

RECAP

Interagency Sustainability Coordinators Network



Meeting Date: October 15, 2008

Time: 1:30 pm to 3:32 pm

Location: Mt. Neahkahnne Conference Room
General Services Building
1225 Ferry Street SE, First Floor
Salem, OR 97301

Attendees:

Elin Shepard, DAS Facilities	Ursula Sperry, DSL
Cort Dokken, DPSST	Gabrielle Schiffer, DCBS
Ruben Ochoa, WRD	Rodney Stewart, ODOT
Gary Roth, ODA	John Fletcher, OHCS
Karla Siclait, PUC	Mark Brady, OECDD
Melissa Leoni, OWEB	Mike Auman, ODE
Jeff Kohlleppel, DAS Facilities	

A. Call to Order

1. **Chair Shepard** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. welcomed attendees and everyone introduced himself or herself

B. General Updates – Elin Shepard

1. Oregon Sustainability Board

- Mark Brady provided an update on the awards. There were fifty applications received for the Governor's Sustainability Awards. The number of applications was up from last year. The applications were divided into three categories: large business, small business, and NGO. A first round review of applications will cut the number down to approximately 10. The Sustainability Board will then select the award winners at their meeting at the end of October. On December 11, the awards will be presented at the Oregon Business Summit. The Governor may be able to present the awards and if he cannot then hopefully Secretary Bradbury can. Mark will present another update at the November meeting.
- Oregon Sustainability Board is looking at their role and to define their mission. They have chosen to focus on ecosystem services, ecosystem markets, and the concept of trading credits.
- The Board has projects in mind, such as setting an ecosystems services council and an institute. They have some draft legislation they are working on. The Board also has some pilot projects they are looking at getting going in the Willamette Basin.
- The Board believes that state agencies are being responsible and do not need their oversight.
- The Board will discuss the results of a stakeholders meeting and define projects for the Board. The Board has identified the direction it wants to go, but they have not placed any parameters. This focus will allow better coordination between ISCN and the OSB.

2. Lamps and Ballasts

- The DAS State Procurement Office (SPO) negotiates price agreements that may also be used by political subdivisions and non-profit organizations. A number of similar entities were making their own price agreements because they did not trust that the state was working through a sustainable process. This resulted in a large amount of duplicated work. SPO and Elin decided to document the process to show the key players the steps the state has taken towards sustainability. The intent was to help the political subdivisions and non-profits feel more comfortable with using the state price agreement. This would also help to reduce duplicated

effort. Elin and SPO even received some free help from Alicia Culver, a national consultant with the Responsible Purchasing Network. The contract is very progressive, and Elin hopes that the price agreement will encourage people to switch out inefficient systems.

- A buyer's guide was developed to help with understanding the contract. SPO is attempting to make the contracts easier to read and more user-friendly. The buyer's guide also addresses use issues, contains insight on placement of the lights, and when to call in an expert for help. This price agreement is a pilot project for the buyer's guide, and if the guide is useful, then similar guides will be made for other contracts and price agreements.

3. Renewable Power

- DAS is installing solar panels on the roof of one of their buildings in Pendleton. In conjunction, DAS will replace the windows to create a more efficient building.
- The ODOT Solar Highway Project has broken ground and underway. The goal of the project is to offset some of the energy costs for the lighting at the intersection.
- The DAS intent is to investigate solar and plan for solar as roof replacement occurs. This will allow solar energy to phase in over time and is not a costly project, taking place all at once.
- Gabrielle Schiffer, with DCBS, shared that DCBS is looking at developing a solar code for the state.

4. Electric Cars

- There are currently eleven out of warranty priuses undergoing conversion into general electric hybrids. These cars are being distributed to agencies that do a multitude of short trips.
- Charging stations and public building plug-in sites and the rules and regulations to govern them is currently in development.

5. Sustainable Procurement and Internal Operations Policy

Elin reworked the document, focusing on plain language and active voice. Elin then had a meeting with DAS Fleet, which has an environmental management system. A decision was made to include it with this policy. The policy will soon go to the executive staff for approval and posting to the website.

6. Energy Committee vs. Sustainability Committees in DAS Buildings

Elin asked the Network if anyone had an energy or sustainability committee in their buildings. Mike Auman with DOE relayed that they have monthly meetings and a volunteer committee. They also have yearly appreciation events and lunchtime events. Ursula Sperry with DSL shared that DSL has a five to ten year sustainability plan. John Fletcher with OHCS thinks that North Mall Office Building may be starting a committee. Elin then asked if anyone needed help with forming a committee. Elin and Alison Christensen are helping to set up committees. They are trying to include all aspects of sustainability for these committees to oversee.

