Sustainability Plan

CITY OF OREGON

Final Report | September 2024

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

The Sustainability Plan for the City of Oregon, IL (City) serves as a guide to enrich the City's sustainability efforts and further cultivate an environmentally conscious and prosperous community. The plan presents an innovative and sustainable framework to build upon the City's ongoing environmental pursuits and promote sustainable practices for municipal operations, residents, and businesses. The following plan summarizes the City's sustainability endeavors to date and outlines actions the City plans to take to ensure the balance of environmental, social, and economic needs for the future.

Purpose and Intent

Defining Sustainability

The term "sustainability" has various contextual meanings and can be defined in a multitude of ways. In this plan, sustainability refers to the ability to create and maintain the necessary conditions to thrive for current and future generations without depleting natural resources. This definition centers around the idea that everything necessary for human survival and community well-being relies on the natural environment. The City of Oregon believes that to have a prosperous community, sustainability must also include social equity and economic development.

Mission Statement

To guide and define sustainability work within the City of Oregon, the City's Sustainability Committee developed the following mission statement:

"To research, educate, and advocate for a sustainable future on behalf of Oregon's residents and businesses as it relates to economic stability and social equity while preserving environmental resources for current and future generations."

Image source: City of Oregon

What is a Sustainability Plan?

A sustainability plan is a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the goals and actions that a city will implement to promote citywide sustainability, improve environmental protection efforts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build climate resilience. Sustainability planning revolves around city-led action. It educates and encourages residents and business owners to participate in sustainability initiatives to improve community well-being and environmental prosperity.

The implementation of a sustainability plan is an organized approach for a city to solve environmental challenges and improve sustainability actions while prioritizing the welfare of residents and businesses. Implementation of this plan will occur over the next 5 to 7 years due to the time, resources, and collaboration with government operations, residents, businesses, and community organizations involved.

This sustainability plan is the next step toward a more sustainable future for the City of Oregon; this plan acts as a framework to advance sustainability, equity, economic development, and livelihood. This plan highlights five focus areas to concentrate sustainability efforts and address the challenges and needs of the city: city operations, community-wide efforts, education, development and land use, and policy.

Public Engagement

An essential component of this sustainability plan is incorporating community insight. The planning process for this plan included public engagement opportunities that encouraged residents to provide input and help shape the plan. This collaboration fostered a shared sense of responsibility for plan implementation, guiding Oregon toward a more sustainable future.

Public engagement for this plan featured a series of events, including a stakeholder workshop, three pop-up booths,

a presentation open to the Oregon community, and a presentation to Oregon City Council. The first round of public engagement included a stakeholder workshop aimed at gathering stakeholder insight on the plan's drafted goals and recommendations as well as ensuring awareness of all existing sustainability efforts within the community. A total of 13 number of people attended the workshop, including representatives from local businesses, government, non-profits, and community organizations. The second round of public engagement centered on increasing public awareness of the plan and gaining public input. This included two pop-up booths at Riverside Farmers Market and one at the summer Concert in the Park series; residents were informed about the plan and asked to share any feedback or questions. The final round of public engagement included a public comment period where the plan was available online and in-person for public review. During the public comment period, an open house was hosted by the City to present the plan to the public and discuss details of the plan in person.

Additionally, the Oregon Sustainability Plan has a webpage on Engage R1, which is an online engagement platform hosted by Region 1 Planning Council (R1), to keep the public updated on the progress of the plan and provide a space for comments and questions throughout the plan's development.

Image source: Region 1 Planning Council

Oregon by the Numbers

Understanding the makeup and needs of the community is critical for developing a tailored sustainability plan. The following demographic and socioeconomic data of Oregon contextualizes community characteristics and provides insight into how sustainability measures can improve the quality of life for residents.

Population

As of 2020, Oregon has a total population of 3,604 residents. Over the last decade, the City has experienced slight fluctuations in population size. From 2010 to 2020, the population of Oregon has declined by 3.1.

Age

The population in Oregon is aging, a trend occurring throughout the nation. The largest age cohort in Oregon is 65 years and older, making up 22.6 percent of the total population. This trend is also reflected in the median age of the population, which is 46 years as of 2022, compared to 43.5 years in 2010. As the population ages, the City will need to ensure climate resiliency and support older adults who may be vulnerable to the health implications of climate change.

Image source: City of Oregon

Race and Ethnicity

The majority of residents, 91.5 percent, in Oregon are White. The second largest racial group in Oregon is "Two or More Races", comprising 5.0 percent of the population. The remainder of the population includes 1.5 percent "Some Other Race Alone", 1.0 percent Black or African American, 0.5 percent Asian, 0.4 percent American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0.0 percent Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

Income

Median household income is a common measure of economic well-being. As of 2022, Oregon's median household income is $72,443. While Oregon's median household income is just below the 2022 statewide median household of $78,433, its lower cost of living is more affordable than other cities in Northern Illinois. Furthermore, Oregon demonstrates a relatively consistent income distribution, with the largest number of households making between $75,000 and $99,999 per year.

Workforce

Of the approximately 3,312 people 16 years and older in Oregon, 1,653 individuals actively participate in the labor force; that is approximately a 50 percent participation rate. The remaining half—those who have no job and are not looking for one—are not counted in the labor force. Of the individuals in the labor force in 2022, there was a 95 percent employment rate.

The majority of employees in Oregon travel to work via single-occupancy vehicles. In 2022, 87 percent of individuals drove to work alone, 6.4 percent of workers carpooled, 3.3 percent of workers walked to work, 2.2 percent worked from home, and 0.7 percent used public transportation. Looking at resident travel time to work, the largest portion of workers traveled less than 30 minutes to work. Specifically, 20.5 percent of workers traveled less than 10 minutes, 46.7 percent traveled between 10 and 29 minutes, 27.4 percent traveled between 30 and 59 minutes, and 5.4 percent traveled at least an hour.

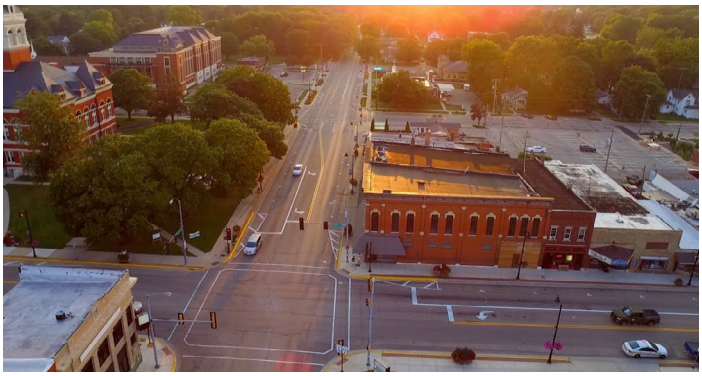


Image source: Matthew Klein

When looking at places of employment, over half, 57.1 percent, of Oregon residents are employed within Ogle County, while 42.3 percent are employed outside of the county. The remaining 0.6 percent of residents work out of state for employment.

