

Program # 71002 - Sustainability Team**Version 4/25/2005 s**

Priority:	Vibrant Communities	Lead Agency:	County Business
Program Offer Type:	Internal Service	Program Contact:	Dave Boyer
Related Programs:	40004, 71014, 71019, 71033A, 71036, 71042, 90023		
Frameworks:			

Executive Summary

The Sustainability Team promotes community livability, a thriving economy and a healthy ecological system. The team's two staff members focus on reducing harmful environmental impacts to the community from County operations. They encourage and help implement sustainable practices with regard to what we buy, what we throw away, how we build and operate our facilities, and how we travel.

Program Description

The Sustainability Team provides leadership, analysis, project management and reporting for the County's sustainability efforts. Key efforts include: reducing toxic pollution; assuring residents have access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably-grown food; promoting purchasing practices that protect the environment; promoting transportation options that reduce the need to drive; modifying building practices to promote energy- and resource-efficiency, and provide healthy work environments; increasing recycling; preventing waste and pollution; and providing employee education for sustainability. These projects are conducted in close partnership with seven County agencies (see above), other local governments, and a diverse citizen advisory group called the Sustainable Development Commission.

Program Justification

The Sustainability Team affects community environmental health in two ways: by reducing the environmental "footprint" of our own government operations and by serving as a role model for the community. For example, by increasing recycling we can reduce the 620 tons of trash we annually throw away; by promoting transportation options we can reduce the 12 million miles we travel annually in our cars; by promoting energy efficiency we can reduce the 30,000 pounds of air pollution we emit from our vehicles and buildings; and we can leverage our purchases of \$100 million worth of goods and services to provide model purchasing practices and support emerging markets for sustainable products. The Sustainability Team supports "Vibrant Community" goals by promoting sustainable practices, physical activity, citizen engagement, and a healthy environment (including air, water and soil quality, natural resource use and personal choices). We do this in the following ways. We work with County agencies to promote sustainable practices in all of our projects. We support transportation options which promote physical activity in employees' everyday schedules and reduce air pollution. We promote a healthy environment by supporting efforts to: use green building technologies; purchase environmentally-friendly materials; and increase recycling. We provide education that emphasizes personal responsibility for the environment. We demonstrate effective citizen engagement by meaningful involvement of citizens in guiding the direction of this program.

Performance Measures

Recycling: 2004 established a baseline average recycling rate for County facilities of 30%. The target is a minimum average recycling rate of 50% by 2005. Transportation Options: For State mandated sites, the target is an average auto trip rate of 76% by 2005. During the last survey trip rates fell from 83% to 77%. Climate Change: The Board adopted goal is to reduce County emissions of greenhouse gasses by 10 % by 2010. To date, emissions from County operations have been reduced 9%.

Summary of last year's program results and this year's expected results

We improved the recycling program for 43 county facilities in Portland (next year we will expand the program to include East County facilities). We promoted alternative transportation for employees (next year we will add new educational tools and incentives). We reduced net greenhouse gas emissions from our diesel fuel by 70%, and led development of new energy and environmental standards for the County's 130+ buildings (next year we will assist with purchase of hybrid vehicles for the fleet). We organized a successful public workshop on toxic pollution, and developed a resolution to create a toxics reduction strategy (next year we will create the strategy). We engaged citizens to establish sustainability principles and to implement a successful food purchasing project with County correctional facilities (next year we will work with citizens to select indicators of a healthy environment for the County). We increased the recycled content of paper while reducing costs (next year we will promote sustainable purchasing practices for cleaning, office and medical supplies). We led a revision of mileage reimbursement procedures which saved \$90,000 (next year we will work to further increase vehicle utilization.) And we provided employee education through a Sustainability report, newsletter and website (next year we will also implement a quarterly employee education campaign).

Program Mandate: 2 Mandated Program with Funding/Service Level Choice

Several legal mandates are included in this program. OAR 340-242-0100 requires employers to provide incentives for employee use of alternative commute options, which have the potential to reduce commute trips to the work site by ten percent within three years. ORS 279.570 requires that all public agencies shall assure purchase of materials, goods and supplies that may be recycled or reused when discarded. City of Portland Code 17.102.180 requires that commercial facilities [in Portland] must separate recyclable and recycle a minimum of 50% of their waste. And Oregon Executive Order EO-99-13 which encourages governments in Oregon to eliminate toxic pollutants.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2005	2005	2006	2006
Personnel	-\$584	\$0	\$0	\$175,044
Contracts	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$9,740
Materials & Supplies	\$6,518	\$0	\$0	\$7,335
Internal Services	\$15,104	\$0	\$0	\$16,345
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$31,038	\$0	\$0	\$208,464
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$31,038	\$0	\$0	\$208,464
Program Total:	\$31,038		\$208,464	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$154,052
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$154,052

Explanation of Revenues

This program is funded through charges to County Business Services Divisions, which are in turn funded through internal service charges to line departments.

Significant Program Changes

In FY06, a major program initiative will include responding to the Oregon DEQ's 2004 Portland Air Toxics Assessment, which reported that air pollution in the Portland Metropolitan area is above the allowable limits for ten toxic air pollutants. Most significantly, the DEQ reports that diesel particulate pollution, which causes chronic respiratory effects and is linked to lung cancer, is 790 times the health-based allowable limit in the Portland area. Important sources of this pollution are construction equipment, on-road engines, and recreational marine vessels. We will identify opportunities to further reduce pollution from County diesel sources to help address this problem.