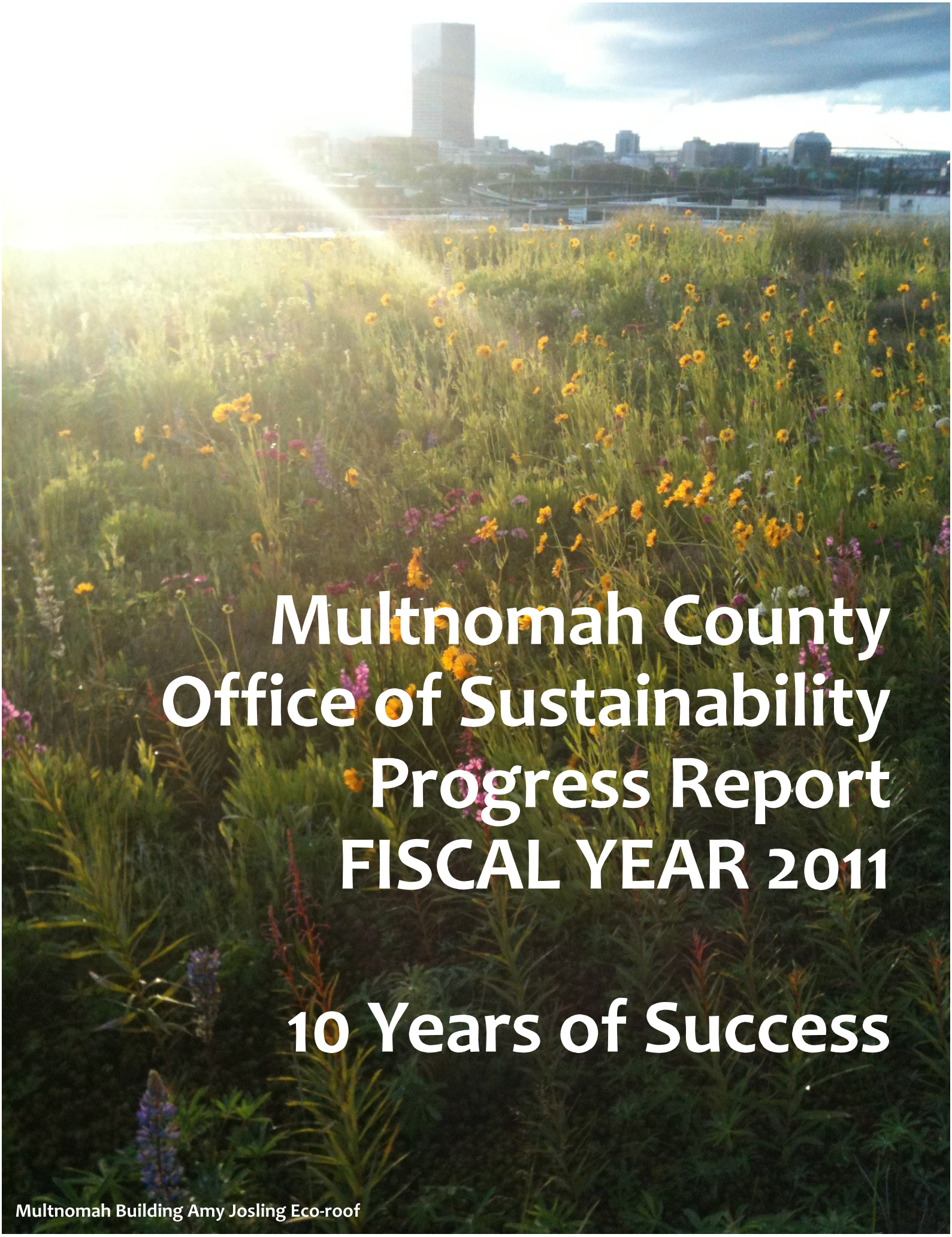

Multnomah County Office of Sustainability Progress Report FISCAL YEAR 2011

10 Years of Success

Multnomah Building Amy Josling Eco-roof

Multnomah County Sustainability Principles

The following principles were adopted by the Board of Commissioners to guide Multnomah County's operations, delivery of services and decision-making:

(1) Create a future where communities, commerce and nature thrive together in harmony.
(2) Consider long-term impacts of decisions in order to achieve multiple benefits for the economy, environment and community.
(3) Ensure healthy communities by celebrating diversity and providing safe neighborhoods, a living wage, and access to education for all ages and socioeconomic sectors.
(4) Build community awareness, responsibility, involvement, and education as key elements of successful policies and programs.
(5) Protect and restore air, water and land to preserve biological diversity and environmental health while providing a natural resource base for future generations.
(6) Take necessary precautions to prevent toxic pollution and waste through proactive measures.
(7) Ensure that ecosystem impacts and the costs of protecting the environment do not unfairly burden any one geographic or socioeconomic sector of Multnomah County.
(8) Use County resources efficiently by recognizing the interconnections among community well being, land use, building, transportation, affordable housing, food systems, and the natural environment and by adopting a holistic long term view of our investments which includes social and environmental costs

Multnomah County's Office of Sustainability works within County operations and with the community to create a healthy, equitable, and prosperous community. But we don't work alone, all of our efforts and every accomplishment in this report is the result of collaboration and partnership with community organizations, businesses, local governments, and across County departments and elected offices. There are countless more wonderful sustainability efforts underway in Multnomah County than are represented here, in fact it would be impossible to capture all the tremendous energy in our community and within County services/operations in one report. This report is designed to demonstrate sustainability progress and showcase projects that the Office of Sustainability has either led or supported.

Sustainability is a core value shared by me and all of my colleagues on the Board of Commissioners, and an important part of Multnomah County's mission. I am proud of the hard work county employees from across the organization have done over the past year to make our county and community more sustainable. The county continues to make enormous strides in reducing waste, increasing energy efficiency, and fostering a more robust local food system. Please read more about our accomplishments in this report and please join me in thanking the Office of Sustainability for their outstanding leadership.

Multnomah County is amazing. We've been told by skeptics: "It's too ambitious. It will cost too much. We've already done enough." But Multnomah County keeps demonstrating that sustainability not only makes good business sense, it also allows us to be good stewards of our natural resources and drives us to create equitable and prosperous communities. Sustainability is a journey, not a destination, and the accomplishments highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the deep commitment of our community, County staff, Chair Cogen and the Board of Commissioners to creating a healthy, equitable and prosperous Multnomah County.

Multnomah County Vision for Sustainability

Multnomah County government strives to be a leader in sustainability - we attempt to achieve the mutual benefits of community livability, a thriving economy, and a healthy ecological system simultaneously - in every action at every scale.

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Executive Summary

What We Do
Multnomah County is one of the greenest and most efficient local governments in the nation. Since 2001, the Office of Sustainability has led this effort by providing critical direction, policy analysis, project management, and accountability to this continuing accomplishment, thus ensuring that the County saves resources and money for critical community services. The Office of Sustainability also serves as a convener and works with community partners to protect public health, keep our environment clean and to support the local economy.

Priority program areas:
Energy & Climate
Community Food
Resource Conservation

Why Multnomah County Pursues Sustainability
Multnomah County leadership recognizes that residents care deeply about a clean environment, a healthy and equitable community, and a prosperous economy. Sustainability is defined as the intersection between these three issues that ensures present and future generations are able to prosper.