Housing Characteristics

An estimated 1,749 occupied households reside within Oregon's city limits. It is helpful to understand the physical characteristics of these households due to their impact on the environment. The most common type of housing structure in Oregon is single detached units, at 72.4 percent of all occupied households. Buildings with 10 or more apartments are the second most occupied housing structure, accounting for 9.9 percent of housing. The remaining percent of residents reside in other housing structures. Around 7.8 percent of occupied households include two-apartment buildings, 6.1 percent are five to nine-apartment buildings, 2.5 percent are three or four-apartment buildings, 1.3 percent are single structures attached, and zero mobile homes are occupied in Oregon.

As of 2022, over 40 percent of housing was built in 1939 or earlier. The second and third largest categories of years homes were built are from 1960 to 1979 and 1940 to 1959, together totaling 45.8 percent. This is important to note, as older homes are associated with higher amounts of greenhouse gas emissions from heating and larger rates of energy and water consumption. Additionally, homes built before 1978 are more likely to have lead-based paint.[i]

Image source: City of Oregon

The most common source of heating fuel for homes in Oregon is utility gas, with 77.2 percent of homes relying on this fuel source. This is significant due to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released from gas consumption.[ii] The second most common heating fuel, 21.2 percent, is electricity. For the remainder of homes, 0.9 percent use "Bottled, tank, or LP gas" and 0.7 percent use "All other fuels."

As of 2022, 86.6 percent of households have at least one vehicle available. The most common number of vehicles per household was two vehicles, accounting for 38.8 percent of households. The remaining vehicle per household breakdown included: 33.6 percent of households with one vehicle available, 14.2 percent of households with three or more vehicles available, and 13.4 percent of households with zero vehicles available.

CHAPTER 2

History of Sustainable Actions

In order to promote community and environmental well-being in the City of Oregon, it is important to clearly understand the city's relationship with nature and sustainability progress achieved thus far. This chapter provides an overview of the crucial role nature plays in the City and highlights sustainability actions undertaken to date.

Oregon's Connection to Nature

The City of Oregon is located in a naturally scenic and historically rich region within the Rock River Valley. Hosting a diverse array of natural features, including the Rock River, state parks, greenways, and other natural areas, the City prides itself on its connection to nature.

The Rock River is Oregon's most prominent environmental feature; woodlands and greenways defining the riverfront and its various islands. The Rock River, along with the Kyte River and Gale Creek, support natural stormwater management, wildlife habitats, and recreational activities in Oregon. The City has and will continue to capitalize on this resource by promoting eco-tourism, redeveloping the riverfront into a pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use district, and prioritizing the health of the river's ecosystem.

Image source: City of Oregon

The City is home to an extensive park system. The Oregon Park District owns or manages 11 park sites, totaling 160 acres of open space. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) owns 4,307 acres of land within the Oregon Park District boundary, including Castle Rock State Park, Lowden-Miller State Forest, and Governor Lowden State Park. Roughly 710 acres of this land are designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve.

The City of Oregon values its abundance of natural resources and strives to ensure an environmentally healthy community for its citizens and its natural ecosystems. This Sustainability Plan encourages the protection, preservation, and restoration of the City's natural areas.

Sustainability Timeline

In recent years, Oregon has begun transitioning into a more eco-friendly community through implementation of sustainability practices and preservation of the City's natural resources. In 2021, the City conducted an energy audit for the Oregon Coliseum, City Hall, and the Street Department to determine their energy consumption levels and identify improvement strategies for energy efficiency. In 2023, the City installed its first electric vehicle (EV) charging station to support and promote the use of EVs in the city. The timeline below illustrates Oregon's sustainability achievements throughout the past decade.

Establishment of the Sustainability Committee

On December 14, 2021, Mayor Ken Williams announced the formation of the City of Oregon's Sustainability Committee. The purpose of the committee is to educate, advocate, and support the environment, as well as provide guidance on the economic and social sustainability of the community through partnerships with residents, businesses, and visitors.

Image source: City of Oregon

When the Sustainability Committee was first announced, Mayor Ken Williams acknowledged Oregon as "blessed with an abundance of natural resources and beauty," and he emphasized, "it is important for us to honor the gifts that ecotourism affords our residents and visitors and know it's imperative to protect those for future generations."

The committee is volunteer-led, consisting of four local environmental experts and three city representatives. This group led the formation and development of the Sustainability Plan, and they are at the forefront of guiding the City in energy and natural resource conservation. The committee also serves as a resource for community outreach and education programs.

Sustainable Business Program

In coordination with the development of this Sustainability Plan, the City of Oregon Sustainability Committee is developing a program to promote and recognize sustainability in local businesses, called EcoOregon. This program will define the scope of commitment for businesses or public agencies striving to become more sustainable. EcoOregon will highlight businesses that actively work to show environmental responsibility in the community.

Figure 2-1: EcoOregon Logo

ECO OREGON
SUSTAINABILITY RECOGNITION

Source: EcoOregon

Figure 2-2: Timeline of Sustainability

Source: City of Oregon and Region 1 Planning Council

CHAPTER 3

Framework

This Sustainability Plan includes an implementation framework designed to work toward city-wide sustainability for the social and environmental well-being of Oregon. The plan is organized around this unifying framework categorized by the following focus areas: City Operations, Community Efforts, Education, Development & Land Use, and Policy. Each focus area provides local context, over-arching strategies to meet sustainability goals, and detailed actions for implementation.

Education

Education in this plan refers to engagement and educational opportunities to increase sustainability knowledge, awareness, and interest throughout the community. The key to long-term sustainability is community engagement, awareness, and education.[iii] Community involvement can be attained through city events, city forums, social media engagement, educational programs and workshops, and school curricula.

Where We Are Now

The City recognizes the significance and power of education, especially when it comes to sustainability. In 2021, the City established the Oregon Sustainability Committee to serve as the liaison to support the local environment through community education and collaboration. The committee has begun efforts to increase community awareness and knowledge of sustainable topics by providing information and engagement opportunities through community newsletters, websites, and social media platforms.

