

# **Benton County**

# **Tobacco-Free Policy**

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Benton County Health Department



# Benton County Demographics

- **Population:** Approximately 86,000
- **Geography:** 679 square miles
- **County Employees:** 613 employees
- **Elected Officials:** Three Commissioners, Sherriff, District Attorney
- **County Tenants:** Dial-a-Bus, OSU Extension, State Court System, low-income housing (26 units)



# Scope of the Policy

- Passed May 1, 2012, **effective Jan. 1, 2013**
- **Administrative Policy:**
  - Indoor and outdoor facilities owned or occupied by Benton County.
  - Outside property or grounds owned by Benton County, including:
    - parks & natural areas (14),
    - campgrounds/RV park (2),
    - fairgrounds,
    - courthouse,
    - parking areas, etc.
  - Vehicles owned by Benton County.



# Key: Department Managers (DM)

**May 2009:** Present and discuss the “exploration” of a tobacco-free policy.

- General support
- Raised several potential issues:
  - Shared Law Enforcement Building
  - Downtown Transit Center
  - Public Right of Ways
  - Parks & Natural Areas
  - Fairgrounds
- What would a policy look like?



# Research and Draft Policy

## July-November 2009:

- Research model policies
- Work with DM to develop draft
- Draft exempts:
  - Public road rights of way
  - Easements through private property for road, utility, or trail purposes
  - Common areas in facilities leased by the county shared by other occupants
  - **Fairgrounds, natural areas & parks are still under consideration**

# Employee Survey

## **November 2009:** Benefits & Wellness Committee

- 1) Update the group on policy progress and address concerns
- 2) Determine interest in co-developing a tobacco-free property survey of employees.

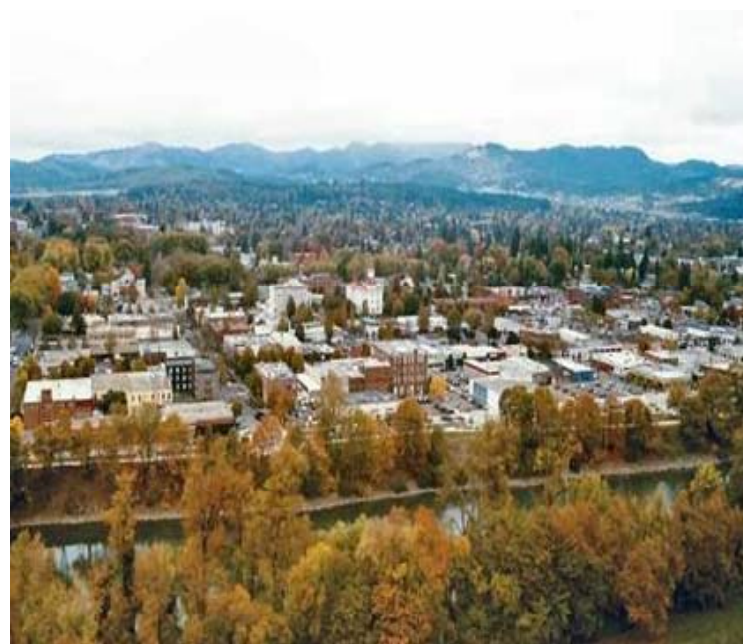
## **February 2010:** Survey employees

- Assess employee attitudes:
  - worksite tobacco use
  - current employee cessation benefits
- RESULTS:
  - 72% - stronger tobacco-use policy
  - 58% - important to prohibit all forms of tobacco

# *Listen* and Be a Good Neighbor

## **August 2010:**

- Present survey results and recommendations to Health Director, Public Works Director, and Sheriff.
- Meet Natural Areas & Parks Director, Fairgrounds Manager, and Public Works Director, to discuss parks and fairgrounds.
- Meet with City of Corvallis Transportation Coordinator
  - Downtown Transit Center
- Sheriff and Police Department
  - Law Enforcement Building



# Present to Key Groups

## September 2010:

- Parks & Natural Areas Board - **Approve**
- Fair Board – **No Major Objections**
- Public Health Planning and Advisory Committee - **Approve**
- Healthy Communities Advisory Council - **Approve**
- Benefits and Wellness Committee – **Come Back Again, Please**





**September 2010:** DM vote via email to present the draft policy to the Board of Commissioners.

**100% approval!**



# Round 1: Board of Commissioners

**November 2010:** Present and discuss draft policy at work session.

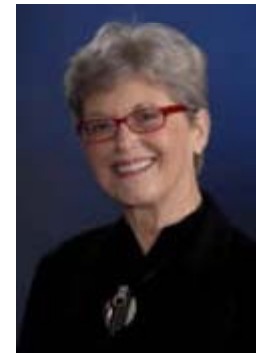
- **Request:** Revise implementation plan and timeline.
- **Present:** Health Director, Deputy Health Director, Public Works Director, Natural Areas & Parks Director, and Sheriff