The following symbols will highlight areas of specific project emphasis:

Environment

Equity

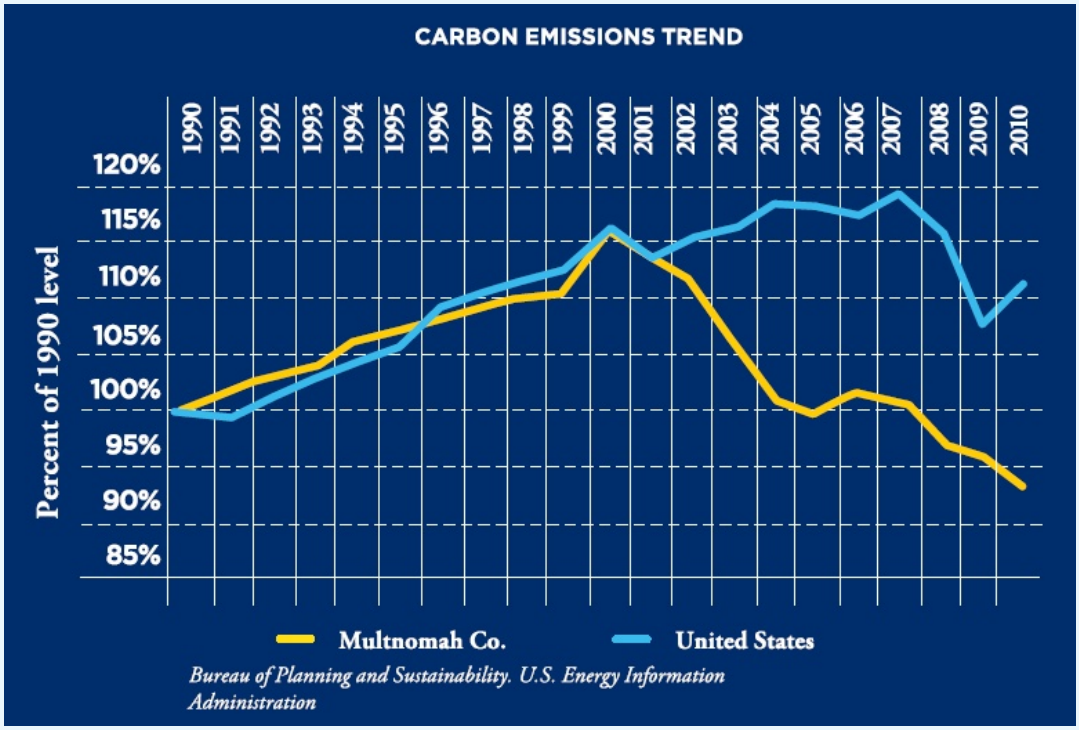
Economy

Cost Savings

Sustainability Dashboard

Key FISCAL YEAR 2011 Accomplishments

Multnomah County tracks sustainability metrics over time to monitor progress toward adopted key goals

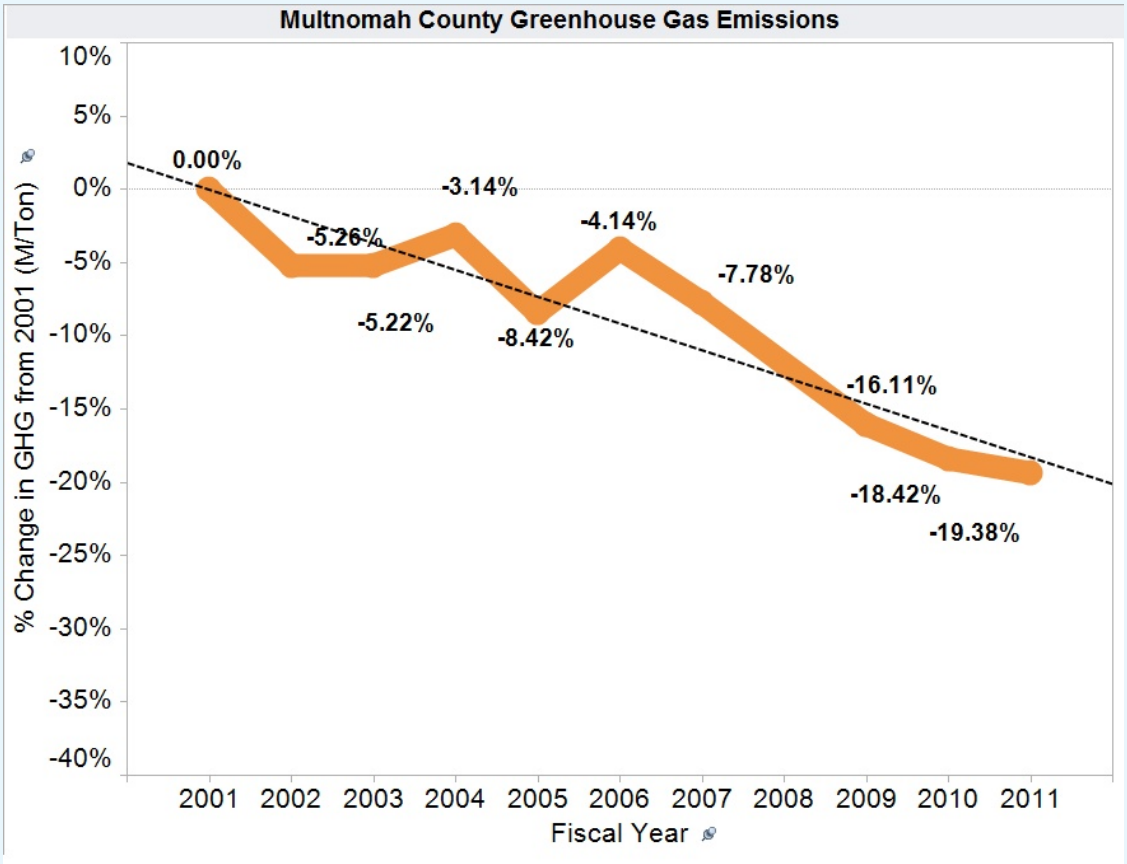


Climate Change - The 2009 Climate Action Plan goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 from 1990 levels.

Key Accomplishment: A 19% reduction in community-wide greenhouse gases from a peak high in 2000 through Fiscal Year 2011 (in contrast to national trends).

Energy Use – The 2009 Climate Action Plan contains government actions to reduce operational energy use. This graph demonstrates that Multnomah County has reduced energy use (building and fleet) 19.4% from 1990 levels.

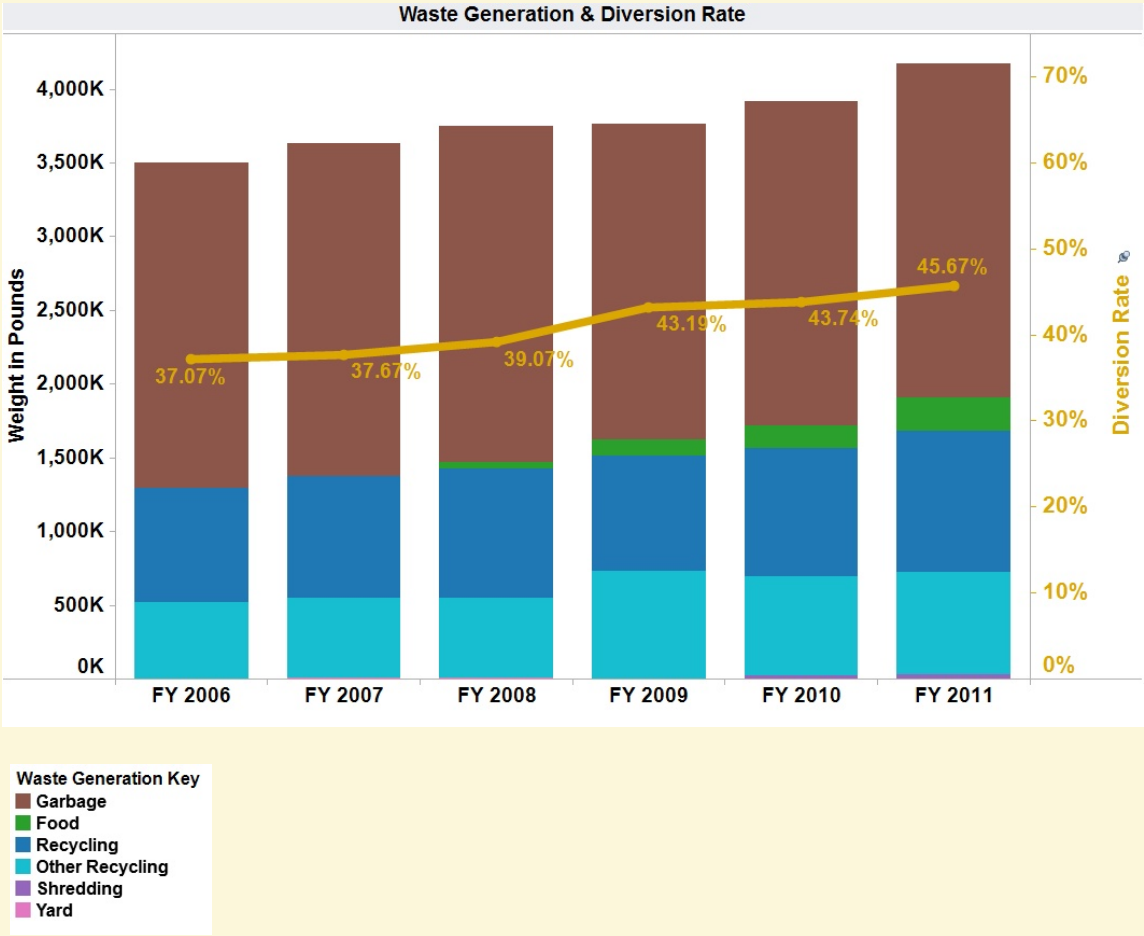
Key Accomplishment: Multnomah County saved over $1 million in direct expenses in Fiscal Year 2011 due to energy use reductions from 2001 levels.