Throughout the City of Oregon and Ogle County, many organizations dedicate resources to educating the community on sustainable and environmental initiatives. This includes education programs hosted by the Oregon Public Library, Oregon Park District, and Illinois Extension Office. The Ogle County Health Department hosts a food locker program to enhance food access, and the Oregon Chamber of Commerce hosts a monthly "Lunch and Learn," which is occasionally used to highlight sustainability practices, such as recycling and waste management efforts. Additionally, the Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department promotes recycling and waste management educational opportunities and events each year.

Image source: City of Oregon

Recommendations

1. Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling.
   - Educate the community on recycling and composting practices.
   - Educate the community to reduce waste by consuming less and reusing items.
   - Discourage fly dumping and littering.
   - Organize a community-wide clean-up day.
   - Engage community volunteers in recycling education and events.
2. Offer educational opportunities on sustainability topics that would help residents incorporate sustainability practices into their daily lives.
   - Develop a workshop for farmers and residents on sustainable agriculture best practices.
   - Develop a workshop that promotes water and energy conservation best practices for residents and business owners.
   - Sponsor an annual energy fair to educate residents on energy efficiency strategies and renewable power options.
   - Promote awareness of existing solar tax credit programs.
3. Increase the Sustainability Committee's communication and marketing to engage more residents in the City's environmental efforts.

- Develop annual sustainability reports.
- Create or be included in the City's existing monthly newsletter.
- Increase social media presence.
- Create a page on the City's website for sustainability.
- Establish key areas for public education to highlight sustainable information.
- Establish a Sustainability Committee booth at community events where information is available and volunteers can answer questions and collect comments.

4. Cultivate a partnership with local schools to increase environmental education and involvement.

   - Explore the establishment of an environmental club for high school students.
   - Identify environmental volunteer opportunities for interested students needing service hours fulfilled.

City Operations

The City of Oregon (City) is leading the way toward a more sustainable future, setting an example for residents and businesses alike. The City aims to improve sustainability throughout all facets of City operations, including municipal-owned and operated buildings, transportation systems, and services, such as waste and water.

Where We Are Now

Municipal Buildings

Buildings require significant resources, generate waste, emit greenhouse gas emissions, and alter the surrounding environment. Energy demand from buildings is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and is often determined or affected by building design.[iv] Across the United States, buildings are responsible for 29 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, mainly due to the energy required to power them.[v] In 2021, the City of Oregon conducted energy audits at key locations including the Oregon Coliseum, City Hall, and the Street Department buildings. These audits aimed to gauge energy consumption of city buildings and identify areas where energy efficiency improvements could be made within municipal operations. Sustainable building best practices encompass a range of strategies, such as employing energy efficiency techniques, utilizing sustainable building materials, and conserving water.

Image source: City of Oregon

Transportation

In Oregon, the primary mode of transportation is single-occupancy gas-powered vehicles; these vehicles largely contribute to congestion, air pollution, and carbon emissions. In recent years, the City has made progress toward evolving into a pedestrian- and bike-friendly community, providing residents the opportunity to use alternative transportation modes and reduce their carbon footprint. According to Walk Score, downtown Oregon has a 70 out of 100 walk score, indicating most errands can be accomplished on foot, and a 53 out of 100 bike score, indicating the City harbors some biking infrastructure.[vi]

Additionally, Oregon promotes the use of electric vehicles (EVs), and the City aims to eventually transition to an electric fleet. As of 2024, two EV charging stations have been installed in the city to encourage residents, commuters, and visitors to drive EVs. The charging stations are located within the 5th Street Municipal parking lot and the Harvard State Bank parking lot.

Image source: Region 1 Planning Council

Waste Management

The collection, transportation, and disposal of municipal waste is both environmentally and economically costly, but much of this waste can be recycled, composted, or prevented altogether. In Oregon, an estimated 1086 tons of waste is disposed of annually. Of this waste, 12.2 percent is recycled and 11 percent is yard waste that is then composted. Sustainable waste management includes reduction efforts to mitigate the volume of waste entering landfills by decreasing or eliminating sources of waste. This involves increasing the amount and type of materials that can be recycled, composting natural materials and food scraps, repurposing items, and adopting sustainable purchasing habits such as buying reusable goods and curbing consumerism.

Image source: Cit of Oregon

Recommendations

1. Transition City facilities to net zero energy.
   - Conduct energy audits for all municipal facilities.
   - Achieve green building certification for municipal buildings.
   - Install and operate renewable energy systems at municipal facilities.
   - Encourage energy efficiency upgrades of the public works department, police station, fire department, city hall, library, and museums.
   - Encourage the City Council to consider regulations to reduce light pollution and increase energy efficiency efforts.
2. Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations.
   - Adopt an environmental purchasing policy.
   - Extend the useful life of physical assets.
   - Incorporate sustainable practices into managing special events.
   - Integrate sustainability into capital planning.
   - Inventory, assess, and manage municipal assets sustainably.
   - Create a plan for new employee orientation for all departments regarding sustainability and energy efficiency.
   - Promote the stormwater management and protection program.
3. Support electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and operate a safe, clean, and efficient fleet.
   - Explore the conversion of the municipal fleet to electric.
   - Identify locations to install additional EV charging stations.
   - Pursue participation in an EV Readiness Program as identified in the City's comprehensive plan.
4. Support sustainable material management.
   - Set a waste reduction goal for municipal operations.
   - Promote and practice waste reduction and recycling in municipal operations.
   - Provide access to recycling infrastructure and services at public places.
   - Improve existing curbside recycling program for residents.
   - Identify convenient food waste composting options for residents.
   - Develop a program to track recycling and composting rates.

Community-Wide Efforts

Community-wide efforts target community resilience, community access to sustainability resources, and community-led efforts toward sustainability. This requires a collective effort among the city's diverse organizations, businesses, and residents to enhance communication and foster stronger relationships within the community. By doing so, the city can cultivate a stronger sense of belonging and elevate the overall quality of life for all members of the community.

Where We Are Now

Residential

Residents play a crucial role in the City's sustainability efforts because they contribute to energy and water consumption,

waste disposal, and greenhouse gas emissions. As of 2022, an estimated 42 percent of Oregon residents recycle. Of all curbside waste that is collected in Oregon, only 12.2 percent is recycled and 11 percent is yard waste. Residents can help reduce environmental impacts by implementing sustainable practices in their daily lives and at their homes, like planting native plants in yards, reducing waste, conserving energy, and limiting water usage.

