

OREGON SUSTAINABILITY BOARD

REPORT TO THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**2009-2011
Biennial Report**
April 2011

Elin Shepard, Board Staff Support
(503) 314-9021
eshepard@peci.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an opportunity for the Oregon Sustainability Board (Board) to share its accomplishments and strategy with the legislature. The Board has been active since the last report in 2009, by traveling around the State, working with state agencies and local communities to identifying new partnerships and actions, and spurring sustainability efforts in both the public and private sectors. In addition, the Board sponsored a new project around the development of an eco-system services market in rural communities. The Board continues to be a strong voice for sustainability throughout Oregon, and we look forward to implementing our new projects and carrying our momentum forward in the next biennium.

The enclosed report details the following:

- Major accomplishments for 09-11 biennium,
- Future projects for 11-13 biennium and beyond,
- Implementation of Senate Bill 513 – ecosystem services marketplace,
- Connection with state agencies around guidance and training, state agency plans, Interagency Sustainability Coordinators Network,
- Board community outreach through travel around Oregon, presentations to the Board, and the Oregon Sustainability Awards.

Oregon Sustainability Board Members

2011 Board Members

Susan Anderson, Director, City of Portland, Bureau of Planning & Sustainability

Kate Brown, Chair, Governor's Representative, Secretary of State

Dr. Robin Collin, Professor, Willamette University

Annabelle Jaramillo, Commissioner, Benton County

Pete Kratz, Executive Vice President, Operations, Harry & David Holdings, Inc.

John Ledger, Vice President, Associated Oregon Industries

John D. Miller, Wildwood/Mahonia

Eric Schooler, President, The Collins Companies

Trey Senn, Executive Director, Klamath County Economic Dev. Association

Sara Vickerman, Director, West Coast Office, Defenders of Wildlife

Joe Webb, Judge, Grant County

Former Board Members

Bill Bradbury, Former Chair, Governor's Representative, Former Secretary of State

Bill Blosser, Natural Resources/Community Health/Economics

Ned Dempsey, Small Business Representative

Martin Goebel, Sustainable Northwest

Becky Hyde, Rancher, Southern Oregon

Deborah Kane, Natural Resources/Community Health/Economics

Tracey Liskey, Natural Resources/Community Health/Economics

Tom Nygren, Small Woodlot Owner

Overview of Sustainability Board Activities

During the 2009-2011 biennium, the Board met six times per year and divided its work into these general areas:

- State agencies
- Special Board initiatives
- Community outreach

It continues to be difficult for the Board to carry out its legislative mandate without any financial resources. Fortunately, agencies including the Secretary of State's Office, City of Portland and Department of Administrative Services, provided staff assistance to the Board. In addition, a number of non-state volunteers provided significant assistance to the Board. The Board believes its principal role is to facilitate and encourage work on sustainability-related issues within state government and in the broader Oregon community. In particular, its role is to act as a bridge to connect the many groups working on sustainability, both within and outside of state government.

Major Accomplishments in 2009-2011 Biennium

The Board had several projects it worked on during the 2009-2011 biennium. A summary of the projects are below.

- Project #1: To provide oversight of the Ecosystem Services Workgroup. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board provided staff support, report development and report printing support for the group, who successfully created a framework for implementing an ecosystem services marketplace in Oregon. The report is located at http://sustainability.oregon.gov/DAS/FAC/SUST/docs/LegislativeRpt_2011_SB513.pdf.
- Project #2: To create a program for state agencies' performance excellence around sustainability.
- Project #3: To expand the awards program to include a forum in which the winners and industry peers could encourage best practices within their business cluster.

New Projects for the 2011-13 Biennium

The Board's May 2011 meeting is being scheduled as a strategic planning session to develop new projects and a two-year strategic plan. The potential areas of focus will include:

- Implementation of ecosystem services marketplaces;
- Issues for rural Oregonians: farming and land use, water resources, biomass/biofuels, transportation efficiencies, and an updated toolkit for local governments;
- Developing policy recommendations to acknowledge the Oregon Adaptation framework;
- Eastside forest legislation and Dry Forest Investment Zones;
- State agencies developing a sustainability roadmap to 2025. This would include direction to create a more sustainable state government and develop a communications program to share sustainability success stories with the public, thereby encouraging state agency innovation;
- Identifying waste that can be repurposed into raw product for another process.