Sustainability Dashboard

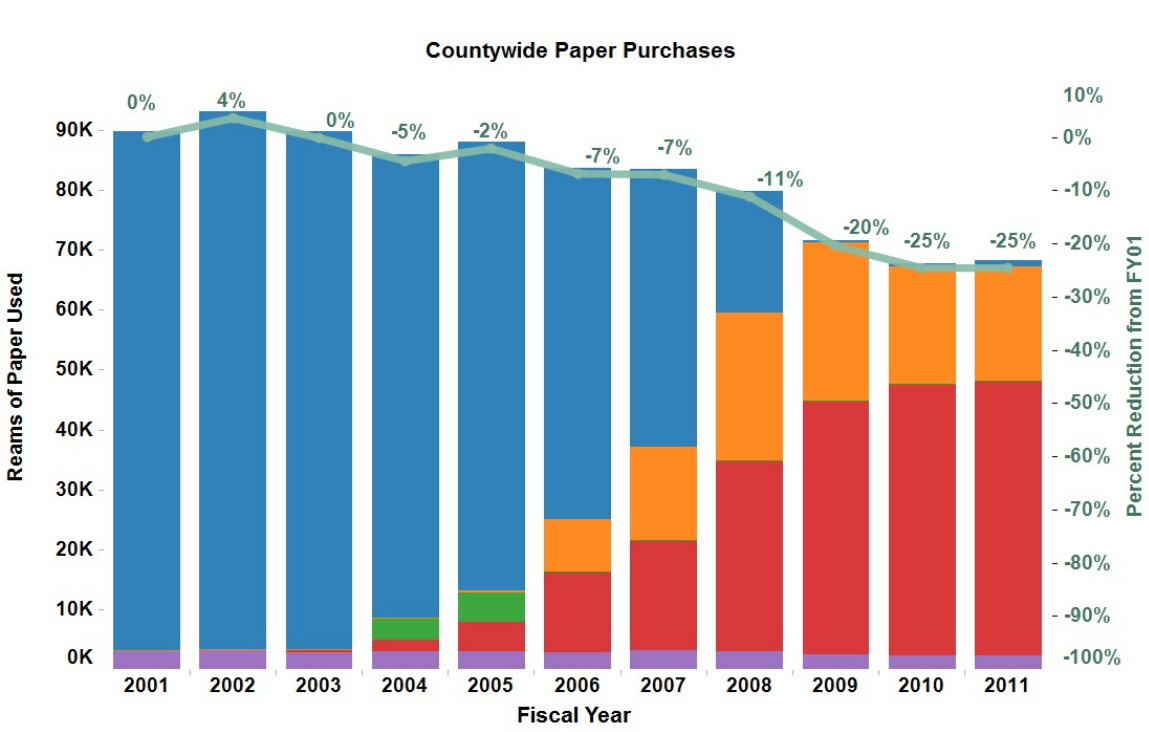
Recycling Rate – The 2009 Climate Action Plan sets a recycling rate of 75% for government operations. This graph demonstrates that Multnomah County has increased its recycling rate 9% since 2006.

Key Accomplishment: Multnomah County saved over $85,000 in direct expenses due to recycling efforts in Fiscal Year 2011 due to recycling rate increases from 2006.



Paper Use – The 2003 Paper Use Policy set a goal of reducing operational paper use 15%. This graph demonstrates that Multnomah County has reduced paper use 25% since 2001.

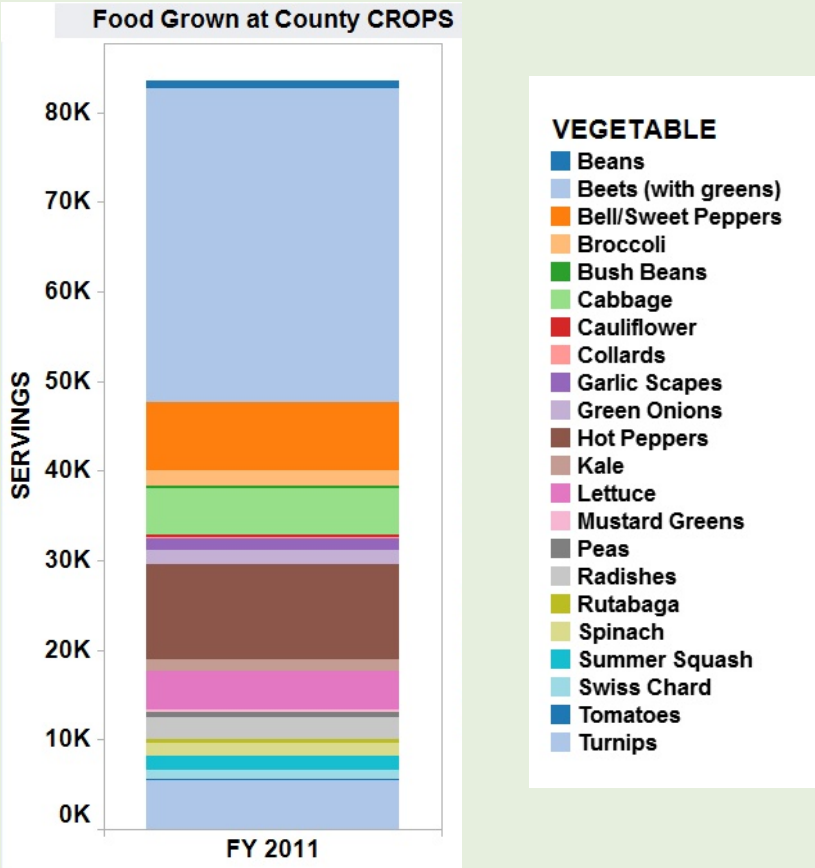
Key Accomplishment: Multnomah County saved over $40,000 in direct expenses in Fiscal Year 2011 due to paper use decreases since 2001.



Sustainability Dashboard

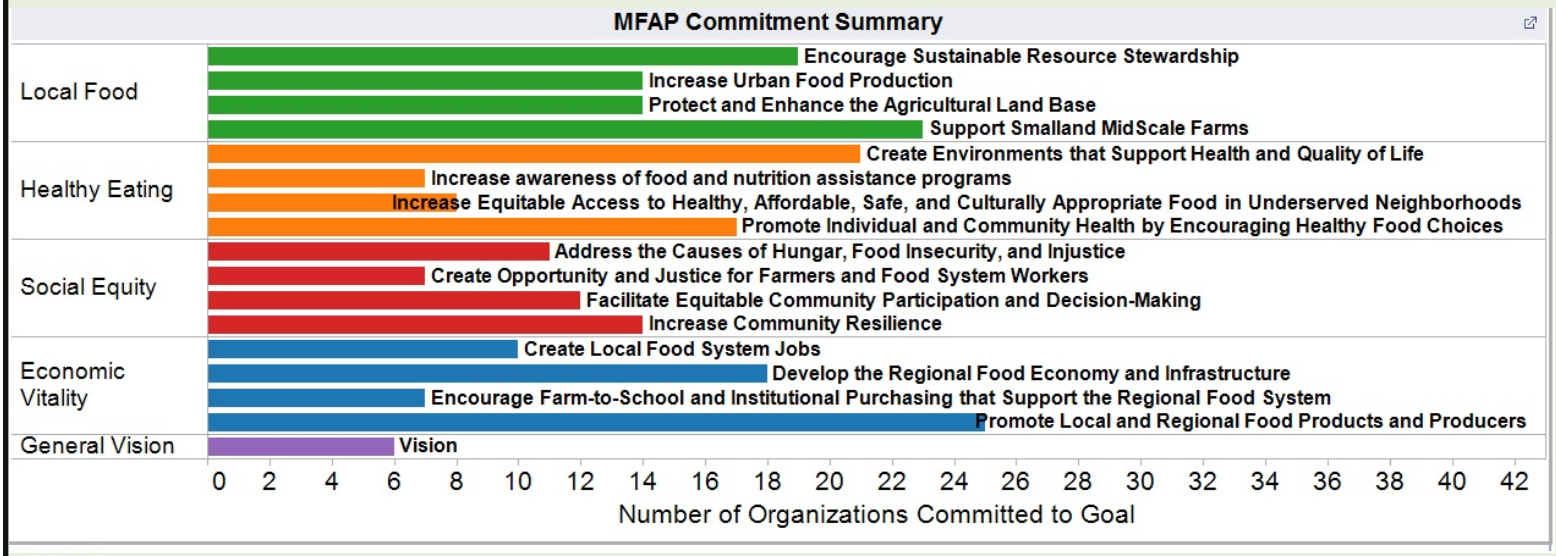
CROPS – The CROPS farm grows food on surplus County land and donates fresh, organically-grown produce to hungry families in Multnomah County.

