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**Campus Energy Policy**

**Background**

COCC owns and operates 33 buildings across four campuses, encompassing more than 780,000 square feet of operational space. Since 2010, COCC has been working to integrate sustainable practices into all aspects of campus planning and operations. As part of this effort, our campus Sustainability Committee has implemented a number of sustainability initiatives and energy efficiency projects to improve the performance of our buildings. COCC hopes to build on these efforts, recognizing that Strategic Energy Management (SEM) presents a unique opportunity to lessen the college’s environmental impact while also controlling and minimizing utility costs.

COCC is committed to using energy in the most efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner possible, to allow COCC to better fulfill its mission and promise to the COCC community.

**Mission**

Central Oregon Community College’s mission is to promote student success and community enrichment by providing quality, accessible, lifelong educational opportunities. COCC makes our students the focus in all we do. In doing so, we aim to foster student completion of academic goals, prepare students for employment, assist regional employers and promote equitable achievement for the diverse students and communities we serve.

In 2018, COCC released its 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, a five-year framework that outlines work to promote four key goals: Student Success, Student Experience, Community Enrichment and Institutional Efficiency. COCC is committed to embracing sustainability as a fundamental means of achieving the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. As an institution of higher learning, we aim to lead and educate by example, inspiring students, faculty and staff to consider the ethical, environmental and economic outcomes of our decisions.

Strategic Energy Management has enormous potential to build upon COCC’s existing efforts to improve student and operational performance and meet the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan:

* **Increase Student Success:**

By creating a “living lab” of sustainability on campus, students will get an immersive sustainability education and critical exposure to the innovative technologies and best practices they are increasingly likely to encounter beyond COCC’s borders, better preparing COCC’s students to meet today’s global challenges.

* **Improve the Student Experience:**

Strategic Energy Management will improve the functioning and comfort of COCC’s buildings, helping to promote a healthy and productive learning environment for all its students. Benefits extend beyond the health and safety of the students: reduced utility costs ensure a greater portion of student tuition is used for programs and projects that directly benefit students.

* **Promote Community Enrichment:**

Embracing sustainability and SEM as key tenets of campus culture ensures that COCC demonstrates leadership in addressing the environmental challenges identified in the region, such as the City of Bend’s Community-wide Climate Action Plan (CCAP). It will allow COCC to engage as a collaborative and contributing partner, connecting students, faculty and staff to the broader community as a resource for learning and engagement.

* **Enhance institutional efficiency:**

Developing cost-effective and efficient processes is an essential component of Strategic Energy Management. SEM provides a better way to operate campus assets, enhancing institutional efficiency and reducing operating costs, while minimizing COCC’s environmental impacts. SEM also provides benefits beyond operational cost savings; it extends the life of equipment and provides more comfortable buildings for the COCC community.

In conclusion, embracing sustainability and SEM supports COCC’s commitment to our students, faculty and staff as well as the environment and the communities in which we are a part.

**Scope**

This policy applies to all assets owned and operated by Central Oregon Community College, effective January 2020. The policy should be used to guide employee and student decision-making related to energy consumption and building operations.

**Goals and Energy Performance Metrics**

We measure our energy consumption in kWh of electricity and therms of natural gas. By utilizing the guiding principles included in this policy, we hope to:

* Reduce campus electricity use (kWh) an average of 3% per year over the next 5 years, resulting in a 15% overall reduction by 2025, normalized for weather.
* Reduce campus-wide energy use intensity (EUI, measured in kBTU/sqft) an average of 2% per year over the next 5 years, resulting in an overall 10% reduction by 2025, normalized for weather.
* Reduce carbon emissions associated with energy consumption of campus assets, including electricity and natural gas and petroleum by 15% by 2030

Note: Our baseline year for performance is a 2-year average from CY2017-CY2018.

**Guiding Principles**

COCC will consider the following guiding principles in our efforts to enhance SEM on campus:

Construction Planning & Design

There are significant environmental harms associated with the construction of new buildings and major renovations. To minimize our impact, COCC will:

* Achieve LEED (or comparable) building certification for all new buildings and renovation projects, where appropriate
* Utilize life cycle costing when making design decisions for new buildings and renovations
* Consider building materials that are sustainable, durable and support the local economy
* Consider incorporating renewable energy resources (such as solar, biomass or co-generation) as well as daylighting and passive solar when designing new buildings

Energy Measurement & Monitoring

Tracking real-time energy use in buildings is the best way for building operators to gain the insight necessary to improve building performance. COCC will work toward separately metered buildings. COCC will install sub-meters on a “per-building basis” as funding and resources become available. Utilizing this real-time energy data, COCC will work to:

* Establish a campus-wide baseline of electricity, natural gas, and water consumption
* Develop Energy Use Intensity (EUI) ratings for each building on campus
* Develop a reporting system for data that is clear, concise and useful to both senior management and building O&M staff
* Conduct energy audits in campus buildings, beginning with the most energy intensive
* Establish energy efficiency objectives and targets to drive performance improvements

Operations and Maintenance

Best practices in building operation and maintenance are those specifically designed to produce energy savings while maintaining or enhancing indoor environmental quality and equipment reliability. Estimations show that targeting energy efficiency through O&M programs can save 3% to 5% on energy bills in the first year without a significant capital investment. COCC will seek to incorporate O&M practices that reduce COCC’s annual energy-related emissions (heating, cooling, electricity), including, but not limited to:

* Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for campus buildings
* Replacing old equipment and systems with new, energy efficient technologies
* Developing holiday setback schedules for unoccupied periods
* Utilizing controls and sensors for indoor and outdoor lighting

Building Operator and Occupant Training

Training for both building operators and occupants is an essential strategy for ensuring energy efficient best practices are sustained and continually improved. COCC will:

* Educate and train the campus community in methods to support the goals stated above

Outreach & Education

COCC is committed to maintaining transparency in relation to our efforts to meet the goals outlined in this policy. To support transparency, COCC will:

* Establish regular outreach to the campus community to communicate progress in reaching sustainability goals
* Establish procedures whereby members of the campus community can share ideas and submit feedback related to COCC’s sustainability and SEM efforts
* Maintain an active Energy Team and Executive Sponsor in the Energy Trust of Oregon SEM program to facilitate participation in energy-related decision making and ensure effective implementation of this energy policy
* Develop an effective infrastructure for communicating sustainability and SEM best practices and resources to inspire the widespread adoption of these practices by the campus community

Transportation

To minimize the impact of transportation on our campus-wide emissions, COCC will:

* Encourage and incentivize alternative forms of transportation for students, faculty and staff
* Work to right-size the campus fleet after consideration of driver and vehicle requirements
* Prioritize fuel efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions when purchasing new vehicles wherever technically and economically feasible
* Increase the number of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) in the campus fleet
* Work to increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations across all four campuses

**Communication**

COCC recognizes that faculty, staff and student support of our policy and goals is the key to our success. As such, COCC will make significant efforts to communicate the policy to all employees on an annual basis. The policy will also be available on the COCC website as well as our employee intranet.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Energy Team, to ensure it utilizes the best available energy management techniques and technologies to drive continuous improvement in operational efficiency across COCC’s campuses.

Name Enactment Date

Title

Signature Date of Signature