Businesses

The City of Oregon values and encourages eco-friendly business practices in the local economy. These practices help to improve citywide sustainability efforts, increase profitability, and generate revenue.[vii] A number of businesses in Oregon have taken the initiative to increase sustainability efforts; the City seeks to recognize these businesses and other businesses that want to become more environmentally friendly through a sustainable business program, EcoOregon. The EcoOregon program will encourage sustainable business practices, such as sourcing materials responsibly, minimizing consumption of natural resources, reducing carbon emissions, and curbing energy demand.

Community

While sustainability-focused community engagement efforts within the City have been limited, there is evident interest within the community towards sustainability initiatives. One example of this is the community-driven greenhouse project created in April of 2023 designed to educate Oregon High School students on sustainable growing practices. The greenhouse operates completely off the grid by optimizing passive house designs, such as south-facing windows, insulation, solar panels, energy-efficient light bulbs, and sustainable building materials. This forward-thinking demonstration highlights the sustainable potential of Oregon and true community collaboration. This plan will build upon the community's existing interest in eco-friendly practices and cultivate sustainability values across the entire community.

Image source: City of Oregon

Image source: City of Oregon

Oregon is a largely agriculture-based community, and sourcing food locally can support sustainability, community resilience, and the local economy.[viii] Within Ogle County, there are estimated to be 919 farms as of 2022, totaling 351,824 acres. In addition to the Off the Grid Greenhouse project, Oregon supports local farmers and access to local food through the River's Edge Farmers Market in the summer.

Recommendations

1. Increase access to sustainably grown local food.
    - Educate and engage the community in a sustainable food culture.
    - Encourage a partnership between local restaurants and farms to source local and seasonal foods.
    - Incorporate local and healthy options into public food-service procurement and events.
    - Support and promote family and community gardens.
2. Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability.
    - Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using existing municipal communication outlets (i.e., cable TV, newsletter, social media, and podcasts).
    - Use community festivals, lectures, workshops, and other events to disseminate sustainability information.
    - Utilize strategic partnership with other community organizations to promote sustainability.
    - Host environmentally focused event(s), such as a trash clean-up day.
    - Encourage residents to increase involvement with the

City's environmental committees and boards, such as the Sustainability Committee and Tree Board.

3. Develop a recognition program to encourage sustainable actions by local businesses.
   - Determine criteria to designate a business as "green."
   - Draft a recycling plan for businesses.
   - Create an EcoOregon logo to recognize sustainable businesses.
   - Increase business recycling efforts by providing facilitation services to identify potential incentives, financial offsets, and grants.
4. Promote residential sustainable best practices, including water and energy conservation and waste management.
   - Increase community waste diversion rate by supporting recycling, composting, and donating opportunities.
   - Encourage residents and commuters to travel via active or alternative transportation modes, like biking, walking, or driving an EV.
   - Revise zoning codes to allow for residential generation of renewable energy, including wind or solar power.
   - Work with residents and homeowners associations to promote energy efficiency and water conservation practices.

Policy

Policy in the context of this sustainability plan refers to Oregon zoning codes, ordinances, or policies related to sustainability. These policies serve to mandate actions, implement rules, and set limitations regarding how particular activities, such as landscaping or building development, within the City should be performed or governed. Reforming existing policies and establishing new ones are effective practices to improve sustainability efforts within the City as they encourage and mandate environmentally friendly practices.[ix]

Where We Are Now

Currently, Oregon has multiple sustainable policies, codes, and ordinances in place. The Oregon Municipal Code includes land use and housing policies that allow for curbside recycling, encourage tree preservation, reduce soil erosion, and prohibit defacing, removing, or harming trees. In building and zoning codes, the City imposes general development standards that mandate the preservation of natural elements. These standards include minimizing disruption to natural features and integrating natural elements into design concepts wherever feasible. Furthermore, municipal code 32.20.090 requires business districts and parking lots to plant a minimum amount of shade trees. In Oregon, solar energy systems regulations also exist to facilitate the construction, installation, and operation in a manner that promotes economic development, ensures safety, and avoids adverse impacts on natural lands.

Image source: City of Oregon

In 2022, Oregon also adopted a code that prohibits littering, reading "No person shall dump, deposit, drop, throw, discard, leave, cause or permit the dumping, depositing, dropping, throwing, discarding or leaving of litter upon any public or private property in this City, or into any river, lake, pond, or other stream or body of water in this City."[x]

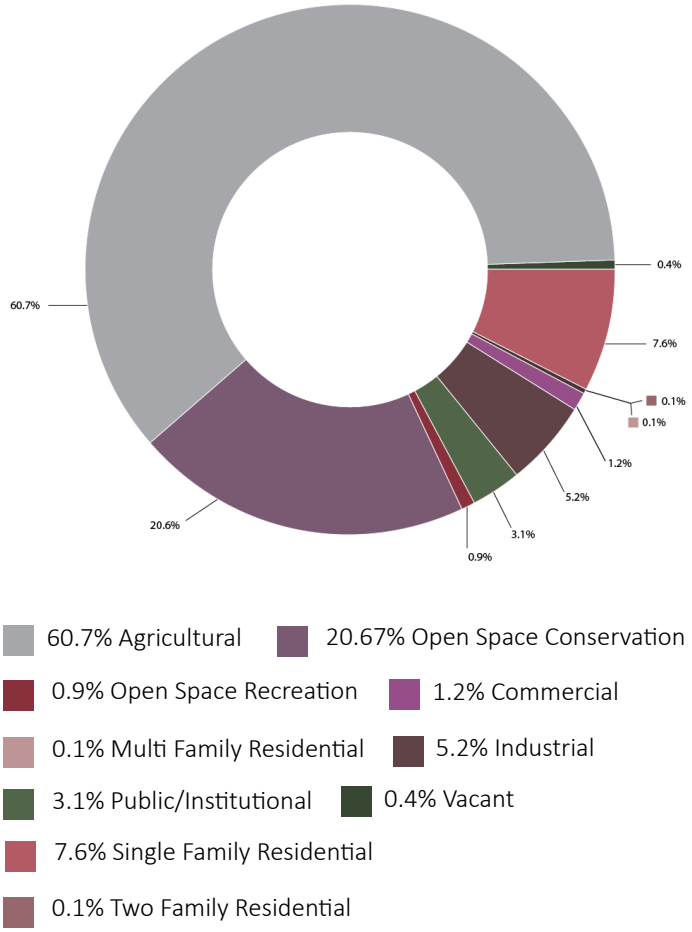
Recommendations

1. Update building and zoning codes to encourage best practices for sustainable development.
   - Create incentives to reflect sustainable material use in the residential and non-residential appearance standards.
   - Explore the establishment of sustainable building performance standards for new construction and existing developments.
   - Consider regulations to reduce light pollution through efforts such as down lighting.
2. Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy technologies (e.g., solar, geothermal) by adapting building and zoning codes.
3. Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies.
   - Use zoning and development regulations in strategic locations to increase walkability.
   - Review and amend zoning codes to encourage mixed-use development and include pedestrian-friendly standards.
   - Enact policies that require conservation design best management practices to protect natural resources.