Key Accomplishment: Over 80,000 servings of fresh, organically-grown food was donated to Snowcap Charities, from beans to turnips, in Fiscal Year 2011.



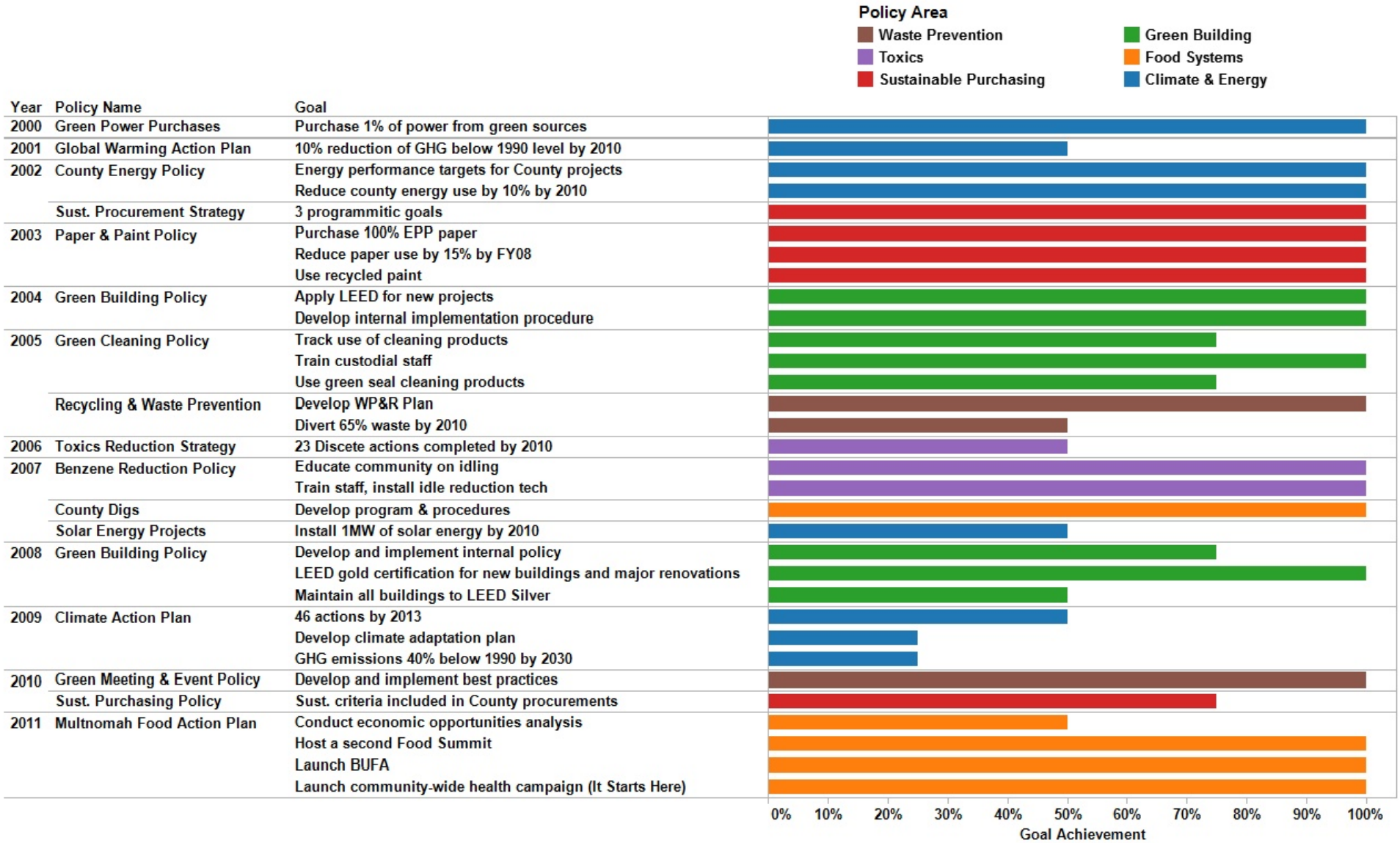
Multnomah Food Action Plan – The first of its kind in Oregon, this 15 year action plan to create a healthy, equitable and prosperous local food system has over 500 organizational and individual supporters.

Key Accomplishment: The impressive diversity of organizations from across the food system that have committed to implementing different actions in the plan.



Multnomah County Sustainability Policies & Goals: Progress at a Glance

To date, the Office of Sustainability has partnered with County Departments and elected offices to develop over 30 sustainability policies that guide Multnomah County services and operations, save millions of dollars every year due to sustainability efficiencies, and a national leader in community food system transformation, climate change mitigation, and resource conservation. The following chart summarizes Fiscal Year 2011 progress implementing Multnomah County sustainability policies and goals:



What We Do

Office of Sustainability Mission:
Multnomah County's Office of Sustainability promotes a sustainable community where present and future generations are able to prosper. The Office of Sustainability is a resource for County operations and County residents to create a healthy, equitable, and prosperous community for all.

10 Years of Success!

Back in 2001, Multnomah County leadership recognized that residents cared deeply about a clean environment, a healthy and equitable community, and a prosperous economy. In that year, the Sustainability Program was established by Commissioner Rojo de Steffey to lead the effort to create efficient County operations. From those early beginnings, Multnomah County became one of the greenest and most efficient local governments in the nation.

In 2010, Chair Jeff Cogen created the Office of Sustainability and expanded the opportunities for Multnomah County to support community efforts around food security, climate change, and the local economy. The Office of Sustainability serves as a resource for the community on sustainability efforts and continues to provide critical direction, policy analysis, project management, and accountability for sustainable County operations, thus ensuring that the County saves resources and money for critical community services.

Sustainability is defined as the intersection between the environment, equity, and the economy that ensures present and future generations are able to prosper.

Multnomah County's Office of Sustainability works within County operations and with the community to achieve these goals in the following program areas:

- Energy & Climate
- Community Food
- Resource Conservation

The following symbols will highlight areas of specific project emphasis:

Environment

Equity

Economy

Cost Savings

Energy & Climate

GOAL: To promote the efficient use of energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Key Accomplishments in FISCAL YEAR 2011:

- Over $1 million in annual energy cost savings for County operations
- Greenhouse gas emissions for County operations decreased by 19.4% from 2001 levels
- Community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 6% below 1990 levels
- Climate Equity Lens in development
- 3rd County eco-roof constructed on Mead Building

Multnomah County spends over $5 million a year on energy. By conserving energy and switching to renewable energy, the County can spend those savings on critical community services. Not only are fossil fuels a finite and costly resource, but the use of oil and natural gas causes local air pollution and is destabilizing the Earth's climate. The Office of Sustainability works with County departments and community partners to reduce energy use and harmful emissions.

