

Green Government

Courtesy of Darcy Hitchcock, AXIS Performance Advisors, www.axisperformance.com

Oregon Sustainability Board Toolkit

<http://www.sustainableoregon.net/oregon/toolkit>

Top Strategies to Make Communities and Government More Sustainable

Governmental agencies that pursue sustainability endeavor to simultaneously improve the health of their economy, their community and the environment. This site provides advice and best practices for the most powerful strategies. This site provides links to best practices, policies and programs. Browse through these strategies, pick one to work on, and then come back to select another.

Sustainability strategies with the biggest impact

The following chart lists the top sustainability strategies cities and counties can take and shows the primary benefits each should provide. Because everything is interconnected, every strategy can impact all the benefits listed in columns below. We have shown with X_s the *primary* benefits for each strategy. These are only general guidelines as arguments could be made to add or delete X_s. Click on any strategy to learn more about it and get links to best practices (policies and programs.)

Strategy	Human Health	Livability	Economic	Climate Change	Natural Resources	Species Protection
1. Greenhouse Gases Plans	x	x	x	x	x	x
2. Green Building	x	x	x	x	x	x
3. Energy Efficiency	x	x	x	x		
4. Renewable Energy	x		x	x		
5. Alternative Fuels	x		x	x		
6. Transportation Options	x	x		x		
7. Green Purchasing	x		x	x	x	x
8. Waste Reduction			x	x	x	
9. Toxics Reduction	x		x		x	x
10. Water Quality	x				x	x
11. Water Conservation			x		x	x
12. Land Preservation/Greenspace	x	x	x	x	x	x
13. Sustainability Planning	x	x	x	x	x	x

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Why we need government to green their operations

- Need government leadership
- Markets don't fix everything
- Protect the commons
- Major consumer of natural resources
- Model, demonstration projects
- Major employer

Some levers for change—Internal

- Purchasing
- Facilities
- Employee training
- Environmental/sustainability management system

Some levers for change—External

- Taxation
- Regulations, codes
- Land use, urban design, transportation planning
- Economic development strategy
- Public education

Toolkit (over): a few examples

- Toxics (San Francisco and Multnomah County—Precautionary principle)
- Water quality (King County—pharmaceutical take back, Seattle—green streets)
- Waste water (Silverton—Oregon Community Gardens)
- Green building (Portland, Eugene—LEED Silver)
- Renewable energy (Portland—wind power at no additional cost)
- Green purchasing (OR DAS)

Elements for success

- Sustainability coordinator
- Carefully designed and staffed steering committee
- A sustainability plan based on a clear assessment of your strengths and weaknesses
- Sustainability metrics and report
- Community involvement and support (esp. of key leaders)

Ways to get started

- Have a sustainability assessment done (Corvallis)
- Form a citizen task force of local sustainability experts (West Linn)
- Require each department to create a sustainability plan (State of Oregon, Portland)

Resources: A short list

Oregon Sustainability Board Toolkit <http://www.sustainableoregon.net/oregon/toolkit>
SCORE (assessment) www.zerowaste.org/score

The Business Guide to Sustainability (Earthscan 2006)

Teaching Business Sustainability (Volumes 1 and 2, Greenleaf 2006 and 2007)

International Society of Sustainability Professionals (www.sustainabilityprofessionals.org)

Sustainable Industries Journal

Green@Work Magazine

Sustainable Life section of Portland Tribune

AXIS-newsflash (book reviews) AXIS-newsflash-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

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