

FALL 2023 ISSUE

# THE SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

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A Newsletter from the COCC Sustainability Committee



Garden by Barber Library - thank you COCC Grounds staff!

## Transition

WRITTEN BY CHLOE INOUE

As we transition from Summer to Fall to Winter the Central Oregon Community College campuses go through many seasonal changes. The pollinator garden, which was once humming with bees and butterflies is now shifting into the peaceful slumber of late Fall. However, as you will see in this newsletter, our campus is still as busy and vibrant as always. Many exciting things are happening!

# Sustainability Curriculum Update

WRITTEN BY OWEN MURPHY

In the spring of 2020, Academic Affairs created two new course designations to highlight sustainability curricula at COCC. SUS courses are designed from the ground up with a specific and central focus on sustainability problems and solutions.

Sustainability Designated (SD) courses feature a moderate-to-strong emphasis on sustainability; this designation largely applies to existing courses that adopt at least one sustainability-specific learning outcome.

In the past few years, the number of SUS courses have grown from one to five, and SD courses have grown from three to eleven. We hope to continue to expand sustainability curricula at COCC to meet student, workforce, and planetary demands. Importantly, many of these courses articulate directly to regional colleges with sustainability-related degrees. The most recent SUS/SD course list is available at the [COCC Sustainability Committee website](#).



Columbine at the pollinator path

## SUS Course List:

(Credit / Discipline Studies Requirement)

- SUS 101, Introduction to Sustainability (4 / Social Science)
- SUS 102, Introduction to Environmental Science & Sustainability (4 / Science Lab)
- SUS 103, Physical Science of Climate Change (4 / Science Lab)
- SUS 220, Sustainable Food & Agriculture (4 / Social Science)
- SUS 280, Co-op Work Experience
- SUS 298, Independent Study

If you have questions about sustainability curricula or would like to contribute to this effort, please contact

- Owen Murphy 541-383-7766, [omurphy@cocc.edu](mailto:omurphy@cocc.edu)
- Hal Wershow 541-383-7557, [hwershow@cocc.edu](mailto:hwershow@cocc.edu)

# The Greenhouse Gas Inventory

WRITTEN BY TALLY NELSON

COCC's Sustainability Coordinator, Noelle Bell Copley, organized a comprehensive review of the campus's Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. Information was collected from operations, finance, faculty, and students. Performing COCC's first Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory is part of Dr. Chesley's Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitment.

For more about the framework and process, visit Second Nature.

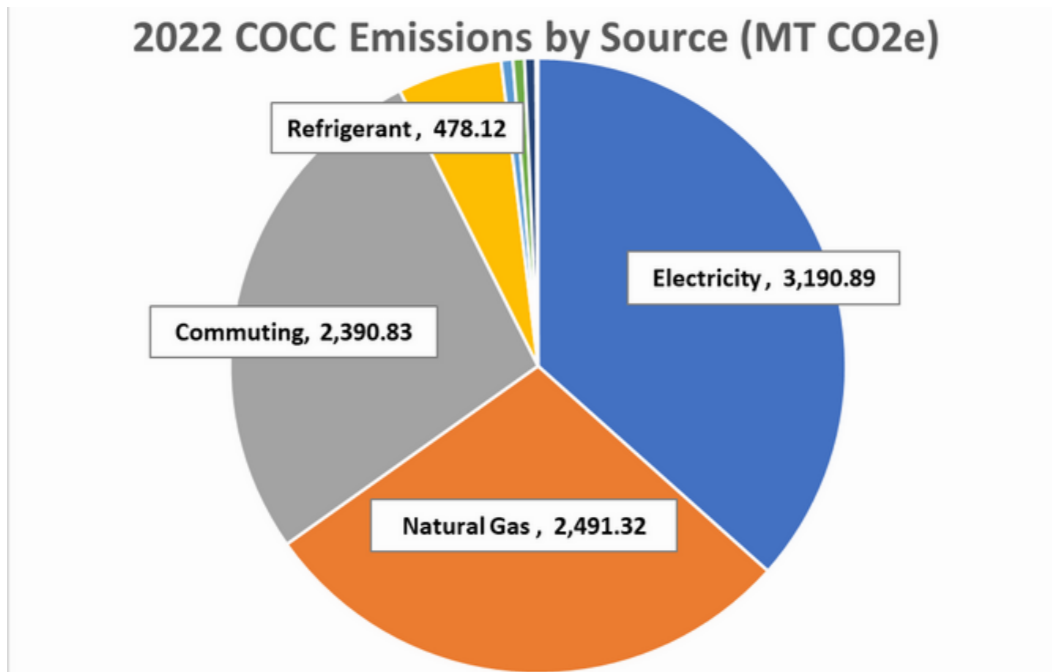
This inventory will serve as a baseline to set goals and evaluate progress each year.

