

City of Lake Oswego Sustainability

What is a Sustainable Community?

A sustainable Lake Oswego is a community that meets the vital human needs of the present without compromising our ability to meet future needs. This requires consideration of both long-term and short-term effects on ecological, economic, and community systems. Operating sustainably means that we are leaving a legacy for the community of Lake Oswego and the planet.

A sustainable Lake Oswego is a place recognized nationally as a model of livability—a unified city with a vital downtown, a strong sense of neighborhoods, and a harmonious relationship with the natural environment. The lives of everyone who lives, works, and conducts business in Lake Oswego are enriched by a wide range of choices in transportation, housing, recreation, and culture. Our infrastructure is sound, our finances are stable, and our citizens and employees healthy and engaged.



Sustainability is a journey rather than a destination, and requires systems-based decision-making for understanding economic, ecological, and community impacts as a whole.

Why in Lake Oswego?

Sustainability requires that local governments ensure municipal services can be sustained and equitably distributed today and for future generations. Achieving this objective requires a strategic approach that equally factors long-term ecological, economic, and social equity concerns into the planning, development, and provision of municipal services. The City of Lake Oswego recognizes that local government plays a vital role in fostering sustainability and is committed to adopting, implementing, and maintaining sustainable practices. The City is part of a worldwide movement to create a more sustainable future. Closer to home, the State of Oregon, many Oregon cities and counties, business leaders, and non-profits are incorporating sustainability into how they do business, with the concept gaining widespread support among many sectors. The City Council has included sustainability in its adopted goals since 2002.

Program Approach

The City began its coordinated sustainability efforts by first focusing on City operations. A staff sustainability steering committee was established in 2006 to evaluate the current level of sustainability in City policies, programs, and practices, and make recommendations. The committee's efforts culminated in the City of Lake Oswego Sustainability Plan, adopted by the City Council in November 2007. In 2008, the City Council established a community sustainability advisory board to lead the City's sustainability efforts within the community.



Programs and Projects

Due to the multifaceted nature of sustainability, the City's sustainability accomplishments are woven throughout many City programs and projects. The information included below highlights actions that have been taken to realize milestones outlined in the Sustainability Plan, and is not a complete description of the City's sustainability efforts.

The Sustainability Plan, available on the City web site (go to www.ci.oswego.or.us and click on Sustainability), is intended to guide City sustainability efforts by providing a common understanding of sustainability and a vision for the future. It is hoped that the Sustainability Plan serves as a guide for business decisions to ensure wise use of public funds while promoting the conservation and efficient use of energy, water, native habitats, and other natural resources, and considering the social and community implications of actions. For a better understanding of what actions might be taken to move toward a sustainable future, the Sustainability Plan includes goals, milestones, and performance measures. These were developed with consideration of four sustainability framework objectives based on The Natural Step.



Action areas identified in the Sustainability Plan for 2008 include: energy and transportation, water conservation, waste reduction and recycling, and procurement (purchasing/contracting). Future action areas will focus on employee involvement and education, water management (stormwater and sanitary sewer), and pollution prevention/toxics reduction.



Energy and Transportation — The focus in 2008 was on examining and inventorying the City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and finding opportunities to minimize energy use and reduce the City's carbon footprint.

In 2008, the City:

- Completed a GHG emissions and criterion air pollutants inventory for City facilities and operations.
- Supported increased employee participation in the City's transit reimbursement and employee vanpool programs as well as the regional Bike Commute and Carefree Commuter Challenges, helping to reduce single-occupancy vehicle commute trips to and from City facilities. For the City Hall site, employees reduced drive alone auto trips by more than 10 percent over the previous year's State Employee Commute Options survey, for a 77% auto trip rate.
- Conducted an employee commute options survey for employees at all City facilities, providing baseline data for employee commute trips.
- Completed a carsharing feasibility study for downtown.
- Installed an electric vehicle charging station on the corner of A Ave. and 2nd St. The City joined forces with PGE to install the station to help develop and test the transportation infrastructure needed to support plug-in electric vehicles.



In addition, on-going activities are helping to reduce energy use and GHG emissions from City operations, including:

- Replacing street signal bulbs with light emitting diode (LEDs), reducing energy consumption by 80 to 90 percent and saving approximately \$32,000 in electricity costs per year.
- Including seven hybrid electric/gas vehicles in the City fleet.

