

LIVING THE GREEN



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MIKE RILEY

CLIMATE LEADERSHIP, LOCALLY AND BEYOND

Wild weather is once again racking many parts of the nation. Extreme heat waves, major rains and floods, and major storms in the Midwest and New York. Here at home, major drought prevails across much of central and eastern Oregon, despite the recent rain. Once again, our warming climate is showing us an unpleasant reality, just as the scientists predicted.

Our staff work hard to reduce local contribution to climate pollution. While we may no longer be able to stop

some amount of warming, we still have time to prevent the worst case scenarios, locally and globally. Here are a few ways that we are doing our part.

Lindsey Hardy is advocating for the Bend City Council to adopt a mandatory Home Energy Score for new and existing homes so they become more energy efficient. Read more about why a Score is important on page 5. And be ready to join the advocacy team when this comes before the City Council later this year!

cont'd inside

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONT'D

The Bend transportation bond that we helped pass in November 2020 is finally leading to real projects on the ground. Most exciting of all is the Wilson Avenue Corridor project, which will include the first protected bike lanes in Bend's history and set a new standard for the rest of the community.

Two of our staff are serving on statewide policy committees related to climate. Neil Baunsgard was appointed by the legislature to the Joint Task Force on Resilient Efficient Buildings, which is developing policy change recommendations that will decarbonize new and existing construction to help meet Oregon's climate goals. Also, Udara Abeysekera Bickett was recently appointed to an advisory committee that will provide input on implementation of the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act of 2021. Read more about it on page 3.

Our Youth Education team is creating new opportunities to develop youth leaders. Jackie Wilson recently took two local high school students, Riley Ahmuty and Karen Pelayo, on an expedition to Alaska to recover

plastic from ocean beaches and learn about the impact of plastics on the marine environment. They removed over 5 tons of plastic from beaches in Katmai National Park, developed their independence and teamwork skills, and got connected to a bigger world and to professionals working in the environmental field. Karen will be one of the co-leaders of the student-led and TEC-supported Green Leadership Coalition this coming school year.

Local change. A world of difference. Embedding sustainability into daily life in Central Oregon. That's our job and we appreciate your partnership in making it happen. Have a great (and hopefully not too hot and smoke-free) summer!

- Mike Riley
Executive Director

A FIELD TRIP THREE YEARS IN THE MAKING!

Back in 2019, we were excited to receive an Oregon Farm to School grant, funding a series of farm field trips in collaboration with Tumalo-based Sakari Farm. The first visit was planned for Spring 2020...and well, you know what happened. We got creative and spent four planting and harvesting seasons filming virtual field trips for students to watch and learn from. But it was not the hands-on experience we'd hoped for.

This June, with great excitement, we were finally able to bring 50 fourth graders from Lynch Elementary School in Redmond to experience Sakari Farms in person! It was an incredible day full of learning, tasting, planting, and playing. Farm Owner Spring led students on a farm tour, where they discovered greenhouses, compost, traditional Native crops, pollinators, and more. Next, our FoodCorps Service Member Adrienne, who has been leading lessons in students' classrooms and in the garden since the beginning of the year, offered mindful tastings of arugula, kale, cilantro, and

edible flowers. For their third farm activity, students got their hands dirty and each planted a cherry tomato plant. When they return as fifth graders, we hope they are able to harvest these tomatoes to bring back to school and share with the rest of the students.



Students in Spring's group learned about the crops planted at Sakari Farm, such as sweetgrass, hopi red amaranth, and camas.



In the planting group, students studied the anatomy of a tomato plant before transplanting starts into rows.

RETHINK WASTE PROJECT GETS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

We are proud to announce that our Rethink Waste Project Program Manager, Udara Abeysekera Bickett, has been appointed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to serve on the Rulemaking Advisory Committee to represent the diverse interests of persons and communities likely to be affected by proposed rules in the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act of 2021. Here are Udara's thoughts on this exciting undertaking:

Q: What can you tell us about the Recycling Modernization Act?

The Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act (RMA) will make updates to Oregon's recycling system, making recycling easier for the public to use, expand access to recycling services, upgrade the facilities that sort recyclables, and more. Producers of packaging, paper products and food serviceware that sell into Oregon will share the financial responsibility of managing all their "stuff."

Q: What issues or topics are you most concerned about when it comes to plastic pollution and waste?

