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Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Sustainability Board
Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, Chair
Governor's Sustainability Office
255 Capitol Street NE, Rm. 126
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-6534

June 13, 2006

Dear Community Leader:

In Governor Kulongoski's Executive Order, "Sustainability for the 21st Century" (EO 06-02), one of the primary objectives given to the Oregon Sustainability Board was to "Assist Local Governments and the Private Sector with the Development of Sustainability Practices." The Board is to create a "sustainable practices toolbox," as part of that effort, which would give information to local governments about best practices, sustainability certification programs and processes, training opportunities and case studies, among other things.

The Board decided the best way to determine the contents of the toolbox would be to find out what local governments actually need to know. Therefore, we have put together a short survey. We hope it will give us direction from you about what you need to implement sustainable practices in your community. Please take a few minutes of your time to complete the survey and return it. We want very much to get your ideas and input so that the toolbox will be truly helpful as something you will use.

Thank you for your help.

My best,

Bill Bradbury
Oregon Secretary of State
Chair, Oregon Sustainability Board

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY*

*Note: The Oregon legislature has defined sustainability to mean: "using, developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs and provides that future generations can also meet future needs, from the joint perspective of environmental, economic and community objectives." However, for purposes of this survey, we are less interested with definitions and more interested in however you perceive your community to be pursuing sustainable practices.

1 – Please Tell Us About Yourself

Please identify your name, position, department and the local government or special district for which you work.

_____	_____
Name	Position/Working Title
_____	_____
Local Government	Email Address and Phone Number

2 – What is Your Level of Interest in Sustainability?

Is your local government interested in sustainability (however you define it)? (Pick one)

- Not on the radar
- Beginning to investigate the idea
- Interested, but can't get it off the ground
- Have already done some things
- Sustainability is integral to our work

3 – Already Involved in Sustainability? Tell Us More

If you checked any of the boxes other than "not on the radar" in the last item, please provide some more details. Check any of the boxes below that apply, and add additional information in the space provided.

- Hosted training or educational events for government employees or citizens
- Taken ad hoc actions such as energy efficiency, recycling, green purchasing, green building, etc.
- Formed a steering committee on sustainability inside government
- Formed a citizen advisory committee
- Prepared a sustainability plan for internal city operations, e.g. Environmental Management System (EMS) plan
- Prepared a sustainability plan for the community as a whole
- Undergone a formal assessment of our sustainability operations
- Hired a sustainability coordinator (full or part-time)

Additional Information:

4 – What Obstacles to Sustainability Do You Face?

What are the primary obstacles you have faced in moving sustainability forward? (Choose any that apply)

- Not enough political support.
- Not enough community support.
- People don't know what sustainability is.
- Don't know where or how to start.
- Don't know what's possible to do.
- Don't know enough to be able to implement our ideas.
- Don't have the resources or staff to tackle the issue.

Other:

5 – What Would Help With Your Efforts?

Which of the following would be most helpful to move sustainability forward in your community? Some of these have estimated costs but recognize that there might be funding streams available to defray these costs. (Pick three. Rate them in order of usefulness with 1 = the most useful)

- Toolkit that explains how to create a sustainability plan step by step (<\$20)
- Workshop to learn how to implement sustainability (Approximately \$250 per person)
- Access to technical resources to help us with specific elements of our plan (varies)
- Facilitation/consulting to help us develop and/or implement a plan (\$5-10K)
- Self-assessment of our sustainable practices so we can see where we are and what we could do (<\$300)
- Full sustainability assessment conducted by outside experts (\$30+K)
- Ability to connect with others trying to do the same work in other local governments (e.g. listserv, interactive website, blog, speakers, etc.)
- Sample policies that we could adapt (e.g., sustainable purchasing policy, green building policy, etc.)
- Sample RFP (Request for Proposals) and contract language we could adapt for our procurement programs (e.g. cleaning chemicals, uniforms, food service, etc.)
- "Train the Trainer" program so that we can develop and deliver our own sustainability training classes to staff
- Checklists of best practices or things we can do (e.g., around energy, water, etc.)
- Case examples of best practices other communities have implemented, how they did it and what the results have been
- A regional or statewide awards program to recognize our sustainability efforts and provide a venue to learn about what others are doing
- An annual or semi-annual conference, or series of workshops, focused on sustainability and government operations

Other Ideas:

6 – Have You Visited www.sustainableoregon.net?

Do you already know about the state's sustainability website, Sustainableoregon.net? Yes ___ No ___

The website includes links to local governments that have sustainability initiatives and descriptions of those initiatives. Please contact Howard Silverman at hsilverman@ecotrust.org if you are interested in adding sustainability related information about your community to the website.

7 – Do You Like the Idea of Outreach?

Would you support the development of an outreach program around sustainability?

Yes ___ No ___

If yes, any thoughts on what kind of program would be useful?

8 – Do You Know About the Sustainability Board?

Are you aware that there is a State Sustainability Board?

Yes ___ No ___

What do you think the Sustainability Board could—or should—do to help local governments develop sustainable practices?

9 – Want to Receive Notifications?

Would you be interested in being on the distribution list for the Sustainability Board's meetings and activities? Yes ___ No ___

Thank You!

Please return this survey to:

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Governor's Sustainability Office
Public Service Building
255 Capitol St., NE Room 126
Salem, OR 97301

Questions? You can reach David at:
503-378-3225 or
David.Vanthof@state.or.us