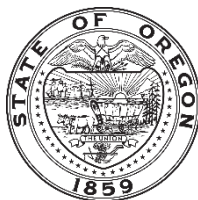


Oregon Sustainability Board 2023-2024 Biennial Report Executive Summary



March 31, 2025



Oregon Sustainability Board
900 Court St. NE, Ste. 160
Salem, OR 97301



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Sustainability Board
900 Court St, NE, Ste. 160
Salem, OR 97301

March 31, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oregon Sustainability Board Biennial Report on Activities and Recommendations

Honorable members of the Legislature,

In accordance with ORS 184.429 and ORS192.245, the Oregon Sustainability Board (OSB) is pleased to submit the 2023-2024 Biennial Report Executive Summary.

You will find in the attached executive summary the work this group has been undertaking the last two years. The volunteer members of the OSB are supported by staff in the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Office of Sustainability. The OSB and DAS staff work with agencies as well as local partners and DAS itself to develop strategies and actions that support Oregon's environment, economy and community. Oregon has emerged as a leader in sustainable procurement, offering to Oregon's other government agencies, as well as nonprofits, trusted information and access to vendors of products and services that advance sustainability goals.

Through agency sustainability plans, the OSB and the DAS Office of Sustainability provide thoughtful and actionable support for improving the sustainability of state operations and programs. The OSB also meets with local agencies and organizations to learn and share information, traveling to a different community every year.

I am proud of the talented and thoughtful members of the board that offer their extensive knowledge and engagement, as well as the leadership of the DAS Office of Sustainability and all our partners, within and outside of Oregon state government.

I hope that you will find the executive summary enlightening and hopeful. The full OSB 2023-2024 Biennial Report may be requested by contacting the DAS Office of Sustainability at jeni.hall@das.oregon.gov.

We would be happy to meet with you or answer any questions you may have about our work.

Yours respectfully,

Rex Burkholder, Chair
Oregon Sustainability Board

Executive Summary

The Oregon Sustainability Board (OSB) was established in 2001 to carry out the goals of the Oregon Sustainability Act and encourage activities that best sustain, protect and enhance the environment, economy and community for the present and future benefit of Oregonians ([ORS 184.421-435](#)). Appointed by the Governor, this 11-member board represents a variety of partners from across Oregon. Statute directs the OSB to provide the Legislature with a biennial report on its activities and recommendations.

According to [ORS 184.421](#), “sustainability” means using, developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs and provides that future generations can also meet future needs, from the joint perspective of environmental, economic and community objectives.

The OSB is directed by statute to develop and promote policies and programs that will assist in the meeting of sustainability goals specified in [ORS 184.423](#). Executive orders and guidance from prior governors ([EO 06-02](#)) further inform the board’s work, which primarily consists of helping agencies integrate sustainability into operations and programs consistent with sustainability goals. The OSB is also directed by statute to evaluate and recommend legislation, regulatory changes or policies to support sustainability.

Helping Agencies Thrive

The OSB regularly reviews agency sustainability plans and provides feedback and support. Approximately 20 agencies prepare plans using the OSB’s [Agency Sustainability Plan Guidelines](#), last published in 2023. In 2023-2024, the OSB met with 15 agencies to review and provide feedback on their sustainability plans and activities. Some highlights of feedback include:

- Reviewing and providing feedback on Oregon Department of Transportation’s Sustainability Plan, including activities related to its operations and its Climate Office.
- Meeting with Oregon Department of Agriculture and advising on integrating resilience into programs that assist Oregon farmers with adapting to a changing climate.
- Providing feedback to Business Oregon on how agency programs can support traditional Oregon industries (e.g., wood products) in responding to a changing climate.
- Complementing other efforts across Oregon state government to help agencies apply an equity lens to their operations and programs.

Supporting Enterprise-wide Programs

In 2023-2024 the OSB provided valuable guidance and support to the [DAS Office of Sustainability](#) and the [Sustainable Procurement Program](#). The Office of Sustainability works with agencies across the enterprise to integrate sustainability into operations, programs and practices through statewide policy, data sharing, guidance and technical assistance. The Sustainable Procurement Program helps integrate sustainability into statewide solicitations, contracts, policy, and training. Guidance provided by OSB included:

- Supporting DAS in establishing a full-time sustainable procurement program manager position and new statewide Sustainable Procurement Policy.
- Creating a climate action planning tool to assist agencies in identifying and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in their operations.
- Supporting agency efforts to plan for and invest in energy efficiency in state-owned buildings.
- Establishing a data dashboard showing trends in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions across state agency fleets and buildings.

Fostering Sustainable Communities

ORS 184.423 directs agencies to enable and encourage sustainable communities to achieve resilient local economies thriving work forces, efficient infrastructure investments, affordable housing, healthy watersheds and clean water – including communities that are economically distressed. The OSB supports these efforts by regularly meeting in, and engaging with, communities across Oregon.



Board members visit Wallowa County in September 2024.

In 2023-2024, two highlights encapsulate the OSB’s work fostering sustainable communities. In 2023, the OSB hosted discussions with the City of Corvallis, Benton County and Oregon State University to discuss local sustainability efforts and how the OSB could foster collaboration with state agencies. In 2024, the OSB held a two-day meeting in Wallowa County, hearing from and providing support to local government officials, the local organization Wallowa Resources and other organizations about issues related to housing, energy, farming and forestry and wildfire – many of which profoundly impact rural Oregon. The OSB also conducted field tours of residential renewable energy and community reforestation projects to learn how such projects could be supported and replicated elsewhere.

Moving Forward

The board is well positioned for 2025-2026 and beyond with an active membership and a roadmap for supporting agencies as they face challenges such as a changing climate, water resource management, evolving energy technologies and supporting underserved communities. The OSB is committed to addressing the root causes of Oregon’s sustainability challenges, rather than the symptoms. Over the next two years, the OSB intends to focus on the following topics:

- Supporting Governor Kotek’s priorities by helping apply a sustainability lens to addressing Oregon’s housing needs.
- Further refining its guidelines for how agencies integrate sustainability into their programs and operations.
- Helping DAS create, in accordance with 2023’s House Bill 3409, a set of sustainable design guidelines for new construction and major renovations of state-owned buildings.
- Supporting resilience efforts across agencies on issues such as wildfire, agriculture, renewable energy and water – particularly for low income and rural Oregon communities.
- Identifying ways agencies can lower and eventually eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from their buildings.
- Recommending holistic changes to Oregon’s transportation system to support the transition away from fossil fuel vehicles.
- Supporting an Oregon work force that can thrive in the face of a changing climate and build new industries around clean energy.
- Cross-collaborating with other boards and commissions – such as the Climate Action Commission and Environmental Justice Council – to support each other’s efforts.

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