COCC's main sources of emissions are:

- 37% from electricity
- 29% from natural gas
- 27% from commuting
- 5% from refrigerants

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol was used to compile the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) gases emitted from each source. Data is collected in miles, gallons, therms, and kilowatts. From there it is converted into one standardized unit.

The next step for COCC's carbon mitigation plan will be to evaluate behavioral, operational, and technological changes that the college community and administration can take to reduce total emissions.



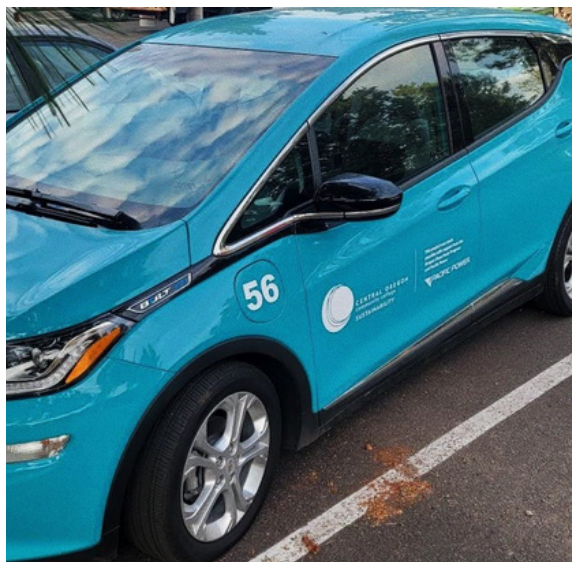
## Electric Mobility Grant

WRITTEN BY NOELLE BELL COPLEY

COCC was awarded a grant from the Oregon Clean Fuels Program and Pacific Power to expand electric mobility on our campuses. We have purchased two 4-passenger all electric Chevy Bolts. The COCC Automotive Technology program includes an Associate degree that focuses on electric- and hybrid-power systems.

When not in use in the classroom/garage bay, these vehicles are being used by staff and faculty to travel between campuses, on errands and even over to Portland for conferences. Charging for the fleet vehicles is available at Campus Services on Bend campus.

Erika Carman, College Now Program Coordinator, has been an early adopter of the EV fleet to visit local high schools. Erika said, "Some months I logged close to 300 miles traveling to in-district high schools, so checking out COCC's EVs has had a huge impact on our team. Not only is it better for the environment and saves department funds, but it means less wear and tear on my personal car too."



EV owners don't have to worry about transmissions, radiators, or oil changes, leading to lower maintenance costs than gasoline-powered vehicles. Most electric cars also have regenerative braking, which uses the electric motor to do much of the braking.

Public charging stations are already available on the Redmond and Madras campuses, thanks to previous grant funds. As part of the recent grant, public charging stations will soon be available at the Bend and Prineville campuses as well!

As with any new technology, education is key. Our education grant partner, [350Deschutes](#), has been providing information at events on benefits of electrification, EV rebates, and regional planning.

## Wickiup Move Out

WRITTEN BY NOELLE BELL COPLEY

In June 2023, the Housing & Residence Life department coordinated with Sustainability to create a recycling center for residents moving out of Wickiup Hall. We know that students studying for finals and preparing for their next steps are not necessarily focused on getting rid of possessions in an environmentally friendly way. For lack of a better solution, many things end up in a dumpster. Driven by this issue, staff organized volunteers, set up a reuse center in a conference room, and donated to community partners.

Over the span of 10 days, it was estimated that **6 tons of items were donated and saved from the landfill!** Everyone who visited the “free store” left with a treasure. Twelve mini fridges found a new home. Couches, shelves, microwaves, electronics, kitchenware, books, artwork, snowboards, and plants found new homes!

Even after almost 2 weeks of “shopping” we still donated many items to Furnish Hope, Habitat for Humanity Restore, Regroup Thrift Store, and to The Clothing Connection.

Since Knott landfill is estimated to be full by 2029 (and a new landfill is currently being sited), Bobcats can be proud of making huge strides in waste reduction. Thank you to the Wickiup Housing staff, community assistants, and volunteers !

Favorite items donated...

- Nintendo PS4. (This was one lucky day for the recipient...and the talk of the residence hall!)
- Red sled with sale tags
- Critter cage (thanks to Linnea for re-homing in the Science department, of course!)
- Avocado tree starts (thanks to Frank for rescuing and these are growing in the Bookstore window!)



Taleah Zueger & Noelle Bell Copley helping at the move out

# 2023 Sustainability Award

WRITTEN BY CHLOE INOUE

Our very own Noelle Bell Copley won the 2023 Sustainability Award, which was a part of The Environmental Center's Sustainability Award series.

The Sustainability Committee is very lucky to have her as part of our team!



Sarah Fuller's SUS 102 class, studying seeds



Middleton Science Center, rainy day



A blue-tailed lizard in the garden



Kudos to COCC  
Campus Services  
Grounds staff who  
continue to support  
pollinator habitats!