



# LIVING THE GREEN

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

## EVENTS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

More info at [envirocenter.org](http://envirocenter.org).

**February 11 : 12pm**  
**Oregon Climate Emergency**  
**Day of Action**

Show up in support of climate action! Join the rally in Salem, right across from the State Capitol Building.

**Begins February 12**  
**Season of Nonviolence**

A series of programs with renowned scholars and experts to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. Visit [cocc.edu](http://cocc.edu) for a full schedule.

**February 18 : 5-7pm**  
**Power Hour**

Is solar on the horizon for you in 2020? Learn about opportunities that will make solar accessible for more families. Hosted at our facility.

**March 3 : 4-9pm**  
**Worthy Brewing Pint Night**

Raise a glass in support! Worthy Brewing will donate \$1 to TEC for every pint sold at the pub.

**March 10 : 12:30pm in Sunriver**  
**March 16 : 7pm in Bend**  
**The Future of Waste in**  
**Deschutes County**

Learn what we can do to make an impact in reducing waste in our community. Hosted by Deschutes Public Library.

**March 12 : 5-7pm**  
**Green Drinks at SCP Hotel**

Join us at Soul Community Planet in downtown Redmond for this fun and informal opportunity to network and learn about sustainability.

**April 13 : 5:30-7:30pm**  
**Repair Cafe at The Gear Fix**

Gather your broken items - our volunteer 'fixers' will attempt to repair them for you, for free.

**Saturday, April 25 : 11:30am - 3pm**  
**Earth Day Fair & Parade**

A colorful celebration of the natural world with fun for the entire family. Stay tuned for more info, and get your costumes ready!



### MOUNTAIN- FILM ON TOUR,

a fundraiser for The Environmental Center, is coming to Bend on February 28-29th.

Join us at the Tower Theatre for two nights of inspiring documentary films and amazing raffle prizes.

Members receive a 10% discount! Use the code ENVIRO at [towertheatre.org](http://towertheatre.org) or at the Tower box office.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIKE RILEY

## A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR CENTRAL OREGON

*Listening to our whole community*

I've been thinking a lot about growth lately. Growth of the Central Oregon community and growth of The Environmental Center.

Here's a startling fact: More than 127,000 people are projected to move to Central Oregon over the next twenty-five years. Whoa.

I've called Central Oregon home for nearly 23 years, and growth has been a constant. It shows up in all sorts

of ways, good and bad. A more diverse economy. Better restaurants, more good music, and new chairlifts at Mt B. There are also longer wait times everywhere, and more people on the roads and trails. We've seen new schools built, a new transportation system plan, and yes, more taxes.

Growth is also a reality here at TEC. More teachers want us in their classrooms. More community members and elected officials ask us to engage in local issues. Bigger

*cont'd on next page*

## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT'D

groups want to use our building, our long-time renters are quickly outgrowing our meeting rooms, and our staff is outgrowing the office space.

All this growth means there is a lot at stake for a sustainable future here in Central Oregon. We have some important questions to answer. Here are just a few:

- What sort of homes will we all live in? Standard homes that waste energy and are expensive to heat and cool with fossil fuels? Or radically efficient homes with roof top solar?
- How will we get around? Driving alone on slow-moving, congested roads? Or will we choose to walk, bike, take the bus, and switch to electric vehicles?
- How can we build a more inclusive sustainability movement that develops and empowers the next generation of leaders to drive meaningful, lasting change?

Our job at The Environmental Center is to work with the Central Oregon community, from kids and parents to business owners and elected officials, to shape the answers to these and other big questions. Our mission—

embed sustainability into daily life in Central Oregon—demands it.

Achieving our mission also demands that The Environmental Center evolves and grows with the community. Our staff and Board of Directors must be representative of the entire region. We need an expanded facility that welcomes all people. And we need to listen and learn from everyone who calls this place their home.

Your input about TEC's future is extremely important. As we plan for better ways to serve Central Oregon, I invite you to share your perspective.

We look forward to working alongside you during this exciting and challenging phase of opportunity and rapid growth, for The Environmental Center and Central Oregon.