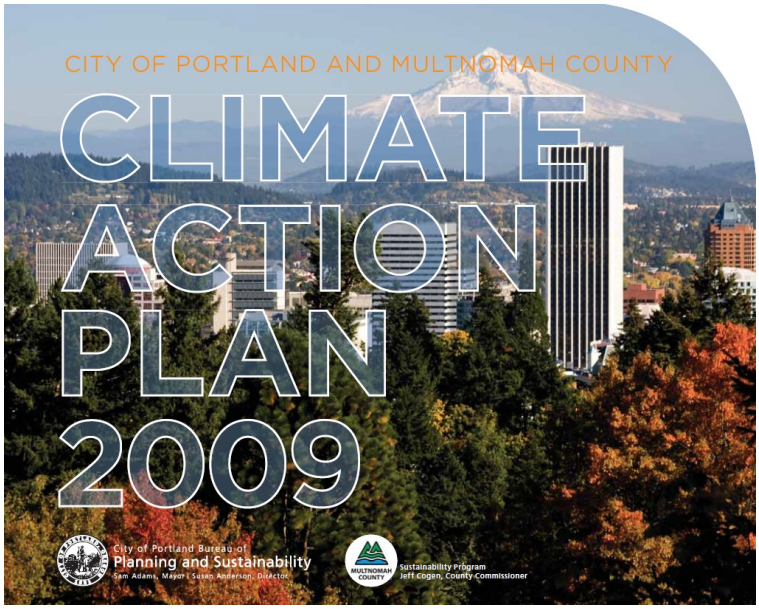
Did you know?

- County fleet contains 5 hybrids and 4 electric vehicles.
- Multnomah County now has 3 eco-roofs on county buildings.
- The last decade is the hottest in recorded history.
- Multnomah County operations spend $5 million on energy every year.

2009 Climate Action Plan

Goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

In October 2009, Multnomah County and the City of Portland jointly adopted the Climate Action Plan. The Office of Sustainability is responsible for managing the overall Climate Action Plan implementation, as well as implementing a number of specific actions such as local food consumption and operations recycling.



Fiscal Year 2011 saw significant progress with greenhouse gas emissions in County operations decreasing 19.4% below 2000 levels. Across the County, departments are working collaboratively to implement the more than 60 County actions in the Plan. The Office of Sustainability is working closely with the county-wide Climate Action Plan Implementation Team to provide technical assistance and resources. Implementation of green building policies and reduced gasoline use saved Multnomah County over $1 million in avoided energy costs in Fiscal Year 2011.

Showcase Projects

Climate Equity Lens – The Office of Sustainability is supporting the County's Health Department and Office of Diversity & Equity in developing a climate equity lens that will be a critical decision-making tool for the 2009 Climate Action Plan three year updates.

Adaptation Planning - Recognizing that significant disruptions to our climate are now inevitable, Multnomah County began work on climate adaptation planning. A key focus of the County's efforts will be to identify how the most vulnerable in our community will be impacted, including how existing health and other disparities may be exacerbated by changes to our climate. A county-wide leadership team was formed, including the Office of Emergency Management, the Health Department and Office of Sustainability to develop an adaptation plan.

Climate Short Film Contest - The Office of Sustainability hosted the Multnomah Climate Short Film Contest which invited community members to submit short films about impacts from and activities to prevent climate change in our community. Selected winning films, including Climate Change, Toilets and Zombies! by the Madison High School Green Team, were shown at the Bagdad Theater to over 200 attendees and attracted the attention of local media to the issues.

Sellwood Bridge - The design of the Sellwood Bridge project was finalized with world class bike and pedestrian facilities as well as allowing for future inclusion of street car facilities.

2008 Green Building Policy

The Department of County Assets Facilities and Property Management Division and the Office of Sustainability partnered to develop the 2004 Green Building Policy and the current 2008 LEED Gold and High Performance Green Building Policy.

Fiscal Year 2011 saw significant implementation of the 2008 Green Building Policy with the design and construction of the County's first major construction project under the policy and a third eco-roof for County facilities.

Showcase Projects

East County Courts - Multnomah County embarked on its first major construction project with the East County Courthouse in Gresham's Rockwood community. The Office of Sustainability participated in discussions and a design charette to support implementation of the goals of the 2008 Green Building Policy. The East County Courts project was designed to meet objectives in the policy including LEED-NC Gold certification and to meet the Architecture 2030 Challenge goals when it is completed in 2012.

Mead Eco-Roof – Multnomah County added a third eco-roof on its downtown Mead Building during a re-roofing project that takes its place alongside the two existing eco-roofs at the Multnomah County Building and Central Library building. The Mead eco-roof is expected to reduce stormwater run-off by 60%, extend the life of the roof, and decrease energy costs. The Office of Sustainability provided grant development and support for all three of Multnomah County's eco-roofs.

Clean Diesel Project

The Clean Diesel Partnership project was a partnership between Multnomah County and the City of Portland to reduce the health impacts on our residents from air-borne diesel particulate matter.

Fiscal Year 2011 saw the completion of the County portion of the project led by the Office of Sustainability, which worked in close partnership with the Department of County Assets County Fleet and Purchasing offices and the Department of Community Services, to make the project a success. Accomplishments included piloting of clean diesel contracting requirements on several County projects and the retrofit of seven private contractor vehicles from the East County Courts project and 28 County fleet vehicles. The total retrofits are anticipated to reduce regional public health impacts from diesel emissions by $20 million dollars.

Community Food

GOAL: To promote a healthy, equitable, and prosperous local food system.

Key Accomplishments in FISCAL YEAR 2011:

- CROPS donated 30,000 lbs. of fresh, organic produce to hungry families.
- 16 beginning farmers graduated from Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship program
- Over 130 organizations attended the 2011 Multnomah Food Summit
- Over 70 youth participated in the Restitution Garden project
- Community garden established at the Multnomah County East Building

Did you know?

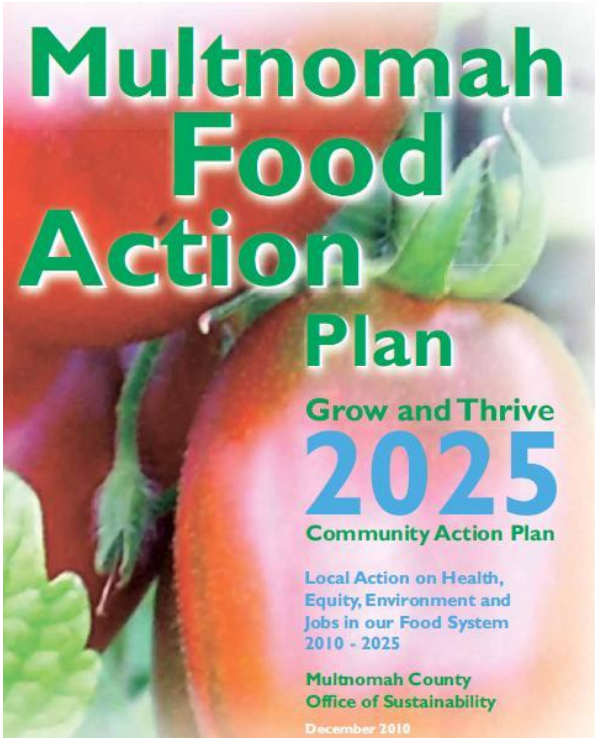
- Oregon is ranked second in hunger by the US Department of Agriculture.
- Over half of all adults in Multnomah County are overweight or obese.
- Only 5% of the food we consume is locally grown.
- CROPS donated almost 100,000 lbs. of food to hungry families in the past 3 years.

Multnomah County is experiencing an ongoing crisis of hunger, obesity, and unemployment. The Office of Sustainability is a leader with its partner the Multnomah County Health Department in the effort to create a healthy, equitable, and prosperous local food system.

County Digs

In 2007, the County Digs project was established because of an identified need for more community garden space and support of urban agriculture. County Digs was developed through a partnership with Chair Cogen's Office (then Commissioner), the Department of County Management Assessment, Recording and Taxation Division and the Office of Sustainability. The Office of Sustainability works with the community to identify unused county property and foreclosed tax properties that are appropriate for urban agriculture use and makes those properties available to local governments and non-profit organizations. To date, five foreclosed properties have been turned into community gardens which provide fresh, organically-produced food to neighborhood families and one community fruit orchard is under development.

Multnomah Food Action Plan and Food Summit



The 2010 Multnomah Food Action Plan is a 15-year community roadmap to creating a healthy, equitable, and prosperous local food system. This initiative, called out in the 2009 Climate Action Plan, was convened by the County's Office of Sustainability and County Health Department.

Over 500 community organizations and individuals have signed on to support the shared community vision and actions in the Multnomah Food Action Plan.

Fiscal Year 2011 saw significant progress as Multnomah County continues to convene the community around critical food system issues. The Office of Sustainability and the Health Department have both made significant progress toward completion of priority actions. For example, the Health Department has launched community-wide health campaigns that increase the public's understanding of the impact of food choices on health such as the It Starts Here campaign; while the Office of Sustainability is focusing on the economic development pillar of the Plan.

