whatever the state says the cities do. And so, in California, for example, you could do something beyond codes as a city. We don't have that mechanism in Oregon. We can only incentivize it.*

I am curious about if you're implementing any sort of passive strategies to reduce energy? *Don't have good data on this. Lot of developers doing passive design in Eugene. Have a goal to increase street tree cover by 30%.*

I heard you earlier say something about partnerships being a little bit difficult. How can we help make those partnerships better? *This Board could help with communications with the state. Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities program conversations have been good. How can cities be at the table with some of the other conversations? Somewhat of a gold rush mentality with grant funds, how can efforts be better aligned? City is also engaged in League of Oregon Cities and Urban Sustainability Directors Network. Also working with grant writers and U of O to look at grant writing capacity.*

Aaron Orlowski, EWEB: Have some different climate goals, 95% carbon free power supply by 2030. Have lots of hydropower. Are a public utility. Do integrated resource planning every two years, need a mix of resources to meet loads. Bonneville Power provides 80% of electricity. Get a bit from biomass and cogeneration, and from local hydro on Mackenzie River. Working on replacing aging infrastructure, 10 new substations, trying to keep electricity rates low. Operational electricity is down. Overall, working on new energy supply and more resilient grid so customers have reliable, affordable electricity.

Q&A:

Are you investing in battery backup? *Are looking at them, will move on when Bonneville contract is done and we better know what we need. They can only shift loads for a short amount of time.*

Could Business Oregon grant funds be used for substations? *DAS can follow up on grants mostly used for wastewater treatment and if they can be used for broader purposes.*

How are you factoring in potential building conversions to all electric in your forecasting? Also, big tech companies and AI will be increasing energy loads. *75% of residents already all electric, but growth coming from EVs. Consultants do forecasting.*

Overview of DAS Sustainable Procurement Program progress, recycled content procurement study findings

10:45 – 11:15 am

Adam Helvey, DAS Sustainable Procurement Manager: Thank you to Board for support. Position became permanent in February. Also runs Oregon Forward Program that allows the State to have contracts with companies that employ people with disabilities.

Have a new statewide Sustainable Procurement Policy with social, environmental and fiscal objectives and specific product requirements. This makes sustainable procurement an established area, organizes statutes and executive orders and puts procurement requirements in one place so that when we point to sustainability, we can define it easily for Oregon. The price agreement process looks at specific considerations for eco labels and certifications, life cycle costing and specifications for products and services. There are many other ways to look for being more sustainable in areas like construction. A big challenge is having accurate spend and feeling confident about those numbers we're analyzing for sustainability. Currently also finishing up report on recycled content in products state purchases to give recommendations to Legislature. We are also finishing up statewide Green Chemistry policy, we are working with DEQ on that. Finally, we are working with the Service and Repair department to look at more green and recycled options for repairs. With furniture and recycle it or donate it or repurpose it in some way. We're making sure that agencies are aware of it and that we want to utilize it to keep materials out of landfills.

Q&A:

You mentioned that there were certain products that will have a higher impact. You noted that, but we didn't hear what they were? *Food services, janitorial supplies, maintenance and repair. Carbon impacts are mainly highest in IT, vehicles, fuels, office supplies and construction materials.*

Why was the recycled content study done? *This came from legislation to take a look at our practices and see if there are opportunities to improve them. Current statute is old and fragmented.*

Can you share the report and your work plan? *Adam will share both when they are ready. Board can help with setting work plan priorities.*

Agency sustainability plan/progress updates and panel discussion: DCBS, DLCD

11:15 – 12:15 pm

Kirsten Greene, DLCD: Their last Sustainability Plan was put together in 2020; they do not yet have an updated plan. It addressed operational sustainability, procurement (they're very proud of procurement, particularly for COVID firms), and energy use among other topics. They share a building with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. On efforts to reduce transportation impacts, employees only commute to the office once a week and managers twice a week.

Their agency definition is very close to Sustainability Act. They help communities plan for, protect, and improve the built and natural systems that provide a high quality of life in partnership with local governments. They foster sustainable and vibrant communities that protect our natural resource legacy through a variety of ways. They have 8-year strategic plan and work with nine federally recognized tribes, and make sure landscapes are working for carbon sequestration.

Focusing programs on racial equity. One program is to reduce impact of greenhouse gas emissions while increasing equitable outcomes for historically marginalized communities. Also mindful in rulemaking and work on inequity and generational wealth gaps. Working to keep urban growth boundaries strong, healthy, and robust. Future work in wildfire recovery is on the ground through regional reps and cities and counties. They have we have a mission to work with local governments to prevent and to mitigate against future natural hazards. Been working with Oregon Mass Timber Coalition to produce housing quickly. Participate on the state's water core team and will be having director Bateman ask Oregon Water Resources Department to come to their Commission meeting next week to talk about groundwater rule making.