Development and Land Use

Development and land use refers to all aspects of the built and natural environments, including working lands. The design and location of public parks, roads, malls, landfills, and green spaces are various elements that contribute to the built environment and determine where and how residents interact, commute, and access goods and services. Natural and working lands refer to areas maintained for ecological, recreational, and economic purposes, such as forests, farmlands, and open space.

Figure 3-1: Existing Land Use Composition Pie Chart



Source: City of Oregon

Where We Are Now

Built Environment

Oregon prioritizes mixed-use development in the City to create neighborhoods, green spaces, public services, and business districts that are integrated, connected, and environmentally friendly. Mixed-use development refers to various forms of land use, such as residential, retail, commercial, employment, civic, and entertainment that are in close proximity, sometimes in the same building. Oregon's downtown district currently includes a variety of land uses, such as commercial, residential, and natural land use, but mixed-use development efforts are continually expanding throughout the city. In 2016 Oregon updated city zoning codes to support pedestrian accessibility along the Rock River to Riverfront Commercial District and re-orient the riverfront from industrial conversion to a greenway; this increased outdoor recreation and created usable public gathering spaces.

Building construction and operation can have significant impacts on the environment, society, and economy.[xi] For example, energy use from buildings is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, so designing facilities efficiently is important to improve energy conservation and comfort. Energy efficiency efforts help building owners and operators reduce emissions and electric costs.

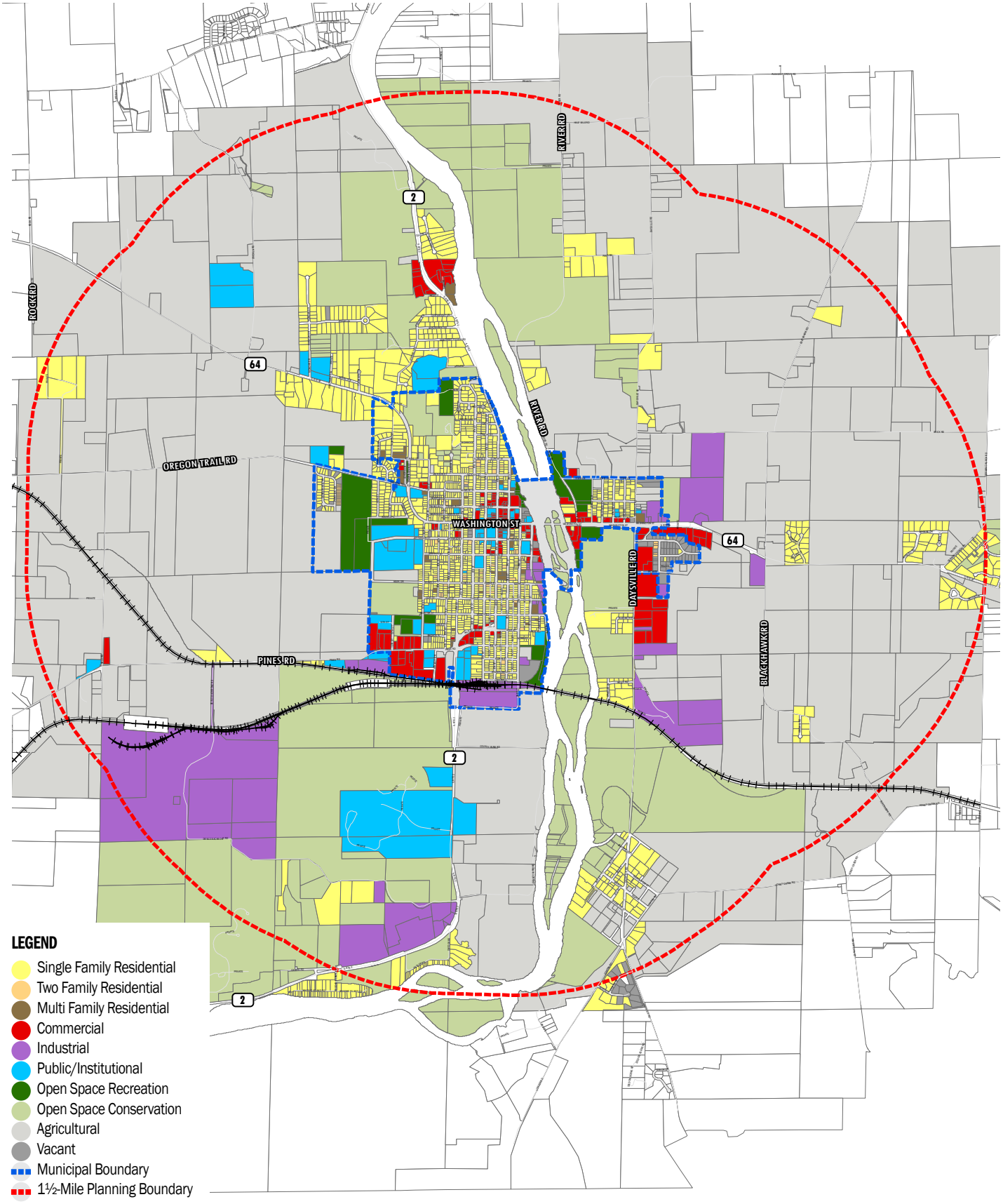
Greenspace

Open spaces and parks provide a variety of environmental, social, and economic benefits. Access to natural land provides numerous benefits to residents and makes a city attractive to visitors and potential investors.[xii] In Oregon, 92.3 percent of residents who reside within the city municipal boundary live within a mile of access to a park. Parks contribute to the community's overall health by providing spaces to access clean air, water, and open space, as well as recreational opportunities that improve quality of life.

The Oregon Park District owns and manages nearly 150 acres of active and passive open space, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources owns 4,307 acres of open space within the Park District's boundaries. In Oregon, 20.6 percent of land consists of open space conservation, and 0.9 percent of land is open space recreation.

