Washington County recognizes the responsibility for public agencies to conserve natural resources, be fiscally responsible and celebrate the achievements of a productive organization. These efforts are advancing sustainable practices in day-to-day operations. With future generations in mind, Washington County is placing a growing emphasis on sustainability as a framework for planning, policy development and management. The County is committed to building upon its sustainability initiatives and practices in support of its mission and vision.

PROGRAM FOCUS
Washington County’s Sustainability Program provides guidance for best practices throughout the organization. The program is focused in four strategic areas: planning and policy development, technical assistance to departments and community partners, education and awareness of employees and constituents, and measurement and tracking of progress.

INTERNAL SUSTAINABILITY DEFINITION
Washington County strives to improve the triple bottom line through policies and programs that:
- Foster workplace excellence by empowering and engaging employees
- Connect a healthy environment with wellness and better quality of life
- Recognize and celebrate cultural differences while creating a collaborative work environment
- Promote responsible stewardship of County resources

PROGRESS SUMMARY
This report showcases Washington County’s accomplishments to improve sustainability, as of June 30, 2015.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
In late 2014, Washington County had its second assessment completed by Energy Trust of Oregon through their Strategic Energy Management program. The assessment determined that the County has made significant advances in its energy management practices and is now applying a continuous improvement approach to building energy management. The County ranked highest among its peers in this assessment.

Other key accomplishments include the rollout of department training on waste reduction and recycling, engaging employees on cutting food waste and the launch of an expanded plastic recycling program. Washington County also saw growth in Bike Commute Challenge participation and an increase in employee walking and biking commutes. To encourage community sustainability and social equity, the Sustainability Program took the lead in promoting the annual employee charitable giving campaign and volunteer events throughout the year.

Program staff led the strategic planning process for Partners for a Sustainable Washington County Community (PSWCC), developing a mission, vision and goals for the eleven-member organization. In addition, they provided leadership and technical assistance to County departments and internal teams including the Sustainability Liaisons, Energy Team, Suggestion Program Committee and Wellness Committee.

The Sustainability Program leads implementation of the County’s five-year sustainability plan. The goals in the plan are set for completion by the end of Fiscal Year 2018 and the current status is noted below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERNAL MEASURE</th>
<th>2018 GOAL</th>
<th>2015 ACHIEVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Energy</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
<td>23 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>2 percent</td>
<td>7 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
<td>50 percent</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Recovery Rate</td>
<td>50 percent</td>
<td>44 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Fuel</td>
<td>8 percent</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement</td>
<td>Keep green purchases</td>
<td>51 percent green</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

The Sustainability Program works with many departments to compile data for internal and community measures. Internal data is normalized by the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees to get an accurate year-to-year comparison of resource use. FTE was selected as a normalizing factor because it is common to all internal measures. Normalized and non-normalized internal data is included to show actual and relative figures.

Internal data is normalized by the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees to get an accurate year-to-year comparison of resource use. FTE was selected as a normalizing factor because it is common to all internal measures. Normalized and non-normalized internal data is included to show actual and relative figures.

1. **Building Energy Use per FTE**
   - **Goal:** 20 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
   - **Achievement:** Reduced energy use per FTE 23 percent (reduced total energy use 17 percent)

2. **Water Use per FTE**
   - **Goal:** 2 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
   - **Achievement:** Reduced water use per FTE 7 percent (reduced total water use 2 percent)

3. **Recycling Generated per FTE**
   - **Goal:** 50 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
   - **Achievement:** Increased recycling per FTE 25 percent (increased total recycling 36 percent)

4. **Garbage Generated per FTE**
   - **Goal:** 25 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
   - **Achievement:** Reduced garbage per FTE 15 percent (reduced total garbage 7 percent)

5. **County Facilities Materials Recovery**
   - **Goal:** 50 percent recovery rate by FY 2018
   - **Achievement:** 44 percent recovery rate (recovery rate is waste recovered divided by total amount generated)

6. **Fleet Fuel Use per FTE**
   - **Goal:** 8 percent reduction from FY 2008 to FY 2018
   - **Achievement:** Reduced fleet fuel use per FTE 15 percent (reduced total fleet fuel 8 percent)
Improving sustainability of internal operations helped lower operational expenses and conserve resources as shown in the chart on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOURCE</th>
<th>USAGE REDUCTIONS (2008-2015)</th>
<th>COST SAVINGS*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>1,517,171 kilowatt-hours</td>
<td>-$19,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>133,446 therms</td>
<td>$155,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage</td>
<td>431 cubic yards</td>
<td>-$26,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet Fuel</td>
<td>34,938 gallons</td>
<td>$233,607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to rate increases, cost savings were not realized for electricity or waste. Fortunately, conservation efforts helped control the County’s costs and kept the increase lower than it would have been if usage had stayed at baseline level. In addition, fuel cost volatility also helped drive costs savings in natural gas and fleet fuel.

**COMMUNITY MEASURES**

The Sustainability Program also tracks community objectives such as sustainable building, alternatives to vehicle use, commute options and recycling and garbage generation. Since progress in these areas is much more dependent on community education and involvement, special project funding and cultural changes, specific goals were not set for all of these measures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY MEASURE</th>
<th>METRIC</th>
<th>2015 ACHIEVEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Building</td>
<td>County Renewable Energy Electrical Permits (for all users)</td>
<td>374 issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling, Waste</td>
<td>Regional Materials Recovery Rate</td>
<td>60 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention &amp; Garbage</td>
<td>County Bike &amp; Pedestrian Road Improvements Added</td>
<td>8.4 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Use Reduction</td>
<td>Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle Commute Mode for County Residents</td>
<td>26 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RENEWABLE ENERGY ELECTRICAL PERMITS ISSUED**

All renewable energy permits issued for business and residential sites in unincorporated Washington County.

**METRO REGIONAL MATERIALS RECOVERY**

Goal: 64 percent recovery rate for Metro regional area Achievement: 60 percent recovery rate (recovery rate is waste recovered divided by total amount generated)
Sustainability is a process of continual improvement, and the County is taking disciplined, thoughtful steps in the best interest of the organization and the community, now and in the future. Implementing sustainability initiatives requires a collaborative approach and the cooperation of all departments and staff, as well as community partners.

Here are highlights of what we are doing in Fiscal Year 2016:

• Expand efforts and training on employee energy conservation to further reduce building energy use
• Publish a greenhouse gas inventory report for internal operations, spanning 2008-2014
• Outreach to engage employees in recycling, waste, non-drive alone commute options, volunteering and charitable donation
• Inventory the County’s existing social equity programs
• Assess organizational sustainability through the maturity model assessment tool developed by the PSWCC
• Assist with the update of the Food Systems Plan developed by OSU Extension Service and Washington County

In fall 2015, the County applied for the Green Business Award offered by the Solid Waste and Recycling Program. The award is available to most businesses and organizations in Washington County as recognition for top practices in materials management, toxics reduction, green purchasing, corporate social responsibility and employee education. The County received the award, and it was presented to the Sustainability Program in late 2015.

CONCLUSION

Washington County believes that sustainability actions must produce measurable results, provide long-term benefits and improve operations. The County is on its way to meeting goals and objectives that will make it more sustainable, effective and resilient. Washington County’s Sustainability Program provides guidance for sustainable practices throughout the organization and in the community. The Sustainability Program reports progress toward its objectives to the Board of Commissioners, employees and the community. The County’s sustainability plans, reports and policies are all located on the program website.

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