

NEWSLETTER



Intro

Hope is the sound of running water after hours of hiking on a scorching summer day. Hope is the belief that something better is coming, even in uncertain times. Like many nonprofits in Central Oregon, The Environmental Center works to offer a small slice of hope through the policies we advocate for, our programs and events that bring people together, and the opportunities we provide to take meaningful action. Enjoy this Spring newsletter, and maybe find a dose of hope!

Tim Page, Development Director



Summer Camps Start Soon!

Eco Hero & Forest Explorers summer camps open for registration on March 17th with the Bend Parks & Recreation District! Our Canyon & Communities summer camp registration opens directly on our website soon and will run from July 13-16th. Kiddos will start at John Tuck Elementary, then explore the Dry Canyon and various locations around downtown Redmond to learn about plants, animals, and exploration.



Energize Bend Update

The City of Bend has decided to adopt a Climate Impact Fee to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make homes healthier. The fee will incentivize developers of new homes to adopt efficient electric appliances over their natural gas alternatives.

This is a huge step for Bend! Join the Energize Bend team when we go back to City Council to keep the pressure on City Hall. Stay tuned for more details on how you can plug in to local climate action.

Cheers, Brennan Breen,
Campaign Manager

Preventing Waste in our Remodel

The Environmental Center is in the middle of our full blown remodel! Despite the excitement, the daunting reality that a remodel is anything but sustainable has crossed our mind. We sought to find the most sustainable alternatives to reduce waste before the remodel started.

Our building had DECADES of stuff inside. As we organized and boxed everything up, it felt like opening a time capsule. Among the 20 year old photos and memorabilia from Earth Day 2005, we found a lot of useful items we didn't want to throw away.



To responsibly rehome it all, we did what all sustainable folks do best, we offered it up! We hosted a rummage sale and advertised on Reddit, Porch Swing, Buy Nothing groups on FB, our network of supporters via newsletters, social media channels, and hanging signs downtown. So much stuff was redistributed into the community, giving life to items that would have otherwise been discarded.

Our cubicles went to the Redmond School District special ed program. Chairs, tables, a projector screen and more went to the Open Arts Center. Paint cans, trays, thinners, rollers, and carpet tiles went to a Latino owned small construction company. After a walkthrough with the ReStore's Donation Manager, we identified that every interior and exterior door, and vinyl windows and a handful of ceiling lights could be utilized by reStore. Interior wood wainscoting was removed and will be repurposed for an upcycled artful donor recognition element in the lobby, and wood beyond what we need we can offer to the community and after that bring to the wood waste at the landfill.

Picnic tables from the garden went to Buff Elementary School in Madras and Desert Sky Montessori in Bend. Outdoor plants from our garden were dug up and went to our community of supporters at the groundbreaking ceremony. Our large indoor tree is temporarily living at Strictly Organic, and the legacy monstera plant that hung on our railing was given to folks to propagate in their homes. The retaining wall blocks from the garden were reinstalled to create a new side yard garden. The large greenhouse was deconstructed by volunteers and was set up at Fields Farm.

After reuse comes recycle, ideally the last phase in the process. Batteries, phones and other old tech was recycled at Knott Landfill. Unwanted deconstructed cubicle metal shelving, and other various scrap metal was recycled with scrap metal at Knott landfill, and plastic plant pots and trays were brought to Lowe's.

This project was a powerful reminder of how wasteful remodels can be — and how intentional we needed to be to make the demolition process as sustainable as possible. As we move into the next phase of furnishing the building, we're excited to explore secondhand options through Facebook Marketplace, local thrift stores, and our broader community.

In community, Denise Rowcroft, Youth Education and School Gardens Program Director.