Image source: City of Oregon

Figure 3-2: Existing Land Use Map



Source: City of Oregon

Agricultural Land

Agriculture is the largest land use type in Oregon, accounting for 60.7 percent of land within Oregon's one-and-a-half-mile planning area. Agricultural land is projected to remain the primary land use across the community, despite the growing trend of development at the edges of Oregon's municipal boundary. Because agricultural land is one of Oregon's key natural resources, implementing sustainable agriculture best practices is important to help improve crop yield and reduce the environmental consequences of agriculture, like greenhouse gas emissions and runoff.

Image source: City of Oregon

Recommendations

1. Incentivize EnergyStar and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles and green practices for new commercial buildings and retrofits.
   - Reduce permit fees to developers implementing green practices in new builds or retrofitting existing spaces/buildings.
   - Explore the creation of incentive tiers and measurements to increase the number of green building principles.
2. Protect, preserve, and increase green spaces.
   - Conduct a tree canopy study to determine the amount of tree canopy in the City.
   - Develop a tree planting program.
   - Assess the structural integrity of trees and proactively mitigate risks through strategic removal and other actions.
   - Increase downtown green space.
3. Promote energy-efficient building practices.
   - Incentivize green building practices through reduced permit fees or fast-tracked applications with green building practices.
4. Increase and support well-connected, walkable, and mixed-use development.
   - Increase sidewalk infrastructure and coordinate sidewalk improvements with the continual creation of an interconnected city-wide trail network.
   - Promote Complete Streets principles that provides for safe shared mobility spaces that minimize conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.
   - Build out bike infrastructure and encourage a bicycling culture around town, including on-street bike lanes, shared-use trails, bike racks in commercial areas and parks, etc.

Implementation Matrix

The recommendations listed under each focus area identify projects, policies, and programs to improve citywide sustainability efforts. The implementation matrix on page 14 helps track the Sustainability Plan's implementation progress. This matrix outlines for completion, responsible parties, potential funding sources, and metrics to measure success for each action item.

See pages 14 to 19 for the full Implementation Matrix.

Implementation Matrix Key:

Responsibility

Public:

ADMIN	Administration
CC	City Council
SUS	Sustainability Committee
CPC	City Planning Commission
PW	Public Works Department
ECDC	Economic & Community Development Commission
PD	Oregon Park District
SD	School District
SW	Ogle County Solid Waste Management Department
HD	Ogle County Health Department

Partners:

C	Consultant
I	Industry Leaders
N	Neighborhood Residents
COC	Chamber of Commerce
UIE	University of Illinois Extension
IREA	Illinois Renewable Energy Association
FM	Farmers Market

Timeframe:

Ongoing	
Short	Within 1 year
Medium	2-5 years
Long	6-10 years

Status:

Completed
Ongoing
Future

Figure 3-3: Implementation Matrix

EDUCATION				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 1: Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling.	Educate the community on recycling and composting practices.	SUS, SW	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Educate the community to reduce waste by consuming less and reusing items.	SUS, SW	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Discourage fly dumping and littering.	SUS, SW	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Organize a community-wide clean-up day.	ADMIN, SUS, N	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Engage community volunteers in recycling education and events.	ADMIN, SUS, SW	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
Strategy 2: Offer educational opportunities on sustainability topics that would help residents incorporate sustainability practices into their daily lives.	Develop a workshop for farmers and residents on sustainable agriculture best practices.	ADMIN, UIE	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Develop a workshop that promotes water and energy conservation best practices for resident and business owners.	SUS, I, UIE, IREA	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Sponsor an annual energy fair to educate residents on energy efficiency strategies and renewable power options.	SUS, I, UIE, IREA	Long	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Promote awareness of existing solar tax credit programs.	ADMIN, C	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
Strategy 3: Increase the Sustainability Committee's communication and marketing to engage more residents in the City's environmental efforts.	Develop annual sustainability reports.	SUS	Short- Long	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Create or be included in the City's existing monthly newsletter.	SUS	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Increase social media presence.	SUS	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Create a page on the City's website for sustainability.	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Establish key ares for public education to highlight sustainable information.	SUS, C	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Establish a Sustainability Committee booth at community events where information is available and volunteers can answer questions and collect comments.	SUS	Short- Long	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future

Figure 3-3: Implementation Matrix Continued

EDUCATION				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 4: Cultivate a partnership with local schools to increase environmental education and involvement.	Explore the establishment of an environmental club for high school students.	ADMIN, SD	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Identify environmental volunteer opportunities for interested students needing service hours fulfilled.	ADMIN	Short-Medium	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
CITY OPERATIONS				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 1: Transition City facilities to net zero energy.	Conduct energy audits for all municipal facilities.	ADMIN	Ongoing	✔ Completed ☐ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Achieve green building certification for municipal buildings.	ADMIN	Long	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Install and operate renewable energy systems at municipal facilities.	ADMIN	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Encourage energy efficiency upgrades of the public works departments, police station, fire department, city hall, library, and museums.	ADMIN	Medium	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Encourage the City Council to consider regulations to reduce light pollution and increase energy efficiency efforts.	SUS, CC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
Strategy 2: Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations.	Adopt an environmental purchasing policy.	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Extend the useful life of physical assets.	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Incorporate sustainable practices into managing special events.	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Integrate sustainability into capital planning.	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Inventory, assess, and manage municipal assets sustainably.	ADMIN	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Create a plan for new employee orientation for all departments regarding sustainability and energy efficiency.	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Promote the stormwater management and protection program.	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future

Figure 3-3: Implementation Matrix Continued

CITY OPERATIONS				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 3: Support electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and operate a safe, clean, and efficient fleet.	Explore the conversion of the municipal fleet to electric.	ADMIN	Medium	□ Completed □ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Identify locations to install additional EV charging stations.	ADMIN	Ongoing	✔ Completed □ Ongoing □ Future
	Pursue participation in an EV Readiness Program as identified in the City's comprehensive plan.	ADMIN	Medium	□ Completed □ Ongoing ✔ Future
Strategy 4: Support sustainable material management.	Set a waste reduction goal for municipal operations.	ADMIN	Short	□ Completed □ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Promote and practice waste reduction and recycling in municipal operations.	ADMIN	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future
	Provide access to recycling infrastructure and services at public places.	ADMIN	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future
	Improve existing curbside recycling program for residents.	ADMIN, I	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future
	Identify convenient food waste composting options for residents.	ADMIN	Long	□ Completed □ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Develop a program to track recycling and composting rates.	ADMIN, I	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future
COMMUNITY				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 1: Increase access to sustainably grown local food.	Educate and engage the community in a sustainable food culture.	SUS, HD, FM	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future
	Encourage a partnership between local restaurants and farms to source local and seasonal foods.	SUS, HD, FM	Medium	□ Completed □ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Incorporate local and healthy options into public food-service procurement and events.	SUS, HD, FM	Medium	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future
	Support and promote family and community gardens.	SUS, HD, FM	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future

