

Multnomah County Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation Application for Committee Membership – January 2013 – December 2015

****Applications are due by December 5, 2012 at 5:00 PM****

Given that sustainability issues have the greatest impact on low-income communities and communities of color, we highly encourage representatives from these communities to apply.

Please return application to:

Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97214

Or email completed application to: sustainability@multco.us

Name: Mary	S	Peveto
First	Middle Initial	Last

Mailing Address: 2882 NW Thurman St
Street
City, State, Zip Code Portland, OR 97210

Occupation: President, Neighbors for Clean Air

Daytime Phone: 503-705-0481 Email: marypeveto@mac.com

Are you a resident of Multnomah County? Yes No

Do you work in Multnomah County? Yes No

Are you currently a County employee or the employee of any organization contracting with the County or bidding on County contracts? Yes No

Why do you want to serve on the advisory committee?

I became aware of the work of the advisory committee after discussing problems with urban air toxics, and the threat to public health in Multnomah County, with ACSI member Sattie Clark. She invited me to participate on an Air Toxics sub- Committee.

Through this work, I have been impressed by the level of dedication from Multnomah County staffers and community volunteers to the goals of promoting a healthy, prosperous and resilient community for all county residents and inspired by the effectiveness of the work.

When I moved to Oregon almost 20 years ago, I was inclined to take for granted the characteristics of Portland that are now revered nationwide: a commitment to sustainability, innovative transportation infrastructure embraced by the public, great urban neighborhoods, and great urban green spaces. In the last few years I have come to appreciate the dedicated work of individuals that has earned Portland our unique reputation. People who were willing to go far above and beyond to envision a different way to build, rebuild and sustain urban living. I believe that the Multnomah County Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation is comprised of just those kind of thought leaders and I would welcome the opportunity to join them.

There is yet room to improve, even where our region has led on transportation, public health, and the green economy, there remains the opportunity to unlock the potential of a truly sustainable economy and robust society. Too many American communities struggle to realize growth economically where the costs are not disproportionately borne on the backs of low income and communities of color, which are costs we must all ultimately bare. The county, like no other public entity, is uniquely positioned to see the value in public health as a protected commodity for all. In addition, providing the infrastructure to ensure equal access to a clean and healthy environment, and strong communities built around neighborhood schools and libraries are the backbone to regional economic vitality.

I would be honored to work with ACSI toward these ambitious goals.

Sustainability focuses on the intersection of the economy, social equity and the environment. What expertise or points of view in one or more of these areas could you bring to the advisory committee?

Through my work as founder of a grass roots air pollution citizen action organization (Neighbors for Clean Air), I have worked with local industry, regulators and neighborhood based organizations to find innovative solutions to the vexing problem of harmful emissions. We seek to work directly with communities most effected by toxic emissions. DEQ's data supports that the impacts are disproportionately felt in neighborhoods with higher concentrations of low-income and communities of color. Neighbors for Clean Air has been working to reach out to leaders of these communities to educate them on the problem and to build sustainable effective grass roots action to reduce air pollution. At the same time we are working to identify and remove the systemic barriers that put these populations at greater risk.

How do you think sustainability is most relevant to the services Multnomah County provides in the community?

The county, and its residents, often bears the consequences of policy which fails to calculate the true cost of leaving populations behind or allowing the costs to disproportionately fall on vulnerable individuals: from rising chronic health needs to increases in crime, to the vulnerability of volatile tax revenue which we rely on to fund critical services.

Please highlight relevant current or past community involvement, including volunteer work, committee or board experience.

I served on the Department of Environmental Quality Portland Air Toxics Solutions Advisory Committee that studied the data on all source categories of emissions for the tri-county metro area and worked with stakeholders to make pollution reduction recommendations.

I have served on the NW neighborhood association board.

I have served on the board of Portland Voice/We make the media – a 501 (c) 3 organization founded to establish a new online investigative journalism source for Oregon news.

Please list any potential conflicts of interest you may have, including your current or potential employment (including serving on the board of directors) with an organization that is currently doing business with the County or that may bid on County contracts.

I am aware of none.

Signature:

Mary Seill Perich

Date:

3 December 2012

The purpose of this form is to obtain information for use in making appointments to the Multnomah County Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation. Please note that information provided in this document is **public information**.

