

A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent octagonal tower and arched windows. The building is set against a sky with scattered clouds. The text 'University of Oregon' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font on the right side of the image. Below it, the tagline 'an institution committed to sustainable practices' is written in a smaller, italicized serif font.

University of Oregon

an institution committed to sustainable practices

University of Oregon Sustainability Initiatives

Sustainability as we now know it is not a stranger to the university. Since the early 1970s the university's active and progressive recycling program has been the recipient of numerous national awards. Since the mid-1970s the university's transportation plan has guided the development of a system that is recognized by the city as using half of the parking expected of a typical university. The university also has received national attention for its innovative use of group ridership programs.

More recently the university has established policies on paper use, created an environmental issues committee (now in its tenth year), and adopted a sustainable development plan for the physical development of its campus. The University of Oregon's long-standing commitment to environmental responsibility has been reaffirmed by the adoption of the university's ***Comprehensive Environmental Policy Statement*** (1997).

University of Oregon Sustainability Initiatives

The following is a short summary of how the university is pursuing environmentally sustainable practices. This list is certainly incomplete, and our current efforts are aimed at advancing environmental stewardship both on campus and in the greater community. A comprehensive list of campus sustainable efforts will be available on the web soon. Please visit the web page and join with the university in working towards a truly sustainable community.

Commitment to Environmental Education – The university offers strong academic programs addressing environmental issues in design, community planning, business, law, the sciences, and literature. In addition to a wide range of classes addressing sustainability, numerous special projects and organizations include the Ecological Design Center, HOPES Design Conference, Urban Farm, Institute for a Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Business Symposium, Environmental Law Conference, and an eco-criticism English program.

Environmentally Responsible Purchasing Policies – The university has begun integrating waste reduction into vendor contracts and purchasing low-toxicity and recycled-content products. For example, more than 95% of the copy paper used has at least 50% recycled content, and the default copy paper contains 100% post-consumer recycled fiber. The university also is working towards purchasing carpet made from 100% recycled materials.

Efficient Use and Conservation of Energy, Water, and Other Resources – Reducing energy use on campus has been a primary focus for decades. Despite substantial construction over the past decade, the overall campus electrical use has decreased over this same period due to energy-conservation retrofit projects. All recently completed major projects (\$60 million worth of work) have been awarded the regional Energy Smart award.

Minimization of Solid Waste Production, Hazardous Waste, and Toxic Materials – The university's nationally recognized, comprehensive Campus Recycling Program services more than 1,500 collection sites. Other efforts include the Green Chemistry Program and an effective food rescue and composting program.

Environmentally Responsible Campus Design and Planning Principles – The Sustainable Development Plan (2000) requires that sustainable design principles be applied to all new development and remodeling projects. It strengthens sustainable practices and the collaborative design process that began with Christopher Alexander's *The Oregon Experiment* (1975). The upcoming Lillis Business Center project will use 50% less energy than state code requires and will incorporate a full spectrum of sustainable measures.

Commitment to Alternative Modes of Transportation – The university is nationally recognized for its transportation innovation. Fewer than 40% of all trips to and from the university are made by automobiles, compared to 74% of trips made in the surrounding community. Incentives include nearby student family housing, free bus passes for faculty, staff, and students, on-campus transit stations, and numerous bicycle amenities. Overall there are more bike parking spaces than car parking spaces on campus.

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