History

The legislature established the state's overall sustainability policy in 2001 when it adopted the Oregon Sustainability Act (ORS 184.423). Among other things, the legislation created the Oregon Sustainability Board and established legislative goals for state government in the area of sustainability. In order to help implement the act, Governor Kulongoski issued Executive Order 03-03 in June 2003, which directed the Sustainability Board to oversee the process for carrying out the Act. The Executive Order specifically requests that the Board oversee development of sustainability plans by 20 state agencies. The Executive Order also established a Sustainability Leadership Team, composed of senior state employees, to assist the Board in carrying out its activities.

In 2006, Governor Kulongoski issued Executive Order 06-02. The Executive Order specifically requests that the Board assist local governments and the private sector with the development of sustainability practices, promote sustainable economic investment and development, and advance sustainability performance in state government. The Executive Order identifies the Sustainability Leadership Team, Interagency Sustainability Network, and Oregon Solutions to assist the Board in completing the requirements.

The 2007 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 3244, which established the Board as a permanent advisory body within the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

A copy of the Governor's Executive Orders 00-07, 03-03, and 06-02 can be found at: <http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov>

Connection with State Agencies

Guidance and Training

2003-2005

In order to assist agencies in developing their sustainability plans, the Board issued an agency guidance document in November, 2003 titled, "A Sustainable Oregon for the 21st Century". The document provided specific guidance on the development of agency plans and asked each agency to identify at least three sustainability-related actions they would undertake during the biennium.

Plan Development Review

2003-2005

The Board committees compared the sustainability plans prepared by the 20 agencies required to do so against the criteria listed in the guidance document. A number of the plans required revision before they would meet the criteria. These revisions were made by the agencies and all plans then received Board approval.

Key state agencies

- Administrative Services
- Agriculture
- Consumer & Business Services, Building Codes Division
- Corrections
- Economic & Community Development
- Energy
- Environmental Quality
- Fish & Wildlife
- Forestry
- Governor's Office
- Housing & Community Services
- Lands
- Land Conservation & Development
- Parks
- Progress Board
- Public Utilities Commission
- Transportation
- Travel Oregon
- University System
- Water Resources
- Watershed Enhancement Board

Current State Agency Actions

Senate Bill 513

The 2009 Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 513. This bill created an ecosystems services workgroup within the Natural Resource Institute with staffing provided by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and oversight provided by the Sustainability Board. Over the last two years, the workgroup developed a report with recommendations to streamline ecosystem services markets and payment programs. In January 2011, these recommendations were developed into House Bill 3109.

State Agency Plans

The Sustainability Board met with agencies throughout the 2009-11 biennium. The Board was not able to successfully frame sustainability with state agencies in terms of how they impact sustainability through their external operations. The Board launched a process to revitalize the benchmarks from the Oregon Progress Board around performance excellence and plans to introduce that to state agencies in the 2011-13 biennium. In addition, the Board sponsored Senate Bill 942, which requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to adopt a statewide plan for sustainability, with input from agencies. It also allows state employees to volunteer for green team activities on limited work time and to reduce paper use in operations.

Interagency Sustainability Coordinators Network

In January 2008, the Board re-energized the Interagency Sustainability Coordinators Network (Network) through staff support from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The group established a regular bi-monthly meeting schedule to facilitate discussions around energy conservation, solar projects for state buildings, legislative bill coordination, social equity, and more. The Network also organized several tours and educational opportunities relating to community sustainability projects for state agencies. However, once the 2009-2011 biennium began, state agencies shifted their focus to budget shortfalls and attendance at the Network meetings began to wane. The Network discontinued its meetings in July, 2010 due to staff shortages. The Board sponsored Senate Bill 943 to create the Network as a formal committee in statute with regular attendance in order to maintain the innovative and cooperative discussions around sustainability in state government.

Board Community Outreach

Sustainableoregon.net Web Site

The Board, acting through the Department of Administrative Services, maintains a state website for sustainability. The website contains archives of all Board actions, copies of agency sustainability plans, links to a wide variety of sustainability resources, sites, and other information on sustainability. The site recently moved to a new server where staff is able to track the number of visits the site receives.

Presentations to Board

As part of its strategic plan, the Board has invited a wide variety of outside groups and specialists to make presentations to the Board on their sustainability activities. A sampling of these presentations is listed below.

