

10 June 2011

**Memorandum**

**To:** Frances Dyke, Vice President of Administration  
Chris Prosser, Executive Coordinator of the University Senate

**From:** Art Farley, Chair of the Environmental Issues Committee (EIC)

**Subject:** Annual Report of the EIC for Academic Year 2010-2011

The University of Oregon Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) is a working group of faculty, staff and students that serves to identify and raise awareness of environmental issues on campus and to recommend University policy addressing these concerns. This year has seen the EIC review and provide recommendations on several policy documents as follows:

Reviewed, recommended policy, and supported Take Back the Tap's "No Bottled Water" proposal. This is a student-driven initiative. They presented their program to the EIC, which then discussed ideas with them, in particular, the need to get broader staff support.

Reviewed and commented on the University's Telecommuting Policy, which has sustainability implications related to travel emissions. We supported easing restrictions.

Reviewed and commented on the Oregon Model for Sustainable Development, developed by University Planning. Christine Thompson presented the plan to the EIC for our review.

Reviewed existing Green Cleaning Products Purchasing Procedures and recommended development of a formal, university-wide policy. The Facilities Department has agreed to work on this project. The EIC hopes to review their progress next year.

Reviewed the existing UO Comprehensive Environmental Policy (CEP) and completed a proposal for a new version of the CEP. The CEP was in need of an update to reflect new concerns and developments on campus. That document will now proceed to UO Administration for their consideration and adoption.

Reviewed options for investing funds from student EMU fees to purchase carbon offsets. We supported a decision to purchase offsets from the Climate Trust to be used to reduce emissions at Lochmead Dairy in Junction City. Members of the EIC visited the project site.

Peg Gearhart has agreed to serve as Chair of the Environmental Issues Committee for academic year 2011-2012.

21 April 2011

**Memorandum**

**TO:** Frances Dyke, Vice President for Finance and Administration

**FROM:** Arthur Farley, Chair, Environmental Issues Committee

**Subject:** Support for Take Back the Tap Campaign

On Wednesday, 20 April, 2011 the Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) of the University of Oregon met and reviewed the report entitled *Proposed Policy and Implementation to Discontinue the Sales and Distribution of Bottled Water on the University of Oregon Campus* that was prepared by the Climate Justice League as part of their Take Back the Tap campaign.

The EIC was impressed by the analysis presented in the report and the work done already to reduce reliance upon bottled water on campus. After a discussion with members of the Climate Justice League in attendance, the EIC unanimously voted to support the proposed policy, with the clear understanding that the Climate Justice League would make a concerted effort to contact representatives of both faculty and staff communities to get their approval for the policy and to consider suggestions for refinements to the policy. The EIC was enthusiastic in its support for this effort.

22 February 2011

**TO:** Linda L. King, Associate Vice President for Human Resources

**FROM:** Art Farley, Chair of Environmental Issues Committee

**SUBJECT:** Flexible Work Policy Comments

The Environmental Issues Committee met on Wednesday, 16 February 2011. At that meeting we reviewed the proposed Human Resources Policy: Flexible Work Policy. We submit the following comments for your consideration. The main intent of our comments are to introduce/enhance sustainability as a significant factor when considering flexible work schedules and strategies.

In particular, we suggest the following additions to the policy statement.

Alter the **Policy Statement:**

“... enhance **worker productivity and environmental sustainability** by providing options for completing... “

In the section headed

“A flexible work plan must address the following considerations:..” add a bullet:

**“How the arrangement is consistent with university efforts to reduce energy use and carbon emissions, i.e., by efficient use of university resources or reduced reliance on private automobile transportation.”**

We think there is an opportunity for supporting proactive application of the policy, inserting the following language where appropriate:

**“In addition to responding to employee initiated requests, supervisors are encouraged to consider ways to implement the policy proactively, particularly when new positions are established or prior to filling vacancies.”**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this policy.

**DRAFT University of Oregon  
Comprehensive Environmental Policy  
Recommended for Approval by EIC June 3, 2011**

**Introduction:**

The faculty, students, and staff of the University of Oregon recognize human induced global climate change, ecosystem degradation, and loss of biodiversity as major threats to humanity. As established in its mission statement, "The University of Oregon strives to enrich the public that sustains it through the acceptance of the challenge of an evolving social, political and technological environment by welcoming and guiding change...." In keeping with this mission and to maintain the campus effectively while also working to preserve the rights of future generations, the university affirms its commitment to environmental stewardship and actively promotes the public's right to a healthy, quality environment.

The University of Oregon embraces eight principles to guide the creation and evolution of environmentally responsible policies and practices. The translation of these guiding principles into practice will promote and advance environmental stewardship of the campus and the broader community. Units charged with responsibility to implement these principles will be required to develop plans with associated goals, metrics, strategies and reporting requirements.

**I. Planning and Design:** The university will minimize environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of campus buildings and grounds by ensuring these assets are designed and built to meet stringent environmental performance standards.

**II. Operations and Maintenance:**

The university will implement aggressive conservation and efficiency strategies that reduce consumption of energy, water, and other resources in campus buildings and grounds without compromising high quality learning environments.

**III. Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The university will monitor, report, and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to achieve carbon neutrality.

**IV. Transportation:** The university will offer incentives to encourage students, staff, faculty and guests to use modes of transportation and alternatives to transportation that minimize environmental impact.

**V. Purchasing:** The university will strive to obtain "best value" by balancing life cycle costs and social and environmental impacts when purchasing goods and services. Where appropriate, the university will write specific purchasing policies to guide decision-making on frequently purchased items.

**VI. Investments:** The university will establish policies and procedures that consider the environmental impacts of its investments.<sup>1</sup>

**VII. Materials Management:** The university will establish and maintain policies and programs that minimize solid waste (including food waste) through reduction, reuse, and recycling. In addition to purchasing carefully and responsibly, the university will develop and maintain programs that extend the life of its property and support comprehensive recycling of items that can not be reused.

**VIII. Hazardous Materials Management:** While recognizing the necessity of using some hazardous materials for research, teaching, and operations, the university will minimize their use when possible. The university will establish policies and procedures to inventory, track, store, reuse, and dispose of hazardous materials and use benign substitutes for hazardous materials when appropriate.

**Promotion and Implementation:**

The university administration will charge appropriate units with responsibility to translate these principles into plans with associated goals, metrics, strategies and reporting requirements. The Office of Sustainability shall make these plans publicly available. As directed by university administration, the Office of Sustainability will support units charged with implementation by providing best practice recommendations.

**Monitoring and Reporting:**

The Office of Sustainability shall produce an assessment at least once every three years that measures the degree to which this policy is successfully implemented. The Office of Sustainability shall have general responsibility for monitoring and updating this policy. Proposed changes to the policy shall be reviewed and approved by the Environmental Issues Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> Still waiting on feedback from VP of Development on this principle.

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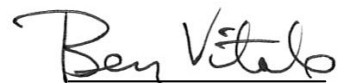
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**University of Oregon**

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Ben Vitale  
President

February 2011

Date

1399

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