The role of plastics in the climate crisis is one of my biggest concerns. Virtually all plastics are made of fossil fuels. Plastics pollute and produce greenhouse gasses even in the manufacturing stage of their life as these fossil fuels are dug up. As a result, the U.S. plastics industry's contribution to climate change is on track to exceed that of coal-fired power in this country by 2030. This is why I believe the biggest impact we can have is in reducing plastics in the first place.

Q: What do you hope to take away from this experience?

This is my first time serving on a state-level committee and I am looking forward to learning about the decision making processes. This is also one of the first state-wide laws of its kind covering topics like Statewide Collections List, Truth in Labeling, and Producer Responsibility. I hope that the success of the Oregon RMA can be a model for recycling system updates in other states as well.



Udara educating residents at Mt. Bachelor Village.

WE'RE A JACK JOHNSON 'ALL AT ONCE' PARTNER!



JACK JOHNSON
2022 SUMMER TOUR

We are excited to team up with Jack Johnson as an All At Once Non-Profit Partner on his 2022 Summer Tour!

As our members, we wanted you to be the first to know that we are teaming up with Jack Johnson on his 2022 Summer Tour as an All At Once Non-Profit Partner! All At Once is Jack's social action network, connecting nonprofits with people who want to take action and give back to their community.

Stay tuned for fun ways to get involved in this campaign and learn how to WIN TWO FREE TICKETS to his September 25th show at Hayden Homes Amphitheater!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Emily Dougan - *President*
Kevin Doner - *Vice President*
Nicole Potter - *Secretary*
Steve Rooney - *Treasurer*
Diane Dedrick
Allen Engle
Peter Geiser
Jennifer Hoffmann
Dave Howe
Diana Lemus

Michael McLandress
Glenn Van Cise

STAFF:

Grace Andrews
RARE AmeriCorps
Adrienne Atkins
FoodCorps
Neil Baunsgard
Energy Program Mgr

Udara Abeysekera Bickett
Rethink Waste Mgr

Priscilla Calleros
Events & Outreach Mgr
Amelia Remington Corbari
Communications Coord
Lindsey Hardy
Waste & Energy Director

Tim Page
Development Director

Marianne Pyott
Business & Facility Manager
Mike Riley
Executive Director
Denise Rowcroft
Garden Educator

Lauren Williams
Associate Director

Becky Yaeger
Sustainability Educator
Wesley Yoder
Sustainability Educator



WELCOME, SOPHIA!

Sophia Rosenberg (she/her/hers) comes to The Environmental Center through the PGE Project Zero Internship program, connecting young adults to the green sector through summertime work placements in the Portland area and in Central Oregon. This is our second year hosting a Project Zero Intern, and we are excited to get to know Sophia and to learn alongside her as she helps us in all of our program areas, from youth education to communications!

Sophia tells us she is excited to learn everything she can about the environmental nonprofit sector, as she is currently a student at Willamette University studying in Environmental Science. She also enjoys spending time in nature paddle boarding and hiking, and she recently picked up Suzanne Simard's book *Finding the Mother Tree* to read this summer.

Sophia will be working with us on various programs and events throughout the summer, including summer camp. You may see her tabling one of our upcoming booths or out in the community at events, so make sure to say hello!

FROM BEND, OREGON TO KATMAI, ALASKA

Thank you to those who donated this spring to support local youth leadership development through a trip to Alaska with the Ocean Plastics Recovery Project. With your support, we were able to send a staff member and two Bend high schoolers to Katmai, Alaska to recover plastic waste from remote beaches and improve habitat for many species. The expedition will have a ripple effect, as these two students are now sharing what they learned and plan to work within their high schools next year to create change:



Karen P., holding a sign demanding #PlasticFreeParks, will be a senior next year and the president of her sustainability club.

“Coming back to Bend from the Katmai expedition with the Ocean Plastic Recovery Project has been super interesting in that my lens at the grocery store, school and around my house is a lot more mindful of plastic consumption [...] Although we worked five long days and collected 10,000 lbs of plastic waste, that is not even a dent in what litters the world’s beaches; the greatest impact we have made is the knowledge we now have to share with our communities and influence change in plastic consumption.” - Riley A.