- Oakridge city improvements and sustainability projects (*Kevin Urban, Gordon Zimmerman, Michael McKenzie-Bahr, Danielle Bowerman, George Custer, Mike Richards, Jennifer Hood – City of Oakridge & Lane County reps*)
- Mountain biking eco-tourism in Oakridge (*Ben Beamer, Randy Drieling, International Mountain Biking Assoc.*)
- Voice for Oregon Innovation & Sustainability – VOIS (*Sattie Clark & Lisa Gambee*)
- Sustainability in K-12 schools (*Bill Stewart, Gladstone SD Superintendent*)
- Sustainability in Oregon University System (*Gail Achterman, Institute for Natural Resources, OSU*)
- Green Jobs Council (*Michael Cavallaro & Dan Moore, Rogue Valley Council of Governments*)
- Water & farm issues in Southern Oregon (*Steve Mason, WISE Project Coordinator*)
- Southern Oregon Clean Energy Alliance (*Mike McArthur & Emily Ackland, Assoc. of Oregon Counties*)
- State and National Parks sustainability programs (*Crater Lake staff*)

Board Travel

In addition to community partnership for presentations, the Board thrives on traveling to locations around the state for its meetings. The Board members are not reimbursed for their travel expenses. A sampling of the travel locations is below.

June 2009 – Enterprise

- Zumwalt Prairie

August 2009 – Roseburg

- Fast pyrolysis (biomass) demonstration

October 2009 – Oakridge

- New industrial park
- Fish hatchery

January 2010 – Gladstone

- LEED Gold high school
- Center for Children & Families

September 2010 – Medford and Crater Lake

- Harry & David's sustainable practices
- Crater Lake Lodge

Further travel destinations in 2011:

- September – John Day & Baker City



The beauty of the Zumwalt Prairie



Crater Lake



The organic pear orchard for Harry & David in Medford

Global Warming Commission

In January 2011, the Board and the Global Warming Commission held their first joint meeting to discuss issues shared by the missions of each group. It was one of the highest attended meetings by the public in the history of the Board and provided an important opportunity to ensure partnership on legislation and projects. While the core functions of the two groups are separate, there is a small amount of overlap and both groups recognize the importance of collaboration. Hopefully, this meeting is the start of other opportunities to share initiatives and partner on upcoming projects.

State of Oregon Sustainability Awards

2010: The Future of Energy conference hosted the 4th Annual Oregon Sustainability Awards on April 13, 2011. Governor Kitzhaber and Secretary Brown distributed the awards.

- Small business winners:
 - One Green World (Northwoods Nursery), Molalla, OR
- Large business winners:
 - Burgerville, Portland, OR
- NGO/Government winners:
 - Port of Portland, Portland, OR
 - Corvallis Regional Sustainability Programs – consist of:
 - Corvallis School District
 - 1st Alternative Coop
 - Corvallis Sustainability Coalition

Finalists:

- CH2M Hill
- Hampton
- Peterson CAT
- Rogue Creamery
- Easy Street
- Nathan Good Architects
- Rogue Comm. College/Southern Oregon Univ.

2009: The Future of Energy conference hosted the 3rd Annual Oregon Sustainability Awards on April 22, 2010.

- Small business winners:
 - Duro-Last Roofing, Grants Pass, OR
 - Gingerich Farms, Canby, OR
- Large business winners:
 - Harry & David, Medford, OR
 - Truitt Brothers, Salem, OR
- NGO/Government winners:
 - Clean Water Services, Hillsboro, OR
 - Gladstone School District, Gladstone, OR
- Special Recognition: TEAM Klamath, Klamath County, OR
- Rising Star: Paula's Kitchen, Kings Valley, OR

Finalists:

- Corvallis School District
- ZGF Architects



Award winners at the Future of Energy conference in Portland

Conclusion

The Board continues to grow in its role and looks forward to completing new projects over the next biennium. While it also looks forward to enjoying a robust and innovative future, it will not lose sight of its principle role as facilitator and champion of work on sustainability-related issues within state government and in the broader Oregon community. It will continue to serve as the primary bridge for innovation, environmental stewardship and social equity, both within and outside of state government. In addition, the Board serves at the pleasure of the Governor and will implement any new directives that come from the 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions or any future Executive Orders.