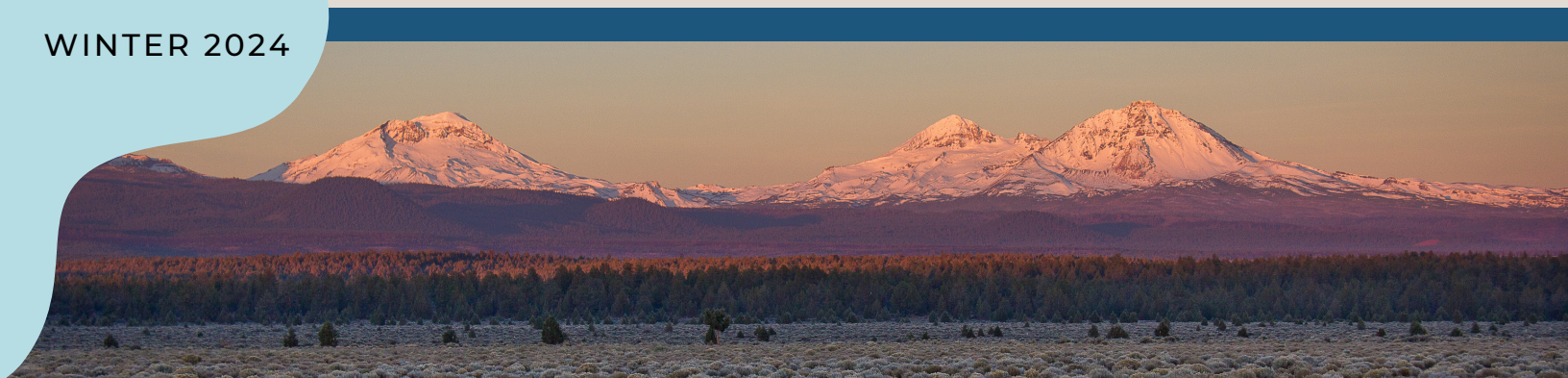


COCC Sustainability Committee Newsletter

WINTER 2024



Climate Action Plan Update

In November 2022, President Chesley signed the [President's Climate Leadership Commitment \(PCLC\)](#), a nationwide strategy by which colleges work to decrease their carbon footprint. The PCLC initiative was established in 2006 and is currently managed by Second Nature, a non-profit organization that works "to accelerate climate action in, and through, higher education." Second Nature provides guidance, resources, and certifications to PCLC institutions.

The first step was to establish a [PCLC taskforce](#), which has been done under the college's 2023-27 Strategic Plan. The next step was to complete a greenhouse gas emissions (GhG) [inventory](#). Our next goal is to establish a climate action plan (CAP) that will guide the college toward carbon neutrality and outline actions to reduce emissions, which is almost complete! Watch for updates in the coming months with the announcement of the first COCC climate action plan.

Winter is Here

COCC is enrolled in the Energy Trust of Oregon Strategic Energy Management Program and we are always working to find energy savings in our buildings. Here are some [tips](#) to stay warm and save energy this winter. Please reach out to our Sustainability Coordinator at ncopley@cocc.edu if you have questions or ideas about saving energy in your building.

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Sustainability Curriculum

In 2019, in response to student and faculty interest, COCC approved two new sustainability course identifiers. The first is called the Sustainability Designation (SD) and it applies to courses with a “moderate to strong emphasis on sustainability” that have adopted at least one sustainability learning outcome. The second is the SUS prefix that applies to courses that are created with a specific and central focus on sustainability. SD and SUS courses may originate from any department. Overall, the SD and SUS course identifiers have been a success. COCC has approved seven SUS courses and 11 SD courses to date, and there are another 10 SD courses in the 2024-2025 curriculum workflow. In addition, a proposal has been made to allow the SD identifier to apply to single sections of multi-section courses (e.g., WR 121Z). If you are interested in learning more, visit www.cocc.edu/committees/sustainability/sustainability-curriculum/default.aspx.



Ponderosa Project

The Ponderosa Project workshop is coming to COCC in May of 2025! Based on a national model for faculty development and curricular innovation around sustainability, the workshop will feature two days of guest speakers, peer-to-peer discussions, deep thoughts, community-building, field trips, and experiential learning. Faculty participants will come out the other end with the knowledge, skills, inspiration, and support to incorporate sustainability into their existing courses or create new courses. The workshop will be offered to tenured, adjunct, and part-time faculty from all across campus. Participation in the workshop and subsequent sustainability curriculum development will be compensated by the COCC Strategic Plan, the Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence, and the Sustainability Committee. We are currently finalizing the workshop dates and location. Official announcements, invitations, and applications will be sent out in Winter term. Stay tuned!

