Oregon’s future depends on you.
The Future Of Oregon Depends On Our Ability To Work Together

We are at a pivotal point in our state. In the wake of the most acrimonious legislative session in memory, it is clear that we must find a way to come together if we are going to protect Oregon’s environment and secure a healthy future for the next generation.

Oregon Environmental Council is at the forefront of the push for bold action on climate disruption, protections against toxics in our environment, and clean and plentiful water. It will take a strong commitment to working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders from across the state and across party lines to achieve our shared goals. We need long-term solutions to transform the systems that drive our economy in order to move Oregon forward.

Beyond the sound and fury at the end of the 2019 legislative session is the real story of unified support for bold climate action, across sectors and across the state. We must reclaim the public narrative on climate. We can not allow those who seek to divide us along the lines of race, class, or geography to succeed in their use of misinformation.

The reality is that we are closer than ever to pricing pollution and investing in a clean energy economy and you simply can’t stop progress.

Our work on air pollution has helped to usher in the end of dirty diesel pollution for the Portland metro area. This victory will accelerate the transition to cleaner fuels and cleaner engines and will make a significant difference in the lives of marginalized communities that are most affected by exposure to diesel exhaust. The passage of this vital legislation can now be leveraged to advocate for broader protections across the state.

With a history of legislative wins, a growing base of support, and the talent and dedication of our staff, Oregon Environmental Council will continue to stand up for Oregon’s people and environment in the state capitol, and we will do so under a new executive director. We look forward to the bold future new leadership will bring this organization.

Above all else, we continue to be passionate about working together to protect and save what we love, in the place we all call home, and we hope you feel the same.

Diana Nunez
Interim Executive Director
Out With The Old: The Fortunate Demise Of Dirty Diesel Engines

By: Chris Hagerbaumer, Deputy Director of Programs & Administration

Diesel exhaust is uniquely toxic—it causes cancer; harms lungs, hearts and brains; and contributes to Alzheimer’s, birth anomalies, autism, male infertility, and more. Because of these serious health impacts, OEC has been advocating for diesel clean-up for nearly two decades. Although we’ve had small wins here and there, substantial action is needed to protect human health, and we are thrilled that our state legislature has finally taken a big step forward with House Bill 2007.

HB 2007 requires clean-up of old dirty diesel engines in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, where 44% of Oregon’s population lives. Multnomah County residents breathe diesel at levels nearly 8 times higher than the state’s health benchmark; Washington and Clackamas county residents breathe diesel at levels nearly 4 1/2 times higher.

The most effective way to reduce diesel pollution is to switch to engines running on cleaner fuels (electric engines produce no tailpipe air pollution and reduce lifecycle carbon emissions by as much as 80%) or to upgrade to new diesel engines (model years 2010 and newer run as much as 95% cleaner when it comes to particulate matter and nitrogen oxide, but still emit carbon).

HB 2007 will make a real difference for vulnerable people (children, the elderly) and vulnerable communities—low-income communities and communities of color are two to three times more likely to be exposed to diesel particulate matter.

While HB 2007 is an important win, OEC’s work to protect Oregonians from diesel pollution is far from over. We will watchdog implementation of HB 2007 and advocate for broader protections across Oregon—while residents of the Portland tri-county area are at greatest risk, diesel emissions exceed the state’s health benchmark in 16 additional counties.

More at: Bit.ly/DDEngines

2019 Legislative Session Highlights

HB 2250: Oregon Environmental Protection Act - Ensures that the federal environmental standards of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts that were in place as of January 2017 remain in effect and be enforceable under state law even if the federal government rolls them back. Passed

HB 2084: Extends grant program for place-based integrated water resources planning. Passed

SB 1044: Creates a statewide transportation electrification framework, setting goals for EV adoption statewide and requirements for state fleets to incorporate EVs over the next 10 years. Passed

HB 2093: EV Charging - Streamlines process for state agencies to procure EVs and site EV charging infrastructure on state property. Passed

HB 2623: Fracking Ban - Bans fracking in Oregon for the next five years. Passed

HB 3273: Drug Take Back - Creates a return program for unused pharmaceuticals, with collection locations across the state. Passed

HB 2509: Plastic Bag Ban - Prohibits retail establishments from providing single-use plastic bags at checkout. Passed.