Q&A:

You have been doing a good job of expanding your outreach. Thank you for paying attention to the demographics of the state.

I'm hearing a lot about how planning processes are getting bottlenecked by a lack of information on things like floodplains and wildfire risks in the wildland urban interface. Do you feel that DLCD is covering the bases on climate adaptation and decarbonization in the way that Washington State is in comp plans through the Growth Management Act? *Will have to learn more about that, we probably don't have and it would take a legislative fix.*

Director Stolfi, DCBS: They presented their 21-24 plan in 2021, so they do not have a new plan to share yet. Today they will be talking about where they are on their short term and long-term goals, as well as future. They are the state's largest consumer protection worker protection agency and the State largest business Regulatory agency as well. They have a brand-new mission with their new strategic plan. They are composed of a lot of different groups, they have 4 main subject matter divisions: Financial Regulation: That's the state's financial sector supervisor, insurance, banking, securities. Building codes division: responsible along with the State 7 governor appointed 7 confirmed boards for overseeing the states building code system. The Oregon OSHA program: the States workforce safety and Health program. Workers Compensation division: That's the people who are responsible for overseeing and regulating the states workers compensation system. A new group is Universal health Plan Governance board. They're trying to do something simple and develop an implementation plan for a single payer healthcare system.

These are the first of our first two of our 6 short term goals. First is to integrate Sustainability in our strategic plan check mark there on about June 1st of this year, we adopted a brand-new strategic plan. We have DI and equity principles embedded throughout that plan. We've got a separate theme just on DI and we even have a separate DI strategic plan. And again, talk about those more in a second. The second short term goal around measuring and reporting. We have a few months ago this year added new members to recreate our green team. We are we do have several of the buildings across the state, several offices across the state, not just Salem based and those are a mix of DAS leased and privately leased buildings. We do work with DAS and rely on DAS to measure and report out on our DAS lease buildings and our green team kind of newly reconstituted green team is going to develop some measures to report on. Now that got a much more established hybrid workforce, and our green team has been reconstituted. We're going to make sure and that team's going to make sure that our resource and information board is continuously updated.

They are reconstituting their DEI groups and expanding their office of equity that has as new director. They are embedding equity into all their themes.

They are working on workforce modernization, which was given a boost by the pandemic. They have a fully hybrid environment.

Their long-term goals are environment, social, and economic. They are participating in DAS's new Space Planning program. They are expanding their ability to have electronic transactions with the public, but still allowing for those that want in person. For procurement, they are looking to work with more COBID firms.

They are preparing a report to the legislature on opportunities to reduce the carbon impact of buildings and to continue Oregon's leadership on carbon reduction in the built environment. Shooting towards the end of this year are believed to have the report ready. It would be glad to share that with the board once that's done.

Q&A

Can you share high level the outcomes of your DEI audit? *The audit looked at HR policies and procedures and recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce. It also looked at our DEI Council, its functions, Charter and representation.*

You mentioned using more COBID firms, what is your plan for that? *We have a new tool from DAS that will help us look at our new and expiring contracts and ensure we are utilizing COBID firms where we can.*

What kind of work are you doing to make sure those building codes? *You know are adaptive to what's the changing environment as it comes forward, understanding that we need to have a baseline of health and safety.*

Board work priorities and interests.

12:30 – 1:00 pm

Univ. of Oregon sustainability initiatives

1:00 – 1:30 pm

Our mission statement is what guides our work, the opposite sustainability's mission right is to lead and support. That's a key thing, right? We don't do it all. There's a lot of other folks out there who are doing it. Sometimes we're leading, sometimes we're helping. But in any case, lead and support the integration of sustainability to the University of Oregon Operations curriculum, no curriculum. Research and engagement with the broader community. So, there's a wide range of ways in which we're working on this big issue. They started their sustainability office in 2007.

So, we have this leadership in policy development, a lot of advice to senior and leadership about where we ought to be investing our time and resources at a strategic level and then doing. The actual policy development work, we'll talk about that a little bit more operations is kind of the single, probably biggest focus we'll get into that a little bit more in a moment. Or so, but the environmental impact of the institution we thought we think of that now in sort of nine broadcast talk about them in a moment and then we have a range we drive that. Work right through Work plans through measurements and a range of other ways. As I said before, though, it is a right to it's a research and educational Institution the product really coming out the back end is the students and so we are involved in with them as well, right? So, we have Co-curricular programs. To help students gain, you know, perspective and take advantage of what the physical infrastructure of campus must teach in terms of sustainability. So, there are things that we do there. We work with faculty and staff in a range of ways to help them meet their sustainability interests, whether they be in research or making their labs. More sustainable, there's programs for all of that. And then the last big chunk significant chunk is the reporting and outreach that we do on behalf of the institution to track our performance, share that information back with the campus sort of an iterative process and then hope that that results in additional.