If you have questions about SD/SUS courses or the Ponderosa Project workshop, please reach out to Owen Murphy at 541-383-7766 or omurphy@cocc.edu.

Week Without Driving

The [Week Without Driving](#) is coming to COCC!

Did you know that nearly 1/3rd of Americans (~100 million of us!) cannot drive? This may be because we are too young, or too old, or not have access to a driver's license, or not be able to see, or not be able to afford a car, you get the point! Yet, we live in a society that is built around the assumption that we can all drive ourselves to work or to school or to do our errands. The Week Without Driving challenges everyone of us to live life as so many of us already do - without relying on a personal vehicle.

With support from the Senior Leadership Team, COCC will be hosting a Week Without Driving event in fall 2025 (Sep 29 - Oct 5). Between now and then, we are working to create an institution-wide event that includes all COCC campuses and helps as many of us Bobcats participate as would like to. Would you like to be involved in making this event not just successful, but transformative? If so, we invite you to attend our future Sustainability Committee meetings and get in touch with Hal DeShow at hideshow@cocc.edu.



COCC's Advancement Team participates in the 2023 Get There Challenge (left to right: Mark Johnson, Charlotte Gilbride, Allison Dickerson, Karen Kjemhus-Spahr, Wendy Patton, and Sean Tevlin)

The Clothing Connection Partner in Sustainability

The [Clothing Connection](#) (CC) has been a wonderful partner in Sustainability! The CC is a resource that not only meets basic needs for students and staff, but also has a hugely positive impact on the planet! Keeping goods in their useful life cycle keeps them out of the landfill. The state of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality estimates that Americans throw away over 32 billions pounds of textiles every year. From awareness of the resources it takes to produce clothing to more sustainable fabric options, providing education about sustainable shopping practices has continued to become a focus in the CC. Inviting students and employees to shop promotes earth-friendly habits and we have been including an educational element to our spring fashion shows!

SAVE the DATE! We will be hosting our 4th Earth Day Fashion Show on Bend campus on Friday, April 18 - to raise money for CC supplies and to showcase the fun of earth-friendly fashion.



Recycling

Everything we touch on the planet comes from somewhere and even after those things are out of our sight, they still exist in some form or another. Deschutes County's Knott Landfill is projected to be full by 2029. Keeping materials in their useful life cycle through "reduce, reuse, recycle" not only keeps materials out of landfills, but conserves natural resources by preventing the harvesting of new materials. Check out the [Rethink Waste Guide](#) for comprehensive recycling and zero waste information.

Did you know?

To-go coffee cups, both paper and plastic, are not recyclable.

Please try to bring your own cup or bottle.

For more information on recycling on campus visit the [Sustainability Committee's Recycling Page](#).

Common items that *cannot* be recycled are:

- Plastic bags
- Rigid plastic clamshells and hard plastics
- Polystyrene foam
- Waxed cardboard or frozen food boxes

Remember - When in doubt, leave it out.

In addition to the College's Recycling efforts, recycling at home is important. Electronics, batteries, motor oil, and larger items can be recycled at [Deschutes County disposal sites](#).

Local Recycling Services:

Check out the links for details in your area. Local Recycling Services:

- [Cascade Disposal Recycling Guide](#) (501 KB)
- [Republic Services Bend Recycling Guide](#) (151 KB)
- [Republic Services Redmond Recycling Guide](#) (218 KB)
- [Republic Services Sisters Recycling Guide](#) (295 KB)
- [Deschutes Recycling Guide](#) (1 MB)

Additional Resources: <https://envirocenter.org/>

Have recycling questions? Ask [Noelle Copley](#)



Pollinator Gardens

Central Oregon Community College (COCC) is proud to be a member of [Bee Campus USA](#), a program led by The Xerces Society that promotes a healthier, more sustainable future for bees, butterflies, and other invertebrates. This initiative fosters a growing movement of individuals who understand the vital connection between humans, invertebrates, and the health of our planet. At COCC, this commitment comes to life in the classroom. In James Adams' scientific illustration course, students gain hands-on experience with local pollinators and the native plants essential to their survival. Soon, student artwork will be featured in campus gardens, showcasing this meaningful connection.



Artwork by student Natasha Anderson-Butler



Stay Updated!

cocc.edu/committees/sustainability

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Joshua Clawson

Classified Association

Mindalay Perez

Scott Burge

Student Positions

Cedar North

Colton Sachs

Faculty Senate

Hal DeShow, Chair

Kim Wilk

Administrator

Anton Jennings

Deborah Lehto



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