C. Legislative Tracking

1. Elin received a list of sustainability-related legislative concepts submitted to date. The intent is to see what is out there, and how we can coordinate bill tracking as agencies, to help as a network, and to provide input on another agencies bill.
2. Elin also encouraged the network to support bills from the Governor's office. We'll be hearing about the Governor's climate change package at the November meeting.
3. Elin has invited Sallie Schullinger-Krause from the Oregon Environmental Council to brief the Network on Cap and Trade 101 and the Western Climate Initiative at the November meeting.
4. Melissa Leoni with OWEB explained to the Network that they, along with some of the other natural resource agencies, meet during session. This group meets once a week, to discuss bill progress, how to coordinate and assist each other, and to meet with one of the Governor's natural resource staff. We could mirror this process with the Network.
5. John Fletcher with OHCS commented that fair warning about statewide bills before they go to committee is very helpful. This gives agencies a chance to provide input on the bill.
6. Gabrielle Schiffer with DCBS asked about how broad or narrow the focus for sustainability bills would

be. Elin answered that the Network would be looking at bills that involve climate change, water, energy conservation, the environment, ecosystems, energy efficiency, transportation, clean technology, social equity, and renewable energy.

7. Elin and John both agreed that the social equity aspect of sustainability is often overlooked and difficult to address. More attention should be devoted to it.

D. Key Policies Re-write Team

1. Sustainable Facilities Standards and Guidelines and the Resource Conservation policies need to be re-written and Elin asked for volunteers for the Network to help her. The policies need to be more user friendly and easier to read. The Sustainable Facilities Standards and Guidelines are based on the LEED Silver Standard, but does not replace SEED. It also addresses building materials and site, which goes beyond the energy focus of SEED. The Resource Conservation Policies addresses ways to operate and maintain buildings. Specific topics include temperature set points, break room appliances, etc. Several Network members volunteered to join the review teams.
2. Rodney Stewart from ODOT suggested that he take the Facilities Standards policy to the ODOT Sustainability Council and bring back their feedback. Their next meeting is in November.
3. The goal is to be progressive but realistic.

E. Round Table

1. Elin asked if there were any major issues, updates or recent accomplishments that anyone wanted to discuss.
 - Gabrielle Schiffer with DCBS, presented an update about the Building Codes Division's Green Building Services Section. The program started in April 2008 and focuses on greater building efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and low-impact development. Ruben Ochoa with WRD was very interested in the DCBS program that utilizes rainwater for potable and non-potable uses.
 - Ruben with WRD then shared that WRD received from the 2008 Legislative session, a grant program for water conservation, reuse, and storage feasibility studies. Many communities around the state are looking into such programs as well. WRD is working on a comprehensive water plan for the state and into capturing snow for water uses.
 - Rodney Stewart relayed that ODOT is currently in the process replacing their sustainability manager. ODOT is also in the process of building a new sustainability plan. It will be composed of three volumes. The first volume is in final draft form and covers context for transportation sustainability in Oregon. The second volume covers internal processes and the third covers external processes.
 - John Fletcher with OHCS told the Network that OHCS had recently hired a consultant to review the different green building standards and to suggest which one would be most appropriate to adopt for affordable housing. OHCS is currently reviewing the findings of the consultant. OHCS also received some federal emergency funds for weatherization and energy assistance. OHCS faces a major issue with the current credit and financial crisis. Their business as an agency and construction across the whole state is at a standstill. OHCS has \$15 million worth of projects on hold. These seven projects would have provided 500 units and 1,500 people with housing. OHCS may also lose their federal subsidies because it is no longer advantageous to keep the affordable housing.
 - Mark Brady with the OECD reported that the applications for the Renewable Feasibility Plan are being reviewed and the winners will be chosen early in November.
 - Melissa Leoni with OWEB shared that its biennial conference is November 5th through the 7th at the Eugene Hilton. All registration and brochures were available only online.
 - Mike Auman with ODE reported that the seventh solar manufacturing facility, Sanyo Solar, broke ground today. ODE will be piloting an eastern Oregon office in either Pendleton or Hermiston area. This is an effort to be closer to the wind projects in the Columbia River Gorge and closer to the Hanford Nuclear site as well.

F. Agenda for November

1. Someone from the Governor's office will attend the November meeting to update the Network on the Governor's climate change package for the 2009 legislative session.
2. Sallie Schullinger-Krause from the Oregon Environmental Council will brief the Network on Cap and Trade 101 and the Western Climate Initiative at the November meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, November 12

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Conf Rm 124A – off of main lobby

North Mall Office Building

725 Summer St, NE

Salem, OR 97301