



LIVING THE GREEN

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

EVENTS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

More info at envirocenter.org.

June 22-28

National Pollinator Week

Visit High Desert Museum to learn about local pollinators that are crucial to our ecosystems and food systems.

June 26 : 10am

Accessible Trails

Tune in for a 30-minute trail exploration of a local, accessible route. The final in a series from Oregon Adaptive Sports.

June 27 : 1pm

You Belong Here

Join Camp Fire Central Oregon for an online celebration of belonging. Learn from young people about the power of affirming adults in their lives.

June 29 : 7:30pm

Farmers Social

Are you a farmer that realizes food justice is impossible without racial justice? Join Friends of Family Farmers for a round table on current events.

July 1 : 4pm

Climate Change in Central Oregon

Join Deschutes Land Trust to learn about current and future climate change impacts in Central Oregon from the comfort of your home.

July 25 : 5pm

Gala de Oro

An evening of elegance and cultural discovery to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Latino Community Association. Dinner and dancing!

August 5 : 12pm

Member Appreciation Event

Join us for a virtual lunchtime gathering to celebrate everything we've accomplished together in the last year, and what opportunities lie ahead. *Please register in advance.

August 13 : 5pm

Power Hour

If affordable homes are zero energy, shouldn't they all be? In partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Kor Community Land Trust.

Four Bend City Council positions will be on the November 3, 2020 ballot. The filing period for those interested in getting on the ballot is open through August 25.

SAVE THE DATE

September 10

Green Drinks

We're hoping to resume a modified version of Green Drinks this fall, hosted by Commute Options. Stay tuned for updates.

September 12

High Desert Pride

A celebration of Pride in the diversity of our LGBTQ+ community and allies; presented by OUT Central Oregon and community partners.

September 21-26

Green Tour

A week-long virtual tour of efficient, innovative homes across Central Oregon.



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIKE RILEY

ADVANCING A JUST, SUSTAINABLE, BEAUTIFUL WORLD

Wow—how quickly our world has changed from late winter and late spring.

Like everyone else, we've had to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19. We're working from home, we've shut down our community meetings rooms, and our staff have adapted many of our programs to online delivery. From our annual Earth Day celebration to energy education to ensuring our region's youth are EarthSmart, we've been rolling out fun and engaging virtual learn-

ing opportunities. You can read about all the changes we've made and ways to participate on our website, social media, and in our e-newsletters.

Despite all of the change, much remains the same. Spring has finally come as it haltingly warms up in the high desert. Our climate is also still warming, and the Trump administration is still doing what it can to accelerate it. One example: rolling back mileage standards for cars and trucks. The result is more unhealthy air

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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT'D

pollution—so sadly ironic in the midst of a health crisis caused by a respiratory infection—and an additional 1.5 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the next five years, the equivalent of 68 coal plants.

Something else remains the same during the pandemic: the murder of unarmed Black people by police. George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis, and Breonna Taylor's in Louisville, have laid bare the persistence and destruction of white privilege and systemic racism in our nation. Their murders, and the calls for real action, are causing me to think deeply about the connection between environmental sustainability and social justice. Can we really have one without the other? Or are they one and the same?

These events and questions are especially timely for team TEC. At the beginning of this year we engaged Allyship in Action, a local consultancy with deep roots in Central Oregon. They are helping our staff and Board to think hard about how we can be a more inclusive organization, and the role we must play in advancing social justice. They've completed a baseline assessment and

began training our staff and Board on June 8. Our new staff and Board committee will begin work on our diversity, equity and inclusion action plan later this month.

COVID-19 and George Floyd's murder remind me that our world is fractured. Our job at The Environmental Center is to partner with others to help put things back together. How can we reassemble the pieces into a more just, sustainable and beautiful world? And how do we do that work in a way that lifts up Black, Native, Latinx and other marginalized communities, that ensures their voices are at the center of the conversation?