“I’m really happy and excited that I have another year in Bend and that my school’s club elected me as president for the following year because this project has inspired me. My goals for the year will be to educate others. Now that I have this experience, I’m able to speak from a personal level and hopefully help people evolve their mindset and understand the significance of taking care of our planet.” - Karen P.

Learn more about the expedition and the lessons they learned by visiting envirocenter.org/blog.

THE INTERSECTIONAL ENVIRONMENTALIST



Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee recently hosted a book club for staff and board to discuss *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*, by Leah Thomas. Following her discussion with us at our May Green Drinks event, we are inspired to learn more about how our team can support and contribute to her and other Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) leaders’ work in the environmental sector. We encourage you to seek out her book at local bookstores or online, and follow her Instagram accounts

@greengirlleah & @intersectionalenvironmentalist to stay connected to this important work.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE



SAVE THE DATE: MEMBER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Our work is made possible through your support. Therefore, with heartfelt gratitude to all of our members, we invite you to attend our annual Member Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, August 12th from 11:30am-1:00pm - please be sure to RSVP! (Use your phone's camera to scan the image below.)



Help Us Move Forward The Home Energy Score Ordinance

The Home Energy Score (HES) Ordinance would require all homes being sold in Bend to receive an energy score reflecting the home's overall efficiency at the time of listing.

What are the benefits?

- Increased transparency in the homebuying process
- Informs consumers of the true costs of homeownership
- Allows for a level comparison of energy use across the housing market

This proven standardized process helps homebuyers contribute to reducing carbon emissions by giving them a prioritized list of energy improvements that can be made to their homes at the time when they are most likely to make upgrades to the residences.

What is the timeframe?

- Summer 2022 - Community input on draft ordinance*
- Fall 2022 - Council votes on ordinance*
- Summer 2023 - HES program implemented

***These will be critical times to show your support to get this important policy passed. Be on the lookout for upcoming calls to action for you, our community, to help spread the word and advocate for this much needed change.**

green tour

an environmental center event 

Saturday, September 24th

Planning for the 21st Green Tour is underway, and we are seeking site hosts, volunteers, and of course, attendees! Every other year, the Green Tour offers an intimate look into a range of creative, affordable solutions from local innovators – from zero energy home enthusiasts to DIY-ers in residential and commercial settings. This event highlights numerous pathways towards sustainable living; whether you're interested in urban gardens, home retrofits, or electric transportation, this event has something for you!

Check out past tour sites, apply to be a site host, and learn about opportunities to get involved at envirocenter.org/tour.



A residential home featured on the 2017 Green Tour, built by Dream Home Building & Design.





LIVING THE GREEN

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

EVENTS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

July 14, Aug 17, and Sept 13 Raise the Deschutes

A monthly seminar series to provide opportunities for the public to engage with regional water experts who will present on and answer questions regarding the primary water issues affecting the Deschutes River Basin.

July 21 Homegrown Renewables

This past year The Environmental Center, in collaboration with Sustainable Northwest, has hosted a Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps member, Grace Andrews. Grace has been researching best practices for rural energy planning and leading the development of a toolkit to help communities create baseline energy inventories. Come learn about her work in Deschutes County.

July 28th : 5-7pm July Green Drinks

The Environmental Center is thrilled to partner with Seed To Table in Sisters for July Green

Drinks! This event will feature a farm tour, Q&A, and some fun giveaways. Details on our website.

July 30 : 9am-1pm Deschutes River Cleanup

The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council is hosting the 26th annual Deschutes River Cleanup! Activities will take place at six different sites on the Deschutes River. Volunteers will help pull invasive weeds and remove litter from the stream banks.

August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 Community Pint Nights

We are the nonprofit beneficiary for Deschutes Brewery's Community Pint Nights in August. Join us on Tuesdays at the Public House or Tasting Room and Deschutes Brewery will donate \$1 from every pint to The Environmental Center.

September 9-18 Welcoming Week 2022

Welcoming Week is a global movement that brings communities and neighbors of all backgrounds together to build strong connections and affirm the importance of inclusive places.

VIEW MORE EVENTS AT ENVIROCENTER.ORG.

Happy Hour in the Garden: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays for the summer!

Join us in the Kansas Avenue Learning Garden from 4-6 pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of July & August this summer to help maintain our learning garden. July & August beverages provided by Deschutes Brewery; September & October beverages provided by 10 Barrel Brewing, and we'll be back to the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays for fall.

