

FY 2019-20 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT FOR INTERNAL OPERATIONS

Date: May 28, 2021
Department: Capital Asset
Management June 29, 2021

Prepared by: Jenna Garmon,
jenna.garmon@oregonmetro.gov

Presenter(s):

- Heidi Rahn, Director, Capital Asset Management
- Jenna Garmon, Sustainability Manager

Length: 45 min

ISSUE STATEMENT

Each year, Metro's Sustainability Program provides a report to Council on progress toward the agency's sustainability goals in the adopted [Sustainability Plan](#) for internal operations.

ACTION REQUESTED

The purpose of this work session is to provide Council with an overview of sustainability progress in FY 2019-20 and highlights of the work ahead. The FY 2019-20 Sustainability Report describes key accomplishments, provides a summary of progress toward each sustainability goal through indicator data, and identifies future direction. This discussion is an opportunity for Metro Council to provide guidance for advancing climate and sustainability progress in alignment with Metro's Strategic Framework.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

- Metro Council has enhanced awareness of past and ongoing sustainability efforts as well as future opportunities.
- Staff have an understanding of Metro Council's priorities for making progress toward goals.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- What are Council priorities for advancing sustainability broadly, and climate justice and resilience specifically, in alignment with Metro's Strategic Framework?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Key accomplishments in FY 2019-20 included:

- Investments to drive down greenhouse gas emissions, including electric vehicle infrastructure, advanced energy management information systems and electric landscaping equipment, as well as energy and water efficiency improvements;
- Sustainability and equity advancements through renovation of the Oregon Convention Center;
- Comprehensive waste audits at Metro's largest facilities to accelerate progress toward Metro's ambitious waste reduction goal;
- Reduced use of toxic chemicals across Metro's facilities through Metro's Integrated Pest Management program; and

- Creation of a Sustainability Plan for the Oregon Zoo by the green team, as well as green team efforts to engage employees and implement sustainability projects.

Work since the end of FY 2019-20 has focused on climate action, including:

- Adoption of the Clean Air Construction Standard for Metro projects;
- Switching to renewable diesel in regional waste hauling and operations;
- Integrating climate into planning for future capital and fleet investments; and
- Preparing for increased telework and other sustainability opportunities when the Metro Regional Center reopens.

Looking ahead, climate justice and resilience will remain the priority in recognition of the urgency of the climate crisis. Planned work includes:

- Implementing the Clean Air Construction Standard and engaging other agencies in adopting the Standard;
- Rolling out an updated green building policy;
- Updating Metro's climate goal and strategies;
- Addressing key sources of Metro's emissions including capturing remaining energy efficiency opportunities, developing a renewable energy strategy, and pursuing key opportunities to electrify Metro's fleet and transition to low carbon fuels; and
- Convening a climate task force to articulate Metro's overall climate strategy, strengthen accountability and build climate justice and resilience capacity.

BACKGROUND

As a regional government committed to promoting sustainable communities, Metro also strives to walk its talk and make its own operations sustainable. With an extensive portfolio of buildings, including visitor venues, parks, office buildings and solid waste facilities, and serving millions of visitors and customers each year, Metro has a significant opportunity to reduce its impacts and advance positive progress on the region's quality of life. To that end, in 2003, the Metro Council set an ambitious vision for business operations to be sustainable within one generation, by 2025 (Resolution No. 03-3338). The Council adopted goals in five key categories: climate, waste, toxics, water and habitat (Resolution No. 03-3338), and adopted a Sustainability Plan in 2010 that identifies strategies and actions to achieve these goals (Resolution No. 10-4198).

Metro's Sustainability Program coordinates implementation of the agency's Sustainability Plan and Integrated Pest Management Plan for internal operations to achieve these goals. In recognition of the tenth anniversary of the Sustainability Plan, this report includes a status report on progress made in implementing the actions in the Plan. Of the 100 actions identified in the Plan, 80 actions are either complete, in progress or ongoing.

ATTACHMENTS

- Is legislation required for Council action? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- What other materials are you presenting today?
 - FY2019-20 Sustainability Report