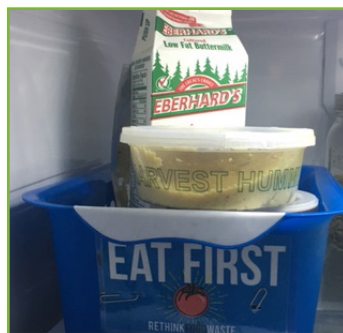
Rest assured that we continue to do our best to meaningfully contribute as we learn, adapt and grow. We appreciate your continued engagement and support as we move forward.



A big thank you to Meyer Memorial Trust for their grant to support our work with Allyship in Action.

RETHINK FOOD WASTE 2.0

June 10th marked the end of our second interactive Rethink Food Waste Challenge! Over 930 Central Oregon households have now participated in learning how to waste less food in their homes. This spring challenge was unique in that it took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, when food waste AND food insecurity are both on the rise due to America's industrialized food system. It's a good reminder to support your local farmers and ranchers, and to better understand and prevent food waste. **Even though the 4-week challenge is over, you can take part any time!** Sign up today for a self-guided version that provides resources, tips, and ideas to help you build new habits. **LEARN MORE: RethinkWasteProject.org/FoodWaste.**



Eat First Basket: One tool introduced in the challenge where you store food that needs to be eaten right away.


Here is our favorite quote, tip, and joke from recent participants:

"This was a very eye-opening activity for me and my family. We realized that doing less fresh food shopping at Costco, only making big meals when I know my kids will eat the leftovers, and cutting veggies and fruit as soon as we buy them are key to reducing our food waste." —Kim

"To use up an old stale loaf bread: rinse it in water and put it in the oven at 180* under a hand towel for five minutes. The crust crisps up and the center gets moist. Makes a great sandwich!" —Candy

"Did you hear how they caught the great produce bandit? He stopped to take a leek." —Kadee



an environmental center event 

Zero Energy Homes: Better for business, better for living

Featured presenter: CR Herro, Meritage Homes. Learn why we need to be ahead of the building curve & how we get there.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 24th at 12:00pm.

WHERE: We will be live-streaming this presentation. Register at envirocenter.org to receive the link.



Tracy handing out garden & nutrition activity packets to Redmond families.

"It was wonderful having something positive and educational for our family during this time."
- Redmond parent

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2020 GREEN TOUR

2020 is a year of milestones for the Green Tour. This year marks the 20th Annual Green Tour in Central Oregon and it's also the **first ever virtual tour!**



Featured home in 2019.

What does a virtual home tour entail? We'll give you the inside scoop on what's happening behind the walls, in the garage, and on the roof—and you'll still get to ask questions of the experts and home occupants. We'll showcase cutting-edge zero energy homes, retrofits of existing homes, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Plus, some of the earliest featured homes from decades ago will be back on tour, allowing you to see how green building and solar have evolved over the last 20 years.

The tour will take place during the last week in September. We will release videos of each site and host interactive online events for you to learn first-hand from your peers and community. This format will give us a unique opportunity to view projects in progress *and* at completion, and to connect with more energy experts than ever before. **LEARN MORE: envirocenter.org/tour.**

GARDEN PROGRAM ADAPTS

When schools shut down due to COVID-19, we had to quickly adapt and find innovative ways to provide garden-based education. Students that were supposed to visit our on-site learning garden this spring instead received weekly video updates, went on a virtual farm field trip, and planted seeds at home. And this summer, we look forward to welcoming a small group of Boys & Girls Club kids back to our outdoor classroom.

In Redmond, we partnered with Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom and Redmond Nutrition Services to distribute activity packets to families that came for meals. **Over the course of 10 weeks, we handed out 1,025 garden & nutrition kits** with supplies for students to complete an activity at home: anything from seed germination to mindful eating and 'power' plates.

Out of those families who completed our survey, 79% of parents reported that their child is more interested in gardening than before, and 32% reported that their child is more interested in healthy foods. Yeah!