More at: Bit.ly/OECLegislativeWrapUp

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Like many of you, I am still reeling from the end of the 2019 legislative session when eleven senators walked out (for a second time) on the democratic process. We were hours away from passing the Clean Energy Jobs bill—a remarkable piece of legislation that would:

- put a **declining cap** on major sources of climate pollution
- start charging for the **true cost of climate pollution**, and
- **invest critical resources** into projects that create good-paying jobs and help communities—including rural areas—throughout Oregon access cleaner energy, become more efficient, clean up transportation, and become more resilient to climate impacts.

The bill was supported by an **impressive coalition**, led by Oregon Environmental Council, Renew Oregon, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Sustainable Northwest, Climate Solutions, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters. Grassroots groups from southern and central Oregon played key roles. Labor unions, health professionals, over 200 farms, hundreds of faith leaders, large and small forestland owners, land conservation groups, and over 800 businesses endorsed the bill. Over the course of the 2019 session, 3,000 people showed up for citizen lobby days, legislator visits, rallies on the capitol steps, and to attend hearings. 15,000 Oregonians signed a petition delivered to Governor Kate Brown, urging action.

The bill passed the House 36-24—an historic vote. It was scheduled for a vote in the Senate (in Oregon, bills generally aren’t scheduled for floor votes without having the necessary support). In the end, it took radical measures to prevent a vote in the Senate—a walk out that upended the democratic will of the majority of Oregon voters. Oregon’s dysfunction—and the corporate interests that funded it—garnered national attention, including from the New Yorker, Washington Post, and even Rolling Stones.

When adults inexplicably failed youth at the end of session, they led protests on the capitol steps and held sit-ins at legislative offices **demanding accountability and commitment to progress. OEC was right there with them.**

Governor Brown reconfirmed her support for Clean Energy Jobs in a press conference held a day after session ended. She stated she prefers a legislative path forward but committed to using “every tool in the tool box” to meaningfully address climate disruption. **OEC will be there urging her forward.**

Climate disruption isn’t slowing. Each year of delay requires that we make even bigger reductions in future years. **We need climate action now, and we won’t stop our call for the solutions our youth and communities deserve.**

More at: Bit.ly/Climate_Disruption
Youth Activism Brings The Heat To Climate Policy

By: Tony Hernandez, Communications Manager

Young people have made their voices matter in the debate for climate policy all across the globe this year, and Oregon has been no different.

Youth activism centered on climate justice is on the rise. The Guardian calls their growing activism “Generation Greta,” named after Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish activist who inspired millions of students to walk out of school this March. In May, a second walkout drew more than 1.5 million young people in 125 countries, and they continue to do so.

Oregon Environmental Council staff stood in awe this year as our own state’s youth organized thousands to rally at City Hall and schools in Portland, on Main Street at Heppner, outside a federal courthouse in Eugene, at the steps of the capitol in Salem as well as Bend, Corvallis, Albany and more. Other students organized days of action to lobby lawmakers inside the capitol in March.

And so many of us, the adults, have proudly stood side-by-side with student leaders urging strong climate action throughout the year. Youth voices have joined the small business owners to farmworkers to tribal members and fishermen who know the window is closing and that Oregon leadership is needed to stop the climate emergency.

More at: Bit.ly/YouthClimateActivism

In 2015 the Oregon Legislature passed the Toxic Free Kids Act. The law requires manufacturers who make children’s products to report when their products contain toxic chemicals that are scientifically linked to health impacts in kids and requires the phase-out of these chemicals in certain applications.

More than 4,000 reports to the Oregon Health Authority show that toys, clothes, crafts, bedding, and baby gear sold in Oregon in 2017 contain more than 50 different chemical ingredients that are scientifically linked to health impacts in kids.

