

SUSTAINABILITY

COCC Sustainability Committee Winter 2022

COCC Now a Tree Campus USA!

The forest surrounding COCC is a treasure for students, faculty, staff, wildlife and the community. The COCC Sustainability Committee is proud to announce that COCC's application to become a Tree Campus USA has been approved! Tree Campus USA is a national program of the Arbor Day Foundation, and sponsored by Toyota, to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

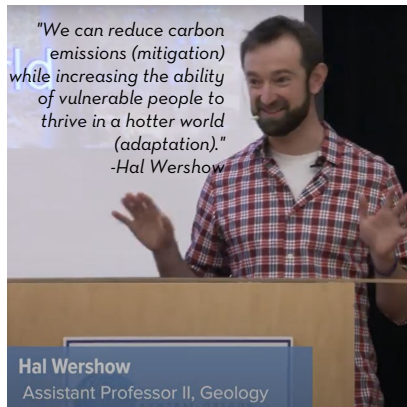


COCC now has a campus tree-care plan, a tree advisory committee, student-learning service projects regarding campus tree management, and more. Thanks to the many Grounds staff, Forestry and GIS faculty and students in the workgroup for this project.

Climate Resilience in Central Oregon

Central Oregon's record-setting heat waves, recurring smoke-filled skies and debilitating drought are concerning. In November, Hal Wershow, Assistant Professor II in the Geology Department, presented "Climate Resilience in Central Oregon: How we thrive in a hotter, drier world" as a part of the Nancy R. Chandler Lecture Series.

Hal presented a unique local view of our changing landscape, and what changes are expected regionally throughout the 21st century, depending upon carbon emissions.



It's not too late to watch Hal's presentation!

Also available at the bottom link of this page: cocc.edu/departments/foundation/cls/past-speaker-videos.aspx

Saving Energy, Saving Money The Barber Library and branch campuses are now all LED! Over 3,000 lamps were retrofitted for an estimated 250,850 kWh saved, an estimated savings of \$20,000 per year on utility costs.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS

STUDENTS START PLANTED EARTH GARDEN CLUB

COCC PANELISTS TO PRESENT ON CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Centralized Waste Saves Staff Time

Thank you to everyone who has helped move Bend campus to centralized waste collection. The COCC Custodial team has been short-staffed for quite some time, and a new effort at centralizing waste is helping both our waste reduction efforts AND our overall team!

Noelle Copley, COCC Sustainability Coordinator, has been working to transition to all collection bins setup in hallways, lounges and common areas so students, staff and faculty bring waste and sort at the central sites, saving custodial staff time. Research shows that centralized systems also improve recycling efforts and reduce waste.



Sustainability Staff



Noelle Copley

The Sustainability Committee thanks Noelle Copley, COCC's Sustainability Coordinator, for her tireless work on numerous projects. Noelle's impact can be seen everywhere, from the [more sustainable paper now in campus copiers](#) to food waste compost in the dining hall to fruitful coordination efforts such as the Tree Campus USA approval (pg. 1).

She also has made great strides with campus energy efficiency including progress with COCC's Energy Trust of Oregon partnership!

Noelle will now be getting some much-needed assistance. Meet our new Campus Services Sustainability Student Worker, Emery Hale! Emery is a forestry student and spends his summers working for the Forest Service at the Newberry Volcanic Monument.



Emery Hale

"I hope to apply my passion and knowledge of the outdoors to promote programs and policies that will help COCC stand out as a role model for sustainability."

-Emery Hale

Sustainability Members 2021-22	Amber Reed, student	Karen Kruger
Owen Murphy, Co-Chair	Ellie Ocel, student	Hilary McDonald
Dana Christensen, Co-chair	Tate Ekblad, student	Austin Rieger
Noelle Copley	Carmyn Fortier, student	Breana Sylwester
Frank Payne	Kevin Grove	Hal Wershaw

Recent Happenings

Sustainability COCC Board of Directors Presentation

In January 2022, Owen Murphy, Sustainability Committee Co-Chair/faculty member and Amber Reed, COCC Student, gave a compelling and well-received presentation to the COCC Board of Directors on why sustainability needs to be prioritized at COCC and included in the next strategic plan. Watch the [presentation](#) today! (see 23:20).



Fescue Rescue was a success in October!

COCC and OSU-Cascades volunteers harvested about 1,000 plants for use on our campuses from the forest near the Culinary Building that will become Campus Village Apartments. The local Native Plant Society also harvested!

COCC Community Garden Winter Prep

The November Garden Party was a success! 12 volunteers gathered for rainy day fun in the garden to get ready for winter.



Deschutes County Explores Commercial Clean Energy Funding

Deschutes County is moving forward with due diligence for a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) policy that finances clean energy improvements for developers and commercial property owners (retail properties, offices, multifamily housing, among other qualifying properties). 350Deschutes and its volunteers are asking County Commissioners to authorize it. Key endorsers include the C.O. Association of Realtors, Bend Chamber of Commerce, St. Francis Catholic Church, & the Cities of Bend and Redmond. Stay tuned!

Get involved! Upcoming Events

Winter and Spring 2022

January - February Friday book discussions continue on [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) (12:30–1:30 p.m.). (COCC Season of Nonviolence/Sustainability Committee sponsored book event).

February: Residence Hall Energy Challenge OSU-Cascades vs. COCC competition to conserve the most energy.

March 2: Deschutes Land Trust "Is Climate Anxiety Bad for the Planet?" Free Webinar, March 2nd, 7-8:30 p.m. PST.

March 30: Climate Teach-in 3:00–5:30 p.m.

Come hear 16 COCC faculty/staff panelists talk for 5 minutes on their discipline's perspective about climate change, with student moderated discussion to follow. COCC will be participating in this world event live with a local audience in Wille Hall.

April 22: Happy Earth Day!

- **Planted Garden Club House Plant Sale and Seed Swap** (Coats Campus Center area). [Join](#) this new ASCOCC club which will have events about indoor plant gardens and preparing for spring garden planning.
- **The Clothing Connection** is hosting a Fashion Show in Wille Hall! Your [donations](#) mean sustainable fashion for students!
- **More Earth Day events are being planned!** Check the Sustainability Committee [events page](#) for updates.