They have a sustainable dashboard that tracks all their metrics: climate, buildings, energy, waste, transportation, ground/stormwater, food and dining, water and purchasing.

They use Campus as Living labs, right? So, if students want to bring this data into their coursework or faculty, want to bring it into their research, it's easy. It's one stop shop. They can get they can get the work plans. They can get the results. They can do a bunch of their own independent analysis, compare it with ours, find holes, come, and berate me for things they should be doing that.

The single largest point source emissions on our campus are from natural gas which we use for heating. So, we spent a lot of time in the last couple of years working with a consultant, a series of consultants as a matter of fact to look at our heating system and try and think through plan what we do to transition essentially off natural gas to something else.

we also operate a surplus furniture program. This is its current location, kind of shabby. It's a warehouse adjacent to campus. Two or three years ago we opened the program to community members. desks and chairs and other kinds of furniture available at very low cost. These things sell for 10 to 25 bucks, and you know, we know. Of course we could sell them for a lot more. That's not our goal. We're just trying to, you know, get cost recovery. The reason why I share this with you has been enormously popular since we opened it up to the public. We sold thousands and thousands of items. At heavily discounted cost, so we know that we're making a nice service available to the Community this program because of its popularity has just won some support from canvas to move into a much nicer retail storefront on in spring.

Lane County Sustainability Initiatives

1:30 pm -2:00 pm

There are approximately 382 people in Lane County across a rough geographical area the size of Connecticut. It is also the only county in Oregon that all 20 of Oregon's land use planning goals are applicable. In 2019, the board directed the county to develop a climate action plan. It is embedded within the various departments: active transportation incorporated into transportation planning for instance or kind of innovative waste management practices embedded within our waste divisions, activities, recycling, and trade. Accelerate our or recapture rates, but it really was not necessarily a singular focus.

So, our guiding philosophy is understanding the entirety of the challenges that we have, rural poverty, we have a lack of housing. We have, you know, essentially developing world infrastructure levels in a lot of our county and just pressing needs.

Q&A

Countered some of your issues that you think are very important because you are chasing the money or on these the goals of these funding sources. Do they match with what you wanted to do anyway? Maybe a slightly different mix. *Which, well, sure, it's a great question. I think that I think most jurisdictions of this size would have a pretty robust set of things that could be done, right. So, it's really, we have not found that I think just about everything that we've noted and of course a hallmark of writing a good federal grant is demonstrating how this ties back, right.*

Questions of how to reduce methane emissions, specifically recognizing that beyond the oil and gas sector methane from landfills, is a real opportunity and we have we have some major sources here in the state that can use some help. So, they build a program around that, and it was the thing of particular interest. *To us, there was another around residential and commercial investments for renewable energy or sorry for energy efficiency and this I think is one of the areas that we're keenly interested in understanding and really with the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRA. So much of that is in the form of Tax credits and I think the key kind of operational question is there's probably some natural ray of uptake of tax credits, right for specific investment and you know I*

don't know what that is. I think if we went to look at CBOE scoring of the IRA, we would probably see what that is. We would, because they're having to calculate what the downstream impacts of the budget would be with these tax credits right for commercial and residential. And the thought was what if we tripled them here locally, what if we captured that federal investment not as a grant, rather as tax credits to upgrade our housing stock? What if we put together concierge services, for instance, that particularly targeted for rental stock. That would enable us to increase the value of our rental stock and reduce overall housing costs, which are, you know, a real challenge for us here. How can we do that? What would that look like and that what that looks like potentially is something like what we do for our wire's charges on the utility side.

Other Board business: wrap-up and adjourn.
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

There are no formal acceptance letters from this meeting, we will acknowledge and thank them for presenting. In addition to the letters, staff will send the board the draft recycling recycle products study.

Board members are reimbursed for milage and parking, please reach out to Jeni for the form. Lodging at the next meeting will be covered, as well as breakfast and lunch. Dinner is on your own. Rooms will be booked Wednesday and Thursday nights. Board members can coordinate a carpool if they would like.

we'll work on an agenda for that time. I think we'll have time because we're all there together. We could do some goal setting and talking about where we want to go, the interests of the new group. And so, we can, you know, look at the next year and say what do we want to cover during that time.

Adjourned

Action Items:

- The board to reach out to the governor's office about EWEB's concerns regarding grants and collaboration at all levels.
- Dave will send out Adam's document about the Sustainable Procurement Program and the draft recycled products study.
- Sustainability staff will send out a survey regarding board interests with the past board plans.

Next meeting: September 19 - 20, Enterprise