Figure 3-3: Implementation Matrix Continued

COMMUNITY				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 2: Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability.	Educate the community about sustainability initiatives using existing municipal communication outlets (i.e., cable TV, newsletters, social media, and podcasts).	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Use community festivals, lectures, workshops, and other events to disseminate sustainability information.	SUS	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Utilize strategic partnerships with other community organizations to promote sustainability information.	SUS	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Host environmentally focused event(s), such as a trash clean-up day.	ADMIN, SUS, N	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Encourage residents to increase involvement with the City's environmental committees and boards, such as the Sustainability Committee and Tree Board.	ADMIN	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
Strategy 3: Develop a recognition program to encourage sustainable actions by local businesses.	Determine criteria to designate a business as "green."	SUS, CC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Draft a recycling plan for businesses.	SUS, ADMIN, ECDC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Create an EcoOregon logo to recognize sustainable businesses.	SUS, CC	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Increase business recycling efforts by providing facilitation services to identify potential incentives, financial offsets, and grants.	SUS, SW, ECDC, COC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
Strategy 4: Promote residential sustainable best practices, including water and energy conservation and waste management.	Increase community waste diversion rate by supporting recycling, composting, and donating opportunities.	CC, SUS, SW, UIE	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Encourage residents and commuters to travel via active or alternative transportation modes, like biking, walking, or driving an EV.	CC, SUS, N	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Revise zoning codes to allow for residential generation of renewable energy, including wind or solar power.	CC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Work with residents and homeowners associations to promote energy efficiency and water conservation practices.	CC, SUS, I	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future

Figure 3-3: Implementation Matrix Continued

POLICY				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 1: Update building and zoning codes to encourage best practices for sustainable development.	Create incentives to reflect sustainable material use in the residential and non-residential appearance standards.	ADMIN, SUS	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Explore the establishment of sustainable building performance standards for new construction and existing developments.	ADMIN, SUS	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Consider regulations to reduce light pollution through efforts such as down lighting.	SUS, PW	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
Strategy 2: Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy technologies (e.g., solar, geothermal) by adapting building and zoning codes.	Update building and zoning codes to allow and encourage renewable energy technologies.	ADMIN, CPC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
Strategy 3: Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies.	Use zoning and development regulations in strategic locations to increase walkability.	ADMIN, CPC	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Review and amend zoning codes to encourage mixed-use development and include pedestrian-friendly standards.	ADMIN, CPC	Short	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Enact policies that require conservation design best management practices to protect natural resources.	ADMIN, CPC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 1: Incentivize EnergyStar and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles and green practices for new commercial buildings and retrofits.	Reduce permit fees to developers implementing green practices in new builds or retrofitting existing spaces/buildings.	ADMIN, CPC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
	Explore the creation of incentive tiers and measurements to increase the number of green building principles.	ADMIN, CPC	Medium	☐ Completed ☐ Ongoing ✔ Future
Strategy 2: Protect, preserve, and increase green space.	Conduct a tree canopy study to determine the amount of tree canopy in the City.	ADMIN	Ongoing	✔ Completed ☐ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Develop a tree planting program.	ADMIN	Ongoing	✔ Completed ☐ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Assess the structural integrity of trees and proactively mitigate risks through strategic removal and other actions.	ADMIN	Ongoing	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future
	Increase downtown green space.	ADMIN, PD	Short	☐ Completed ✔ Ongoing ☐ Future

Figure 3-3: Implementation Matrix Continued

DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE				
Strategies	Action Items	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
Strategy 3: Promote energy-efficient building practices.	Incentivize green building practices through reduced permit fees or fast-tracked applications with green building practices.	ADMIN, CPC	Short	□ Completed □ Ongoing ✔ Future
Strategy 4: Increase and support well-connected, walkable, and mixed-use development.	Increase sidewalk infrastructure and coordinate sidewalk improvements with the continual creation of an interconnected city-wide trail network.	ADMIN, PD, CPC	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future
	Promote Complete Streets principles that provide for safe shared mobility spaces that minimize conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.	ADMIN	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future
	Build out bike infrastructure and encourage a bicycling culture around town, including on-street bike lanes, share-use trails, bike racks in commercial areas and parks, etc.	ADMIN	Short	□ Completed ✔ Ongoing □ Future

CHAPTER 4

Looking Forward

The City of Oregon's Sustainability Plan provides a framework for the City's long-term sustainability goals. It serves as the guide for public officials, staff, community leaders, businesses, and residents to further the enhancement of existing sustainability efforts throughout the City. However, the adoption of the Sustainability Plan is only the first step in implementing the recommendations identified. The responsibilities and additional steps needed for implementation are detailed below.

Implementation Responsibilities

Implementation is for Everyone

This City of Oregon's Sustainability Plan includes actions that require leadership and engagement from all areas of the community, including City Council, City departments, staff, local businesses, households, and individuals. While many actions can only be accomplished at the city level, the City greatly encourages businesses, organizations, and individuals to provide feedback on sustainability initiatives and policies.

Achieving the goals outlined in this plan requires a sense of responsibility, not only on the City of Oregon, but also on the community as a whole. This plan relies on the engagement of the Oregon community to further the plan's progress. For the success of this plan, it is crucial that the community is engaged and advocates for sustainable action.

Image source: City of Oregon

Sustainability Committee Responsibilities

The Sustainability Committee is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the City of Oregon's Sustainability Plan. Additionally, the committee will monitor the implementation of the plan by ensuring that each action item is executed. This includes following up with responsible parties, tracking progress, and updating timelines. The committee will also provide an annual sustainability progress report that will indicate which action items from the Sustainability Plan have been implemented and where work still needs to be done.

The Sustainability Committee will use the insight shared in the annual progress report to adjust the goals and recommendations for the next year based on the success of each initiative, community input, funding availability, and community impact. The annual progress report will be shared with the City Council and the Oregon community.

Implementation Steps

1. Day-to-Day Use of the Plan

Following its adoption, the City's Sustainability Plan serves as the sustainability guide for all facets of the City, including land use, economic development, and community resources. City staff should utilize the plan as a reference when assessing policy, land use planning, and development endeavors. Moreover, it should inform the deliberations of local businesses, organizations, and residents interested in sustainability, want to learn about the City's environmental efforts, and are looking for ways to implement sustainability into their lives.