- Mike Riley, Executive Director

**What is most important to you about how we work to achieve a sustainable future? Please share your thoughts with us at [envirocenter.org/future](http://envirocenter.org/future).**



## EV CHARGING EXPANDS

Central Oregon is now an even better place to own an electric vehicle! We just helped facilitate the installation of six new Level 2 chargers at Mt Bachelor. Plus, Madras has a new bank of four DC fast chargers and Pacific Power is working on a similar installation in downtown Bend, expected to be online by March.



## WELCOME, PRISCILLA!

Join us in welcoming our newest team member: Priscilla Calleros, Membership & Outreach Manager. Priscilla is taking the lead on several events and helping to increase member support and engagement throughout the region. She's a leader in our community with a drive to build a better Central Oregon for everyone, and we're thrilled to have her on the TEC team.

## CHANGE IN NUMBERS

On December 4th, 2019, Bend joined the ranks of 413 communities across the U.S. and Canada with Climate Action and Sustainability Plans.

Cumulatively, these plans engage more than 70 million citizens. With this awesome power of collective action from coast to coast, we will contribute to a healthier world. We will make a difference.

Bend's Community Climate Action Plan is a set of 20 strategies and sub-actions to reduce Bend's fossil fuel use by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2050. We know these reductions are possible - but it is going to take partners and individuals across the community working together to achieve them.

As the climate action plan moves forward, we will continue to call on the power of your collective voices. You helped us get here, but the real work is just beginning. Stay tuned for ways to participate.

*P.S.* Even though the **Home Energy Score** wasn't included as a mandatory action in the plan, we are committed to finding new creative ways to incentivize residential efficiency. This is one of our top priorities in 2020.

## A SOLUTION TO POLLUTION

Our Rethink Waste program received a Materials Management Grant to the tune of \$55,000!

With these funds from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), we're launching a pilot program in partnership with Housing Works to improve recycling in multi-family complexes in Deschutes County. This grant will also allow us to offer two weeks of free Eco Hero summer camp to 10 to 13-year old students in these residences.



Ani demonstrates what can be recycled in Deschutes County.

**This new program provides solutions.** Deschutes County's recently-adopted Solid Waste Management Plan includes several recommendations designed to extend the life of Knott Landfill - including an investment in recycling at multi-family facilities. This same strategy is also outlined in Bend's Community Climate Action plan as a pathway toward meeting our greenhouse gas reduction goals. We're excited to be a part of these bigger solutions that will make Central Oregon a more sustainable place to live.

## LIFE-LONG LEARNERS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Kids are constantly learning and synthesizing the world around them - building habits, relationships, and values that will hopefully last a lifetime. Our educators help to shape what they take home from each school day, emphasizing how individual actions contribute to transformative change across our communities.



Waste reduction efforts in cafeterias across the district.

Most recently, we've helped almost all elementary schools in Bend La Pine School District transition from disposable forks, knives, and spoons to reusable silverware. Cafeteria waste stations were redesigned so that students stack paper boats (trays), sort their silverware, and return whole fruit to a "No Thanks" bin. In an environment where the norm is to throw everything away, we educate and empower students to change one small behavior that makes a big difference across the district. This collaborative effort between school staff, Green Team students, and TEC educators has helped to reduce plastic waste and shift student behaviors around single-use plastics.

Better yet, we know this impact has a ripple effect. **We've gathered feedback from families who are learning alongside their kids and changing behaviors at home, too.** Being a 'good steward' isn't one prescribed set of actions. We're inspired to see how each student and family applies school lessons to their own lives.

**MORE FROM OUR YOUTH EDUCATION TEAM...** We awarded over \$10,000 in School Garden Grants to nine recipients, including public and private schools, an educational farm, and community-based youth organizations in Bend, Redmond, and Prineville. Head over to our blog to learn more. **Summer camp registration is now live** on our website, too! We're offering two sessions of Forest Explorers for kids ages 6-9 to play in the forest, splash in Tumalo Creek, and learn all about natural history.

LEARN ABOUT INCLUDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN AT [ENVIROCENTER.ORG](http://envirocenter.org).

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