Showcase Projects

Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship (BUFA) - In 2011, the Office of Sustainability, in partnership with Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service, launched the BUFA project in response to the critical shortage of new farmers. This economic development project is an 8-month -long training for aspiring urban farmers that offers both hands on training and small business instruction. BUFA is designed to give a new generation of beginning farmers the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the field of sustainable small-scale, urban farming. Scholarships were provided to students who demonstrated a financial need and a passion for becoming a farmer. In its pilot year, 16 BUFA students graduated from the program and many are already starting small businesses like a blueberry farm and an Asian vegetable farm. (Multnomah Food Action Plan – Action 16.2)

Kaz Otomo, a recent BUFA graduate, is looking at tapping into a niche market for Asian vegetables. He wants to incorporate important cultural meanings into marketing his vegetables. Kaz is looking forward to start a small, urban-based farming operation in 2012.

2nd Annual Multnomah Food Summit - This event in June 2011 brought food system organizations, businesses, and local government together to celebrate successes and catalyze implementation of the Plan. The Summit featured 18 diverse community-led workshops. With keynote addresses from Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen and regional economists, the event was attended by over 230 individuals from 130 different organizations. (Multnomah Food Action Plan Action – Action 3.4)

Restitution Garden (a.k.a Project Sega) – This project run by the Department of Community Justice, and supported with technical and marketing assistance by the Office of Sustainability, was developed to give youth offenders a meaningful opportunity to pay restitution back to their crime victims and also learn valuable skills. Prior to this project, the youth offenders picked up trash alongside the road to pay back victims. With the Restitution Garden program, the youth learn market gardening and small business skills, enjoy the effort, and get to take home some of the produce (which may be the only fresh food that is available to them). In its 2011 pilot year, project participants planted and harvested a market garden adjacent to the County's CROPS farm. The produce from the Restitution Garden was sold to New Seasons market and to the Juvenile Justice Center kitchen. Seventy youth participated in the Restitution Garden project in 2011 and some enjoyed the experience so much that they asked if they could continue to participate in the project. (Multnomah Food Action Plan – Action 7.1)

Multnomah County East Community Garden (a.k.a Central City Garden) - The Office of Sustainability and the Department of County Assets Facilities and Property Management Division partnered with the Central City Neighborhood Association, Alpha High School, and Outgrowing Hunger to turn a vacant parcel of County land adjacent to the Multnomah County East building in Gresham into a community food resource garden for neighborhood residents. The surrounding population of the neighborhood is comprised of many elderly and low-income individuals with limited access to fresh produce. Phase one of the garden installed 8 handicap-accessible community garden plots and Outgrowing Hunger committed to managing the garden and future expansion. (Multnomah Food Action Plan – Action 10.2)

C.R.O.P.S. (Community Reaps Our Produce and Shares)

CROPS is a Multnomah County initiative led by Chair Jeff Cogen that was created to address the significant hunger and food security crisis in our community. What used to be a vacant County owned lot in the City of Troutdale is now a community farm in which all the harvests are donated to Snowcap Charities, a member of the Oregon Food Bank Network.

Managed by the Office of Sustainability, CROPS is a shining example of a public-private partnership that works for the benefit of our community. Generous sponsors, like McMenamin's, Naomi's Organic Farm Supply, Portland Nursery, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice Adult Community Service, Hands on Greater Portland, and Portland General Electric, continue to be critical to the success of the program.

Fiscal Year 2011 saw CROPS complete its successful third season which donated over 30,000 pounds of fresh, organically-grown food to hungry families in east county. The Office of Sustainability worked with Snowcap Charities to identify and grow peppers, cabbage, and cooking greens as the most culturally appropriate for their clients.

Resource Conservation

GOAL: To promote the efficient use of resources

Key Accomplishments in FISCAL YEAR 2011:

- Recycling and composting efforts saved over $85,ooo
- Paper reduction efforts in County operations saved $40,000
- 65% of paper used by County departments is 100% recycled-content
- Composting expanded to 8 County facilities
- Stopped the growth of landfill waste from County facilities
- Sustainable purchasing resulted in $140,000 of local food procurements in County jails

Using resources wisely makes good business sense because it allows the County to spend cost savings on critical community services such as public health and safety and supports the County's values in terms of equity, the environment, and supporting the local economy. The Office of Sustainability's Resource Conservation Program works with County departments to keep Multnomah County operations cost effective and with community partners to create a promote a healthy environment.

Did you know?

- Green Meeting certificates are available online to display at your green meetings and events.
- Every year, Multnomah County produces 503 pounds of waste per employee (minus jail operations).
- Shredding is the most expensive waste in County operations.
- County employees can request a recycling or composting 101 on the Recycling webpage.

Waste Prevention, Recycling and Composting for County Operations

Multnomah County is a large organization with a large ecological footprint in terms of consumption and waste. Since 2006, the County has saved $420,000 by implementing recycling and composting programs. The Office of Sustainability partners with the County's Sustainability Liaisons and the Department of County Assets Facility and Property Management Division to achieve our recycling rate goals.

Fiscal Year 2011 saw the County save $85,000 because of composting and recycling programs, but the generation of waste continues to grow. The County diversion rate, also know as the recycling recovery rate, was 45.25%. In other words, of the 4,137,000 lbs of waste generated by County activities last year 1,872,000 lbs. were recycled or composted. The County's goal is to reach a diversion rate of 75% and stop the growth of waste.

Showcase Projects

Composting – The Office of Sustainability is working with internal partners to aggressively expand composting in County facilities. Composting has been implemented at eight County owned facilities, including Inverness Jail, the Juvenile Justice Center, and the Justice Center. These three facilities are the largest generators of waste in the County and the composting program has significantly improved waste diversion rates for the entire county. The opportunity for savings will continue to increase as tipping fees for trash continue to increase and composting and recycling efforts are redoubled.

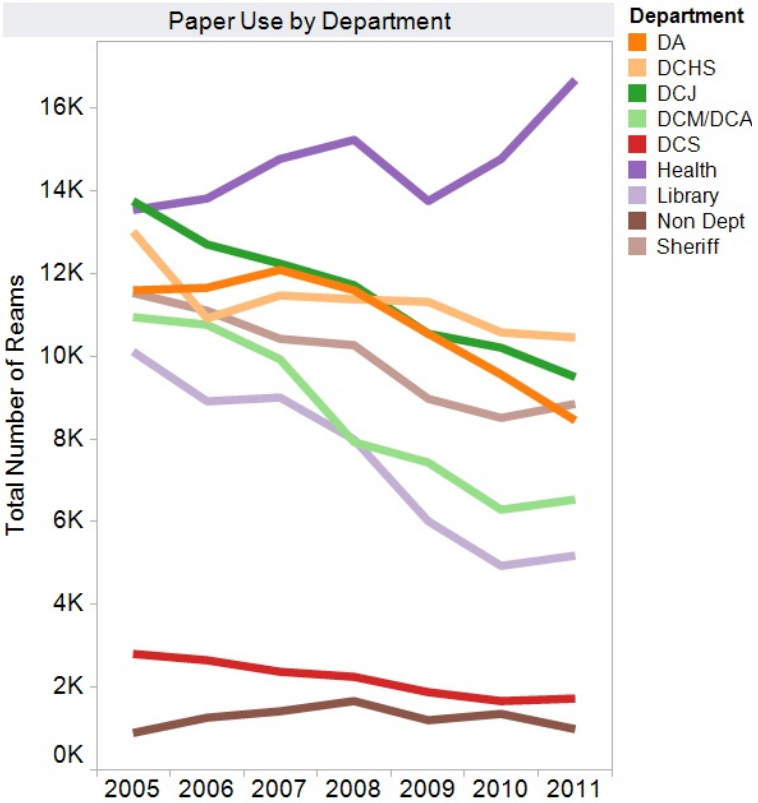
In Fiscal Year 2011, Multnomah County diverted 220,000 pounds of food waste and fiber from the landfill with its composting program.

Sellwood Bridge - The Office of Sustainability worked with the Sellwood Bridge Team to ensure all County sustainability policies would be considered in the planning, design and construction of the project. As a result sustainability has been incorporated as a major project goal, during construction it is estimated that 95% of the current Sellwood Bridge will be reused or recycled.

Paper Use

In 2003, Multnomah County adopted its Paper & Paint Purchasing and Goals for Paper Use Policy. With support from the Sustainability Liaisons, the Office of Sustainability has led efforts to educate employees and find alternatives to paper intensive processes.

