



SUSTAINABILITY

COCC Sustainability Committee Spring 2021

COCC Welcomes Noelle Bell Copley, Sustainability Coordinator

COCC celebrated Earth Day in April by hiring Noelle Bell Copley to Campus Services as our Sustainability Coordinator! Noelle will be managing sustainability efforts across campuses and all areas of the College, including student and community outreach.

Noelle brings years of experience in energy efficiency and waste reduction earning a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental

Studies from the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, MN.

Her past employment includes Eureka Recycling in Minneapolis, MN and Ecology Action in Santa Cruz, CA.

Noelle has lived in Bend with her family since 2015 and enjoys yoga, hiking and biking.

Please reach out with any ideas on sustainability: ncopley@cocc.edu.



A Word of Advocacy

The Sustainability Committee is providing the funding for the part-time Sustainability Coordinator position using the accumulated green fees.

It is the hope of the committee that this becomes a multi-year position in order to provide continuity on the large-scale sustainability projects that save the college money and serve the community (and becomes an additional permanent position on the Sustainability Committee).

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Updated Website

Check out the updated Sustainability website! The Committee has been working on a revamp and will be continuing to add updates.

<https://www.cocc.edu/committees/sustainability/>



CENTRAL OREGON
community college
SUSTAINABILITY

BI202 Botany Students and COCC Grounds Crew "Rescue" Native Species

COCC Science Professor Sarah Fuller's BI202 Botany students and Campus Services joined forces this spring to "rescue" native plants from the soon-to-be construction zone for a new housing development near the Culinary Building on the Bend Campus.

The plants were moved by the Grounds Crew to the Redmond Campus. Much of the Redmond campus lies on disturbed land, where, unfortunately, noxious weeds have taken hold. COCC Campus Services has been undergoing a native plant restoration effort on a half-acre "test plot" where all of the emerged noxious weeds have been removed.

After installing temporary irrigation (to help the newly transplanted native plants get established), COCC Grounds crew planted 150+/- bunchgrass collected by students. An additional 100+ bunchgrass from the students' efforts will be planted soon.

Sustainability Committee Note: The [Campus Village](#) housing development will provide COCC a source of revenue for years to come.

Thank you to Mike Beaulieu, Campus Services Operations Supervisor, COCC Grounds staff, Sarah Fuller, Associate Professor-Biology and the botany students for making this project a success!



COCC students digging up fescue bunchgrasses.



COCC Grounds Crew transplanting the bunchgrass.

The COCC Grounds Crew also purchased and planted 108 additional native plants, including:

- Desert Sweet
- Mountain Mahogany
- Big Sagebrush
- Buckwheat
- Glaucus Penstemon
- Cutleaf Daisy
- Globemallow
- Rosy Pussytoes
- Oregon Sunshine
- Blue Flax
- Western Yarrow
- Grey Rabbitbrush
- Lowly Penstemon



COCC RENEWABLE ENERGY



COCC is celebrating 15 years in the Pacific Power Blue Sky program! As a Visionary Partner, we purchase 68% of our electricity from renewable energy sources. See the full program [list](#).

The Redmond Campus Solar Array was installed in 2016 and offsets nearly 90% of the Redmond campus electrical consumption.

Check out the [dashboard](#) where you can view energy generated by day, month, year and lifetime.



COCC Students Engage in Climate Change Studies in Central Oregon

Photo: Eric Weller

by Hal Wershow

Students at COCC are helping scientists learn about climate change in Central Oregon! In a collaboration with the US Geological Survey and The Nature Conservancy, students enrolled in G298 visit springs in the Cascades and Ochocos and measure parameters such as temperature, conductivity, pH and stable isotopes.

Crucially, because COCC students are able to visit these springs frequently, these data can reveal seasonal changes in groundwater. Not only can these data reveal how snowpack influences groundwater and springs in Central Oregon, it will also be used to evaluate the longer term effects of climate change on groundwater resources.

COCC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Faculty Senate

Justin Borowsky
Kevin Grove
Owen Murphy, Co-chair
Hal Wershow

Presidential Appointment

Frank Payne
Kara Rutherford

Student Positions

open

Classified Association

Dana Christensen, Co-chair
Hilary McDonald
Laura Pitz
Austin Rieger

Campus Services

Joe Viola
Noelle Bell Copley

"Kudos to COCC Public Safety for good campus reuse. As a newbie I got my staff parking permit in the mail and it came with the "2019-2020 parking guide"....which public safety crossed out! This is an excellent REUSE!"

-Noelle Bell Copley

UPCOMING 2021 DATES

- **June 5:** World Environment Day
- **June 5:** National Trails Day. The U.S. Forest Service will waive fees at day-use recreation sites in Oregon and Washington!
- **June 8:** World Oceans Day
- **June 11:** Whychus Canyon Weed Pull / **June 16:** Deschutes River Weed Pull events
- **June 13:** Dirty Half Marathon Benefit for Deschutes Land Trust!
- **June 17:** World Day to combat Desertification and Drought
- **June 22:** World Rainforest Day
- Plastic Free July
- **August 12:** International Youth Day

SUSTAINABILITY CURRICULUM ADDITIONS

by Owen Murphy

The first year of the COCC Sustainability Curriculum initiative was a success! Thanks to everybody who took the time and steps to incorporate sustainability into their coursework.

We started with seven courses on the Sustainability Designated (SD) list, and one with the SUS prefix. Next year will see the addition of at least two more SD courses (HHP 228, Health and Social Justice and G 203, Geology III) and one more SUS course (SUS 299, Environmental Problems and Solutions).

Please get in touch with Owen Murphy or Hal Wershow if you are considering adding your courses to the list. More information about the COCC Sustainability Curriculum initiative can be found here:

<https://www.cocc.edu/committees/sustainability/sustainability-curriculum/>