# Round 2: Board of Commissioners

**January 2011:** Present and discuss draft policy and revised implementation plan.

- **Request:** Send policy for editing and feedback, make it “friendlier”.
- **Present:** Health Director, Deputy Health Director, Natural Areas & Parks Director, Fairgrounds Manager, Public Works Director



# Things are “Friendlier”

## February 2011:

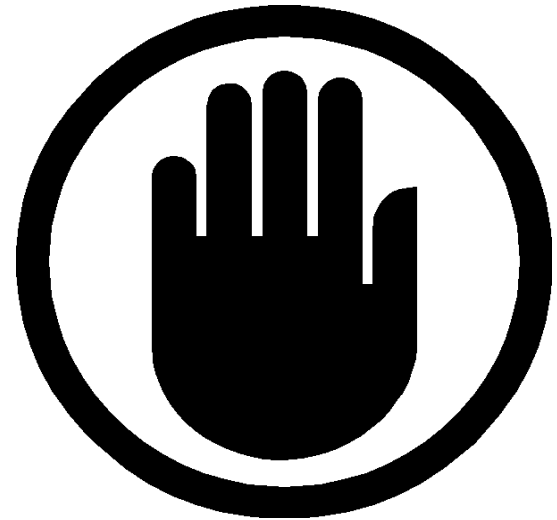
- Develop a “friendlier” policy
  - “Success of Policy” instead of “Compliance”, etc.
- Review and Input
  - Board of Commissioners
  - Legal Counsel
  - Public Works Director
  - Natural Areas & Parks Director
  - Fairgrounds Manager
  - Human Resources Director



# Policy Oversight Committee

**March 2011 – April 2012:**

- **March – Aug. 2012:** Policy queue
- **Sept. – Nov. 2012:** Confusion
- **Dec. 2012 – Feb. 2013:** Re-discuss  
EVERYTHING
- **March – April 2013:** Employee  
comment period, policy revision



# Round 3: Board of Commissioners

**May 1, 2012:** Present the final policy and Policy Oversight Committee concerns

- **Present:** Health Director, Deputy Health Director, Public Works Director, Fairgrounds Manager, Community Development Director, Natural Areas & Parks Director, and Sheriff
- **Policy Adopted**



# The Streaker

## December 2012:

Sara,

I wanted to run this information past you. Based on numerous discussions with the Department heads and a follow up with Legal Counsel, we are interested in taking the issues below to the Board for an exemption from the policy. Initially I think that most of the Department Heads felt that these issues would be specifically addressed in the exemption portion of the policy. However based on the final draft we think there are still a few significant issues that may merit minor modifications to



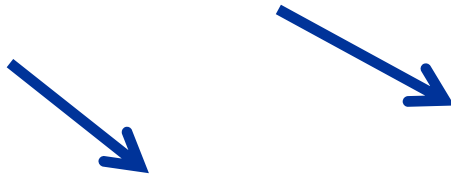
# Implementation

- Chief Operating Officer announced the policy
- Presented to every department
- Provided educational materials
  - Employee Tip Card
  - Success Tips
  - Sample Scripts
  - FAQs
  - Palm Cards & Leaflets
- Facilities placed signs, decals, and removed ash receptacles
- Report problem areas to TPEP



Palm Referral Card

Visitor Leaflet



**Benton County property  
is tobacco-free.**

For more information:  
[www.co.benton.or.us/health/  
public\\_health/tobacco\\_prevention](http://www.co.benton.or.us/health/public_health/tobacco_prevention)



**You can quit. We can help.**

**Clients and Visitors:** Contact the Oregon Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) or [www.quitnow.net/oregon/](http://www.quitnow.net/oregon/).

**Employees:** If covered by Benton County health benefits, contact Quit for Life at 1-QUIT-4-LIFE (1-866-784-8454). Visit the Bentranet for more info.

**Se prohíbe el uso de  
tabaco y cigarros  
en todas las  
propiedades  
gubernamentales del  
Condado Benton.**



Condado Benton

# WELCOME

No smoking or tobacco use is allowed on this property.



Thank you for not using tobacco.



This property is tobacco-free.



Mayha, 6 años

En esta propiedad no fumar ni masticar



...t using tobacco.



Molly, age 7

This property is tobacco-free.



## “Success of Policy”

- All employees are **encouraged** to assist by helping ensure people are aware of policy.
- Management and supervisory staff are responsible for the ongoing success of this policy within their respective work areas.

# Lessons Learned

- Patience
- Persistence
- Internal and community partnerships
- Keep a record
- Be prepared for the Streaker