Fiscal Year 2011 saw the County save $40,000 and reduce paper consumption of 20,000 reams of paper from Fiscal Year 2005 levels. The cumulative savings from Fiscal Year 2005 is nearly $140,000. In addition, the paper the County uses is also more sustainable. In Fiscal Year 2011, nearly 65% of the paper the County used was 100% post consumer recycled, processed chlorine free, and sourced locally. (Additional cost of buying 100% recycled-content paper is included in savings calculation.)



Showcase Project

Greening Board Meetings and the Budget - The Office of Sustainability provided technical assistance which resulted in the elimination of paper Board of Commissioner briefings and fewer copies of the budget printed, saving 155,000 sheets of paper each year.

Sustainable Purchasing Policy

In 2010, Multnomah County adopted a Sustainable Purchasing Policy to maximize its significant purchasing power in achieving cost savings, equity, and the purchase of environmentally friendly products and services. The Office of Sustainability partnered with the Department of County Management Purchasing Office and Central Stores to develop purchasing guidelines, best practices, and a sustainability checklist.

Fiscal Year 2011 saw sustainability values as a key factor in a number of County contracts, including: selection of the general contractor for the Sellwood Bridge Project, the food service contractor for the County Jails, and the selection of the Architect/Engineer contractor list for County facilities. The Office of Sustainability served as a key consultant for each of these procurements.

Showcase Project

Local Food – The Office of Sustainability has been working with the Multnomah County jail facilities to increase its purchase of local food. In FY 2011, the Sheriff's Office purchased over $160,000 in local food to support our local food system economy

Idling Gets You Nowhere Campaign

The leading source of air pollution in Oregon is vehicle exhaust. In Fiscal Year 2011 the Office of Sustainability partnered with Portland State University and the Oregon Toxic Alliance to take a leadership role by launching a social marketing campaign to reduce vehicle idling. **The "Idling Gets You Nowhere" campaign seeks to engage the public and increase our community's knowledge about air pollution, specifically as it relates to idling motor vehicles.** This campaign was marked by efforts to raise awareness around air toxics, the strengthening of Multnomah County's internal anti-idling policy, and the development of a social media campaign that includes a website, an online pledge for individuals and businesses, and Facebook page.

The Office of Sustainability also led a targeted outreach campaign on the Hawthorne Bridge. Staff and interns reminded drivers to shut off their engines while waiting for the bridge to open and close. Large signs, in coordination with the bridge shop, were hung from the bridge. Staff also handed out literature to waiting motorists that reminded them that turning off the car while waiting saved money and helped people breathe easier. **Multnomah County has stepped up its commitment to create a community where residents and drivers can breathe easily.**

Citizen Advisory Boards

Portland/Multnomah Food Policy Council (FPC)

The FPC is a citizen-based advisory council to Multnomah County and the City of Portland. Established in 2002, the FPC brings citizens and professionals together from the region to address issues regarding food access and insecurity, land use planning issues, local food purchasing, food system planning and many other policy initiatives in the current regional food system.

Mission: Bring together a diverse array of stakeholders to integrate the aspects of the food system (production, distribution, access, consumption, processing and recycling) in order to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional health of the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

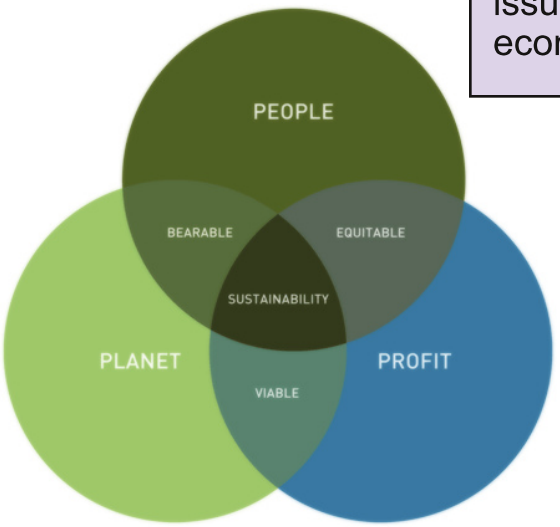
Past accomplishments include:

- Providing recommendations to Multnomah County that led to changes to Oregon state law to allow state and local governments to prefer local food in their procurement contracts.
- Providing recommendations to Multnomah County that led to the formation of the Multnomah Food Initiative and Multnomah Food Action Plan

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Office of Sustainability and the County's Health Department provided staffing to the FPC which submitted recommendations to Multnomah County for the launch of the Healthy Retail Initiative; and developed committees working on food justice and regulatory barriers.

Advisory Committee on Sustainability & Innovation (ACSI)

Mission: To provide advice and advocacy on sustainability issues affecting our community, the environment, and the economy



ACSI is a citizen-based committee to Multnomah County. Established in 2011, ACSI provides recommendations on implementing the 2009 Climate Action Plan, sustainable government operations, improving social equity, and promoting a healthy, prosperous and resilient community. Members also evaluate proposals for innovations in technology and business processes that may be applicable to County operations.

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Office of Sustainability provided staffing to ACSI which formed task forces to work on equity, air quality, climate change, energy efficiency, and green building.

Sustainability Liaisons

MISSION: To foster collaborative, county-wide efforts to integrate sustainable practices and resource efficiency into government operations.

Multnomah County Sustainability Liaisons coordinate sustainability efforts in their departments by acting as resources and advocates. Established in 2007, the Sustainability Liaison team is comprised of representatives from every department. Based on employee and department-level innovation, the Liaisons promote the County's sustainability goals and provide an invaluable link between the Office of Sustainability and the departments that implement the efforts that move Multnomah County toward a more sustainable future.

Key Accomplishments in FISCAL YEAR 2011:

- Multnomah County increased its recycling rate 9% since 2006
- Reduction of over 15,000 reams of paper use with a savings of over $95,000 since 2007
- 65% of the paper the County used was 100% recycled-content and sourced locally
- Green Meeting & Event Policy adopted
- 50 Multnomah County teams participated in the Eco-Challenge

Eco-Challenge

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Sustainability Liaisons launched the North West Earth Institute Eco-Challenge for County employee. Multnomah County employees enthusiastically took up the Eco-Challenge to reduce their environmental impacts. County buildings formed Eco-Challenge teams who competed on 3 categories—Green Meetings and Events, Green Transportation, and/or Waste Reduction.

Multnomah County had the greatest number of employees participate in the Eco-Challenge among all the tri-county organizations involved! More than 50 Multnomah County teams comprised of 565 employees participated. The Animal Services building had 100% participation.

County Employees combined efforts resulted in the following conservation of resources in a 2 week period:

- 469 Multnomah County green meetings held, saving the County valuable resources.
- 1,873 waste-free lunches were eaten that prevented packaging a from entering the waste stream.
- 1,294 trips were taken by bus, carpool, bike or foot.

Waste Prevention & Recycling

Each Department and Office in the County has developed a Waste Prevention and Recycling Plan, as part of the 2009 Climate Action Plan, setting goals to stop the growth of waste and to increase recycling/composting.

Fiscal Year 2011 saw County operation's recycling rate increase by 2% from the previous year and growth of landfill waste cease. Significant progress has been made in the departments to increase education and awareness through signage and brownbag trainings, by reducing the growth of waste through implementation of the Green Meeting & Event Policy, to increase recycling rates by improving access to recycling bins, and to increase composting access.

Paper Reduction – The Sustainability Liaisons made paper reduction a top priority. By providing education and outreach and bringing efficiencies to large paper-intensive processes, by Fiscal Year 2011 the Liaisons had reduced paper use 18% from 2007 .

Surplus Pilot

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Sustainability Liaisons tackled the hidden burden of surplus for the County. After researching the issue, the project team recommended that the County pilot the online surplus auction GovDeals.com. The pilot did result in a cost savings of over $500 since the County did not need to pay to remove the surplus furniture. Currently the team is exploring how this program can be scaled-up for use at the County to utilize surplus as a resource that will benefit the County in terms of revenue and avoided costs, and a benefit to the community as well.

Green Meeting & Event Policy

In Fiscal Year 2011, Multnomah County adopted the Green Meeting & Event Policy to reduce the environmental impacts associated with the large number of meetings and events that the County hosts. The project was a partnership between the Multnomah County Sustainability Liaison team and the Office of Sustainability. The policy contains a checklist, or series of best practices for all County meetings and events. Meeting organizers can self certify their meeting or event as green, and in so doing better steward both County and natural resources. The Sustainability Liaisons have promoted this policy throughout their departments.

