

**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](mailto:sustainability@multco.us)

Name: Rebecca Sherman O'Neil  
*First Middle Initial Last*

Mailing Address: 5417 SE 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Street  
Portland OR 97206  
City, State, Zip Code

Occupation: Energy Policy Analyst / RPS Administrator, Oregon Department of Energy

Daytime Phone: 503-490-8709 Email: reb.sherman@gmail.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 would like to serve on the advisory committee because I care about the long-term outlook of our community and our county. Multnomah County provides significant benefits to its constituents and is viewed as a leader. A citizen advisory committee can do a great deal of good in providing expertise, vision and new concepts. I was particularly struck by the inclusion of "innovation" in the title of the committee. The County is looking for fresh ideas, next generation technology, and the economic development it can cultivate. County constituents expect this kind of thinking from its government organizations (high expectations!), and I would like to help make the county and its office of sustainability successful.

**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?**

My career history is energy and the environment. My career started in river conservation, focusing on hydropower and coal development in Appalachia. Ten years ago, I moved to Portland to work on non-federal hydropower in the Pacific Northwest. In 2007, I transitioned into managing a multifamily efficiency program for the Energy Trust of Oregon. Most of our program incentives paid for upgrades at apartments in the Portland metro area. I became familiar with multifamily housing management agencies and realized that lower-income folks had limited access to healthy, comfortable, and affordable residences. In my current job at the Oregon Department of Energy, I administer the Renewable Portfolio Standard and develop new policies and analyze new technologies. For example, I'm currently working on community solar model development. I am the agency's sustainability coordinator. And in my current role, I've been able to work with county commissioners and the AOC, and I've been impressed with the work and role of counties.

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

I think sustainability is for everyone. Whether it is health care services or the court system, sustainability should be for all incomes and all peoples. This is not just about the environment – sustainability means making decisions with the future in mind. The county is in a unique position to partner with community leaders and showcase good work. Innovation is just as important. It attracts economic development and gives constituents new options and choices.

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

I currently chair one citizen committee that oversees renewable power options on your electric and gas bill. I participate in several workgroups and committees. Some examples: a group of 30 coastal and state folks who work together on Oregon's territorial sea, the state sustainability coordinator network, or a technical oversight committee regarding the seasonal high supply of wind and hydropower. Committees and good working relationships are a cornerstone of how we do business in Oregon.

Personally, I'm a hospice volunteer. I've worked on a tiny, tiny farm. I spend my spare time in a boat or on the trail, and I play cello in a quartet and a community orchestra. I feel connected to my community on many levels. Serving on this committee would be one more step in supporting my community.

**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 work for the state Department of Energy, and there are currently contracts between our agency and the County. For example, my agency provides funds for low-income weatherization in oil-heated homes. I do not believe this represents a conflict with the County, because I do not oversee these contracts, the funds flow from my agency to the County, and I would not be representing the agency if I served on this committee.

**Signature:** Rebecca O'Neil **Date:** 12/5/12

*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.*

