



## Strategic Energy Management Program Update

February marked the end of our first year of enrollment in the Energy Trust of Oregon's Strategic Energy Management program, where COCC is working to implement low and no-cost energy conservation measures.

Electricity and gas reduction goals target three buildings:

Wickiup Residence Hall, Cascade Culinary Institute and the Redmond Tech Center.

By completing a number of energy "milestones" for ETO, **COCC received \$5,000 in incentives**, the maximum amount available through the program each year!

Wickiup was our best performing building this year in the program, achieving a 3.7% reduction in electricity and 4% reduction in natural gas in 2019.



## Garden Space Club

Are you interested in creating a place on campus where students and staff will be able to relax and enjoy the outdoors?

A new student-run Garden Space Club is forming! The space will feature pollinator-friendly and native gardening beds (with guidance from Botany Instructor, Sarah Fuller) and inviting natural public spaces.

If you are interested in getting involved (once everyone is back on campus), email Frank Payne, Bookstore Manager ([fpayne@cocc.edu](mailto:fpayne@cocc.edu)), who is the club adviser. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to lend a hand.



## SUS 101 - Intro to Sustainability Debuts

SUS 101, Introduction to Sustainability has been approved as a new course starting Fall term 2020!

This 4-credit course offers a broad introduction to sustainability concepts. It incorporates faculty from across campus (e.g., Public Health, Geography, Biology, Forestry, Sociology, and Economics) and community partners. The course has required four-hour service learning component related to community sustainability issues.

## Did you know?

COCC has a **Sustainability Course Taskforce** who focuses on sustainability in coursework at COCC. It is on track to provide recommendations to the Academic Affairs Committee by the end of Spring 2020 term.

The committee is currently working on:

- suggesting a process to vet and approve sustainability-focused curriculum proposals.
- organizing sustainability-oriented educational opportunities for instructors.
- determining an appropriate definition of sustainability that can be applied across all disciplines.
- drafting sustainability-focused learning outcomes.



## Campus Recycling Survey Results

Thank you to the COCC campus community for the huge response on our Campus-wide Recycling Survey – more than 280 of you took the time to participate.

We hope to incorporate your ideas in the coming year as we revamp our recycling program. In summary, we have some work to do!

Here is a small snapshot of the survey results:

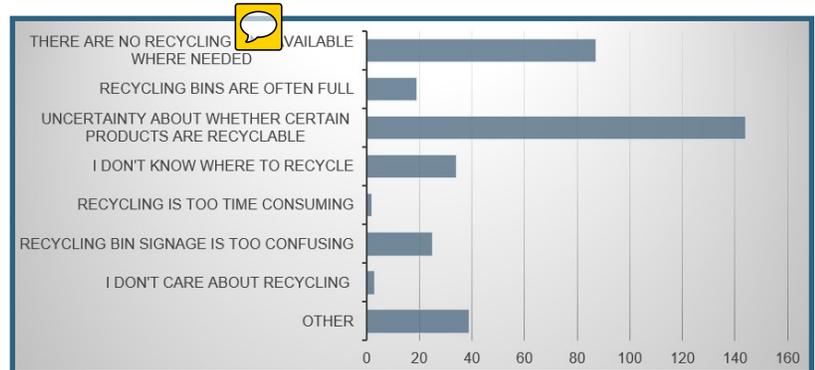
- 38% rate campus recycling as above average.
- Printer paper and drink bottles are the items most often recycled.
- Nearly half of respondents (40%) said their recycling habits on campus differ from home; 77% said it is easier or better at home.
- Uncertainty and confusion are the biggest obstacles in preventing participants from recycling on campus. Lack of accessibility is also an issue.



### Recycling Survey Winners:

- Faculty Member Chris Rubio
- Student Mason Meyners

Congratulations and enjoy your sustainable lunch kits!



More recycling education and better signage were the most often chosen responses for where recycling can improve.

## Upcoming Events and News

- **The 50th Earth Day is April 20!** With COVID-19, Bend will not be able to have the beloved Earth Day Fair and Parade. The Environmental Center's [website](#) will be posting creative ways to celebrate!
- **Help weigh and analyze our Bend Campus trash in the fall!** We were awarded a \$2,000 ReThink Waste Grant which will make this possible. Stay tuned!
- **You're invited!** The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be a Zoom remote meeting on \_\_\_\_\_. Let us know you plan to attend and get the meeting details by emailing Dana Christensen, Sustainability Committee Chair, at [dchristensen4@cocc.edu](mailto:dchristensen4@cocc.edu)
- **Sustainability plans to hire an intern in Fall 2021** to help with the Strategic Energy Management program. The position will help manage data.

## COCC attends Sustainability Conference

In March, eight faculty, staff and students attended the 2020 Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference in Eugene. It is the region's largest annual gathering of sustainability faculty, staff, administrators, students and community supporters. The presentations were diverse, including incorporating sustainability into curriculum, sustainable campus operations, student engagement initiatives, diversity, equity and inclusion in climate planning, and spirituality of our relationship to the natural world.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students who attended. The Sustainability Committee hopes to continue sponsoring a COCC cohort each year. The 2021 WOHESC will be in Seattle.



CENTRAL OREGON  
community college

(541) 383-7283 | [sustainability@cocc.edu](mailto:sustainability@cocc.edu)

COCC is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.