OEC has made these reports public. Find out more at Bit.ly/Chemicals-Concern.

Chemicals Of Concern

By: Jen Coleman, former Health Comm. Director

More at: Bit.ly/YouthClimateActivism
How Will You Make Your Mark On Oregon’s Future?

By: Teke Dillender, Deputy Director for Philanthropy

We all want a healthy future for Oregon. That future includes clean water, clean air, and beautiful natural landscapes for future generations to enjoy. But there’s no guarantee that these resources will be here for years to come. Safeguarding these resources requires dedication and persistence to make sure that the hard-fought progress we’ve made in environmental protections will endure well into the future.

Since 1968, Oregon Environmental Council has worked for sound environmental policies and programs so that our children and future generations can enjoy the same remarkable Oregon we know and love now. That work requires support.

Your legacy is the footprint you will leave on this Earth. It is the impact you make through the way you live your life and the values you hold. OEC’s Legacy Society recognizes those who express their ongoing commitment to Oregon and the environment. By remembering Oregon Environmental Council in your estate plan, your gift will have an impact that will last for generations.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following Legacy Society members, whose decision to leave a planned gift to OEC will support a healthy environment for generations to come.

Jeff Allen and Martha Bennett
Anonymous
Thomas D. Aschenbrener
Cheryl Bristah
Gene and Marilyn Cripe
Teke Dillender
Jackie Dingfelder and Tom Gainer
Clint and Mary Driver
Andrea Durbin
Michele Goodman and Eric Wan
Steve and Lynn Greenwood
Rick and Susan Gustafson

Choosing the right type of gift depends on your personal circumstances and financial goals. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your legal advisor or tax professional to create a plan that fits your needs and expresses your legacy.

If you would like to learn more about leaving a planned gift to OEC, or if you have already done so but have not yet informed us of your plans, please contact Teke Dillender at (503) 222-1963 x119 or teked@oeonline.org.
OEC’s Top Social Media Posts

Facebook: 7,111 Followers, 6,423 Likes
Twitter: 30K Tweets, 8,721 Followers
Instagram: 374 Photos, 1,272 Followers

**Oregon Environmental Council**

April 11th

“Putting the all-electric bus on Portland area streets represents a milestone for the transit agency as it moves to convert its entire diesel fleet to zero emission vehicles by 2040, a blueprint TriMet’s board approved in September.” [https://bit.ly/3iQJU7T](https://bit.ly/3iQJU7T)

**Oregon Env. Council**

May 7th

A handful of Oregon legislators are holding up climate progress. We need everyone to show up to create meaningful change. Delaying a Senate vote doesn’t delay climate change! [https://bit.ly/3L3SGJ4](https://bit.ly/3L3SGJ4) #HB2020 #ORLeg #ORRed #CleanEnergyJobs

**Oregon Water Day: What’s Your Water Why?**

March 22 is World Water Day! Share your WhyWaterWhy during March and help build a collective voice for Oregon’s water resources. What’s your water why? [oregonwaterday.org](http://oregonwaterday.org)

**Oregon Environmental Council**

June 7th

Hey, Oregon Senators: You Can’t Run Away from Climate Change

**Q1: Why is it important for Oregon to take action on climate? #HB2020Chat**

12:02 PM - 15 Apr 2019

Share your next Oregon adventure with us today!

Whether you’re hiking the Cascades, relaxing at the coast, driving through the Columbia River Gorge, exploring Crater Lake or everything else in-between, Oregon Environmental Council wants to hear from you!

Share your next #LovingOregon adventure with us to be featured on our Instagram channel, @oeconline. To submit, simply tag Oregon Environmental Council on your next Instagram photo and use the hashtag #ItsYourOregon, or email photos to info@oeconline.org.

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Be a hero for Oregon’s environment.
Your support and commitment to action on healthy air, clean and plentiful water, and a climate-resilient future are making a difference in Oregon. Invite a friend to become a member today.
oeconline.org/join-us