Oregon State University placed first in 2010, 2011, and 2012 in the annual Civil War RecycleMania competition with University of Oregon.

The Corvallis Campus has been designated by the National Center for Urban Transportation Research as a Best Workplace for Commuters, recognizing outstanding efforts to provide alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle. OSU is also a silver award winner from the League of American Bicyclists.

Did you know?

OSU was one of the first universities to harness human energy generated by exercise machines. OSU retrofitted 22 elliptical exercise machines in Dixon Recreation Ctr. in 2009; this was the largest installation of its kind in the world.

OSU Sustainability Office
Oak Creek Building
fa.oregonstate.edu/sustainability

Updated July 2015
ABOUT US

The Oregon State University Sustainability Office is the primary and general support organization for sustainability efforts at OSU. We help identify and fund infrastructure projects, monitor sustainability metrics across the university, network on and off-campus organizations, and provide direct support to students and academic departments.

Our closest partners include:
- Campus Recycling
- Student Sustainability Initiative (SSI)
- Center for Civic Engagement
- Transportation Services
- University Housing & Dining Services
- Recreational Sports
- ASOSU Environmental Affairs Task Force
- Corvallis Sustainability Coalition (an off-campus group)

WHAT WE DO

Outreach, Networking and Communication

The OSU Sustainability Office serves as a single point of contact for information requests, often routing inquiries to other campus experts. We network on and off-campus stakeholders and raise visibility of OSU’s progress and challenges in moving toward sustainability. Our signature networking group is the Sustainability Advocates, a peer learning group of faculty and staff who meet quarterly to discuss and learn about sustainability issues relevant to OSU.

Infrastructure Projects and Policy

The Sustainability Office identifies, organizes and sometimes secures funding for campus projects like solar installations, heating and cooling equipment upgrades, lighting efficiency improvements and water conservation projects. Our staff act as consultants to major capital construction projects to help make those projects as sustainable as possible and to use the projects and resulting facilities as teaching tools. We also manage utility metering hardware and data throughout campus.

Sustainability Assessment

Using an assessment tool common to many higher education institutions, we track and update annually over 1000 points of data that measure how sustainable OSU’s operations and programs are. The assessment results are used by outside organizations like the Sierra Club, Princeton Review and others to rate and rank OSU’s sustainability performance against our peers. Part of this process includes gathering data from all over Oregon to measure OSU’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Student Engagement and Academic Support

The Sustainability Office helps campus departments increase their contributions to sustainable systems, including sustainability education in the classroom and beyond. We offer several student experiential learning opportunities each year such as natural areas cleanups, energy audits or analysis, and campaigns and behavior change support. For groups like the Student Sustainability Initiative, ASOSU Environmental Affairs, Sustainable Energy Initiative and others, we play an advisory role and connect students to appropriate resources.

In conjunction with Campus Recycling, the Student Sustainability Initiative and University Housing & Dining Services, the Sustainability Office manages the residence hall Eco-representatives program. Eco-reps work 5-10 hours/week in their residence halls promoting their sustainability programs and that of partner departments, running composting in the residence halls and providing feedback to partner departments about how best to engage with the living communities.

How You Can Get Involved

- Sign up for our email list! (about one email/month)
- Become a Sustainability Advocate for your department or campus unit (faculty or staff)
- Contact us if you have ideas for service learning opportunities, course projects or if you would like help incorporating sustainability into your curriculum
- Let us know if you observe activities or issues on campus that move us away from sustainability
- Spearhead an alternative transportation, energy or water conservation activity in your building.