2. Maintain and Strengthen Cooperation

Successful implementation of the Sustainability Plan requires community support. Open and continual dialogue between the Sustainability Committee, the City, businesses, community organizations, and residents will promote cooperation and help identify potential projects, opportunities, and resources.

3. Enhance Public Communication

The Sustainability Committee will work toward spreading community-wide awareness about the Sustainability Plan and its recommendations to city staff, businesses, and residents. This communication and engagement will include the following:

- Prepare a summary of the Sustainability Plan and distribute it widely throughout the community,
- Make copies of the Sustainability Plan available and accessible online and at City Hall,
- Invite community involvement through regular feedback from residents and businesses, and
- Keep the public informed on progress through the City's website, newsletter, social media, and community leaders.

4. Identify and Pursue Funding Sources

The City of Oregon is committed to the implementation of the sustainable practices and education initiatives that are laid out in this plan. Our policy is to seek outside funding sources to provide the financial support as needed. While many of the projects and recommendations identified in the Sustainability Plan can be implemented through existing municipal and community programs, some may require additional technical and/or financial assistance. To address these needs, the Sustainability Committee will search for and pursue a wide range of local, state, and federal resources and programs.

5. Plan Review & Updates

The Sustainability Plan will be reviewed and updated, if necessary, every 3 years. If priorities change or new issues arise, the Sustainability Plan will be revised and updated accordingly. Changes recommended by the Sustainability Committee will be itemized and sent the City Council for final approval.

CHAPTER 5

Resources

Listed below are various sustainability resources that provide assistance and education to interested parties, including residents, businesses, and the agriculture community. The resources include rebates, assistance programs, community information, and environmental education tools.

Residential

Energy Efficiency Assistance & Rebate Programs

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

This program helps eligible low-income households pay for home energy services, primarily heating during winter months.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)

This program helps low-income residents reduce their energy bills by enhancing the energy efficiency of their homes. If the resident is income-eligible, an energy assessor will record information about the home and then use a computerized energy audit program to prioritize weatherization measures.

Nicor Gas Rebates

Rebates for energy efficiency upgrades are available to all current residential Nicor Gas customers for high-efficiency products that use less energy and reduce consumer costs.

Nicor Free Products and Services

This resource provides information regarding energy savings and offers details on free water-saving and weatherization kits.

ComEd Appliance Rebates and Discounts

This resource lists ComEd's current appliance rebates and discounts available each year.

ComEd Income Eligible Rebates and Discounts

This site provides information about available discounts and higher rebates for income-eligible homes for energy-efficient appliances and home products.

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Residential Energy Efficiency & Assistance Programs

Greater Chicago region organization provides information on residential energy efficiency and assistance programs, including communications materials.

Recycling & Waste Management

Ogle County Recycling Information

Here, you can find all recycling information for Ogle County, including electronic recycling, recycling events, drop-off recycling options and locations, and business recycling information.

Republic (formerly Moring Disposal) Recycling Services

This is the waste and recycling company currently servicing Oregon. This old website includes a list of accepted items for curbside disposal and recycling. Republic's new website is here.

Backyard Composting Information

This resource acts as a hub for all composting information, including links to other resources.

University of Illinois Extension Composting Site

The Illinois Extension informational site provides videos and resources about how to begin composting and vermicomposting.

Water Conservation

Oregon Stormwater Management

This is the City of Oregon's municipal code relating to stormwater management; this code aims to diminish threats to public health, safety, and welfare caused by runoff of excessive stormwater from new development and redevelopment.

EPA Start Saving

The EPA webpage shares simple steps and informational tools for water efficiency and water-saving technologies.

One Earth Local

This site hosts water conservation and quality resources from this Chicago area non-profit organization.

GrateWorks Stormwater Protection

This stormwater protection program encourages residents to "adopt" a stormwater grate or drain and pick up nearby litter along the street to prevent it from entering storm sewers and rivers.

Natural Landscaping

MWRD Rain Barrels

This resource provides information on the benefits of rain barrels and how to install home rain barrels.

University of Illinois Extension Rainfall Management

This resource captures information on harvesting rainwater with rain barrels and cisterns, rain gardens, and other water conservation ideas.

Urban Rain Garden

Illinois Urban Rain Garden Plant List

DIY Rain Gardens

These resources provide definitions and descriptions of rain gardens, the benefits of rain gardens, how to construct a rain garden, and what plants to use in Illinois rain gardens.

Businesses

EPA WaterSense Commercial Buildings

WaterSense provides facility managers, building owners, and other stakeholders with a variety of resources and initiatives to help them save water, energy, and operating costs.

Rural Business Development Grant Illinois

The purpose of the program is to promote economic development and job creation projects through the awarding of grant funds to eligible entities. Applications compete in two separate categories, business opportunity grants and business enterprise grants, for use in funding various business and community projects that serve rural areas.

Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program in Illinois

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant programs provide funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. Ultimately, recipients repay the lending utility directly. The utility is responsible for repayment to USDA.

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

This website highlights all current DCEO grant opportunities. Users can identify which grant resource is most relevant to their business and learn how to apply.

Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program in Illinois

This USDA program provides loans and grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) to help microenterprises start and grow through a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund and provide training and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and micro-entrepreneurs.

Rural Development Grant Program

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) is launching a new Rural Development Grant Program to support rural development projects that will positively impact Farm Bureau members and other rural Illinoisans.

Agriculture

Conservation Practice Standards

The United States Department of Agriculture developed national conservation practice standards for the protection of natural resources and land stewardship. These standards provide minimum criteria for the design and installation of conservation practices. Conservation Practice Standards are linked below:

- No Till
- Reduced Till
- Cover Crop Practice
- Filter Strip
- Grassed Waterway
- Grass Lined Channel
- Nutrient Management
- Conservation Cover
- Constructed Wetlands

Community Gardens

Oregon Park District Offering Community Garden Plots

The Oregon Park District is partnering with the Oregon Transition Program to manage a community garden located at Veterans Park on South 10th Street in Oregon. Twelve community garden plots are available to rent each spring.

SeedMoney Community Gardening Resources

This nonprofit organization promotes food, farm, and garden projects in the U.S.

Resources for Finding Local Foods & Supporting Local Farmers

This resource shares links to other websites and directories for local food producers and sustainable eating.

Rodale Institute Vermicomposting for Beginners

This resource provides basic information about composting food waste with worms.

Endnotes

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