Showcase Accomplishment

The Department of Community and Human Services conducted a survey that demonstrated that over 40% of staff had conducted over 10 green meetings in the past year.

Green Team

Multnomah County Green Team

Leave but a Small Footprint Upon the Earth

The Multnomah County Green Team, made up of County employees, is the volunteer arm of the County's Office of Sustainability. Since 2001, the Green Team has collaborated with County departments and community organizations to raise awareness about sustainability practices, policies and opportunities in Multnomah County through fun events and projects and to create opportunities for participation through hands-on projects and educational events.

MISSION: To promote sustainable practices, both at work and at home, by fostering deeper employee involvement through entertaining and educating events and hands-on projects.

Key Accomplishments in FISCAL YEAR 2011:

- Sustainability Film Series hosts 8 community events since 2007
- Hope Garden donates 1,300 lbs. of food to needy seniors since 2009
- Adopt-a-Road project hosted 4 events and cleaned up 1,400 lbs of refuse
- Green Team hosted a booth at the City Repair Earth Day celebration

Hope Garden

Now entering its third year, the Multnomah County Building demonstration vegetable garden has donated 1,300 pounds of fresh, organic produce to the Loaves & Fishes Center to feed hungry seniors. A project of the County's Green Team and sponsored by Commissioner Shiprack, this rooftop garden will be assisted by the beginning urban farmer graduates who will share the intensive growing skills they learned in 2011.

Sustainability Film Series

The Sustainability Film Series was launched in 2007 and is the result of a partnership between the Green Team, McMenamins and the Office of Sustainability. To date, eight films have been shown at McMenamin's Bagdad Theater with an accompanying speaker or discussion panel following. Films are usually free and community organizations are encouraged to table events.

Adopt-a-Road

In 2006 the Green Team adopted a section of Marine Drive. In FY 2011 the Green Team hosted four cleanup events and collected over 1,400 lbs of trash.

Earth Day

In April of every year, the Green Team celebrates its mission by participating in Earth Day events. In the past, the Green Team has volunteered with Friends of Trees to give out free fruit trees and staffed booths at Earth Day festivals.

Looking Ahead

Challenges & Opportunities

This report demonstrates that Multnomah County has made tremendous progress towards efficient operations and a sustainable community. Because of these accomplishments, Multnomah County is poised to address formidable challenges including higher operational and service costs during a time of shrinking tax revenues; disparities in income, health and opportunities for communities of color; and environmental threats such as climate change. By continuing to think and act sustainably, we will build the needed resiliency, long-term cost savings, and capacity to thrive into our community.

By asking the following questions, Multnomah County will fulfill our sustainability principles:

1.How best can we serve the community to achieve the most environmental, equitable, and prosperous outcomes?
2.How best can we manage our operations to achieve the most environmental, equitable, and prosperous outcomes?
3.How best can we lead by example?

Future Efforts

Sustainable Jails Project

In collaboration with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Office of Sustainability will be supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Jails Project. **In the past year, by incorporating sustainable decision-making and practices into jail facilities, the Sheriff's Office has realized over $400,000 in cost savings.** The mission of the Sustainable Jail Project is to provide excellent stewardship of public funds by reducing energy and resource costs, protecting the environment, and reducing recidivism rates. The SJP is inspired by the 'green prison' movement at the state and federal levels with the goal of adapting a similar approach to the County jail scale to capture significant costs savings, environmental protection, and social justice.

Green Building Hub

In collaboration with the Department of County Assets Facilities and Property Management Division and other County departments, the Office of Sustainability will implement an innovation hub to maximize the benefits of green building strategies and further reduce energy costs.

Climate Equity Lens

In collaboration with the County's Health Department, the Office of Sustainability will be piloting the Climate Equity Lens. Lessons learned will help refine this critical tool to assist with decision-making on the 2009 Climate Action Plan.

Jobs & Food System Cluster Strategy

In collaboration with Clackamas County and the Multnomah County Chair's Economic Development advisor, the Office of Sustainability is developing an economic cluster strategy for our food system. This strategy is designed to create jobs at every skill level and support our local food economy. As part of the strategy, the Office of Sustainability will be convening large institutional purchasers of food to develop local food purchasing goals and tools to drive the local food market.

Timeline of Sustainability Policies & Projects

2000

Green Power Purchases

2001

Sustainability Initiative established
Global Warming Action Plan

2003

County Energy Goal
Travel Smart: Employee Commute Options Policy
Sustainable Procurement Strategy
Food Policy Council established
Sustainable Development Commission established

2003

Paper & Paint Purchasing and Goals for Paper Use

2004

Multnomah County Sustainability Principles
Green Building Policy
Amy Joslin Green Roof

2005

Recycling & Waste Prevention for County Facilities
Green Cleaning Policy for County Facilities

2006

Toxics Reduction Strategy

2007

Benzene Reduction Policy
County Digs Policy
Solar Energy Project
Cell Phone Recycling Project

2008

LEED Gold & Green Building Policy
Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration
Solar Energy on County Facilities
Central Library Eco-Roof
Green Jobs Resolution

2009

Hope Garden
County CROPS
Climate Action Plan

2010

Sustainable Purchasing Policy
Green Meeting & Event Policy
1st Annual Multnomah Food Summit & Multnomah Food Action Plan
Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation established

2011

Idling Gets You Nowhere Campaign and Policy
2nd Annual Multnomah Food Summit
Restitution Garden
Multnomah County East Community Garden established
Beginning Urban Farmer Apprenticeship program

To date, Multnomah County has over 30 sustainability policies that guide its services and operations, saves millions of dollars every year due to sustainability efficiencies, and is a national leader in community food system transformation, climate change mitigation, and resource conservation.

Multnomah County Sustainability Milestones

- Sustainable Development Commission & Food Policy Council established
- Benzene Reduction Policy
- Cell Phone Recycling Project
- "It Starts Here" Campaign
- Natl. Pollution Prevention Week & Directing Development of a Toxics Reduction Strategy
- Mead Building Eco-roof
- ACSI Formation
- Recycled Content Preference
- High Performance Green Building Policy
- LEED Gold and High Performance Green Building Policy
- Healthy Retail Cornerstore Initiative
- 2nd Annual Mult Food Summit
- Travel Smart – Employee Commute Options Policy
- County Digs Resolution
- Climate Action Plan Adoption
- Restitution Garden
- Sustainability Initiative established
- Health Equity Initiative
- No Idling Policy
- Multnomah County Sustainability Principles adopted
- County CROPS
- Food Action Plan Implementation
- Hope Garden
- Beginning Urban Farmer Apprentices
- Established Recycling Program at Country Facilities
- Menu Labeling Requirement
- Clean Diesel Grant / Retrofits

1975 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012

- Amy Joslin Green Roof
- Multnomah Food Action Plan
- Sustainable Jail Project
- Preference to Recycled Materials
- Toxics Reduction Strategy
- Green Meeting & Event Policy
- Climate Action Plan: - Adaptation Plan & update
- Global Warming Action Plan
- Polystyrene Ban
- Energy Projects at County Facilities (RE/EE)
- Authorize Green Power Purchase
- EPA Serviceware Research Grant
- Green Building Hub
- Recycling and Waste Prevention Goals Plan for County Facilities
- Sustainable Purchasing Policy
- 2012 Mult Food Summit
- Mt. Hood Highway construction blocked
- Office of Diversity and Equity Created
- Jobs & Food System Cluster
- Sustainable Procurement Strategy
- Office of Sustainability Created
- East County Courthouse
- Green Cleaning Policy for County Facilities
- Equity & Empowerment Lens
- Policy on Paper & Paint Purchasing
- Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration
- Green Jobs Resolution
- Central Library Eco-Roof
- 1 MW Solar Energy on County Facilities

ENVIRONMENT ECONOMY COMMUNITY
MULTNOMAH COUNTY
Sustainability

ENVIRONMENT ECONOMY COMMUNITY Sustainability

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Office of Sustainability
www.multco.us/sustainability

About Multnomah County

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners plans for the needs of a dynamic community, provides leadership to ensure quality services, prioritizes the needs of our most vulnerable and promotes a healthy, safe and prosperous community for all. With more than 735,000 residents and the most populous of Oregon's 36 counties, Multnomah County, works to create a thriving community for all.