- Using 5% biodiesel (B5) for all City diesel vehicles.
- Purchasing clean, renewable wind power through PGE equal to half of the City Water Treatment Plant's annual electricity use, with lighting and pump upgrades to increase energy efficiency.
- Making upgrades to the heating and cooling system controls at City Hall to increase the building's energy efficiency.
- Automating payroll functions, e.g. electronic timecards and online pay stub option, to reduce paper, energy, and associated costs.



Water Conservation – Water conservation measures are critical to meet state mandates related to water rights and the best use of water resources for all, including endangered and threatened salmon species in the Clackamas River. The City is working to better manage water usage, not only for the health of the river system, but to ensure a continued supply of high quality water for its citizens. An added benefit of conserving water is the reduction of GHG emissions as a large amount of energy is required to pump, treat, and deliver the City's water.

The City's Water Conservation Specialist conducts outreach in the community, offers free water audits for homes and businesses, and is working to install water efficient plumbing fixtures in City facilities. The City has a new tiered water rate structure, effective July 1, 2009, that is intended to meet several goals: reward conservation, reduce waste, assure regulatory compliance, and replace aging infrastructure. To schedule a presentation or water audit contact Kevin McCaleb, Water Conservation Specialist, at 503-675-3747 or kmccaleb@ci.oswego.or.us.



Waste Reduction and Recycling – While recycling is common-place in City facilities, the City works with partners at Clackamas County Recycle at Work, Metro, and Allied Waste Services of Lake Oswego, to keep staff and the public informed about waste reduction and recycling best practices and opportunities.

In 2008, the City:

- Library media services collected and recycled close to 100 boxes of damaged, not playable, or unable to be used plastic media, such as DVDs, CDs, cassettes, and their cases.
- Streamlined the collection and recycling of printer/copier toner cartridges, ink jet cartridges, batteries, and fluorescent light tubes from City facilities.
- Started using 100% post-consumer waste recycled content printer/copier paper for most City documents.
- Began participation in OfficeMax's reusable tote program for office supplies. The Reusable Tote Program consolidates orders into plastic totes delivered on a weekly basis.
- Worked with Allied Waste Services of Lake Oswego to conduct waste audits of 10 City facilities to establish baseline data for tracking waste reduction and recycling efforts.
- Participated in several community education and outreach events to promote sustainability, including the Shorenstein Properties Green Fair, a community document shredding and recycling day, and a block foam collection and recycling day.
- Set up recycling containers in City parks and for special events.

In addition, on-going activities are helping to reduce waste, such as:

- Prohibiting sale of bottled water at the Farmers' Market and providing water stations instead.
- Collecting vegetative waste for composting from the Farmers' Market and the Adult Community Center.





Procurement (Purchasing and Contracting) – Many purchasers at the City consider sustainability objectives when making purchasing decisions. A goal for 2008 was to develop a sustainable purchasing policy to formalize these practices, with the development of tools to make the purchase of “green” or sustainable products more efficient. Some tools were evaluated and implemented during 2008, however this project is still a work in progress.

Current City practices include:

- Specifying “green” cleaning products, such as Green Seal certified products, for use by janitors.
- Leasing and purchasing Energy Star compliant computer equipment and copiers.
- Using local restaurants and caterers to provide food for City meetings, and requesting family-style service to reduce waste and the need for disposable packaging.
- Specifying the use of deconstruction and construction debris recycling and use of diesel emission reduction technology in contracts for building removal from City property.

What’s Next – Community Sustainability Advisory Board

The City’s Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) began meeting in the summer of 2008. The mission of the SAB is to promote the sustainability of the community as whole, considering public and private actions and their effects on ecological, economic, and community systems. The SAB’s responsibilities include:

- Advise and assist the City Council in efforts to make City operations more sustainable.
- Assist in the development of plans and policies to enhance the sustainability of the city as a whole.
- Educate and support other Lake Oswego organizations to become more sustainable.
- Educate and engage the public in efforts to make the community of Lake Oswego, including residents, businesses, and institutions, more sustainable.

The SAB’s goals for 2009 include:

1. Educate and assist the City Council, Boards, and Commissions in sustainability.
2. Provide strategic oversight for the City Sustainability Plan.
3. Support sustainability-related initiatives by the City.
4. Implement community outreach and engagement programs, such as Sustainability Action Month.

Want to Learn More? The City web site includes a set of sustainability pages with links to City programs and projects, SAB meeting materials, and a variety of resources to help us live, work, and play in a more sustainable way. Visit the City’s web site at www.ci.oswego.or.us and click on Sustainability to learn more.



For more information on City sustainability efforts, contact Susan Millhauser, Sustainability Planner, at 503.635.0291 or smillhauser@ci.oswego.or.us.



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