

# COCC Sustainability Committee Newsletter

FALL 2025



## New COCC President Dr. Pereira

This July, Greg Pereira became the new president of COCC. We are delighted to say that he is deeply interested in sustainability initiatives. Some of his work at his previous college include switching from plastic to compostable utensils and trays in the dining hall, hosting swap meets for supplies and equipment between departments, and working with the culinary department to create an urban garden that both chefs and residents could enjoy.

Dr. Pereira plans to support a strong sustainability department and looks forward to the new ways we will become more sustainable. Presently, Dr. Pereira has his sights on promoting the upcoming event Week Without Driving.

## Week Without Driving Event

Monday, September 29 - Sunday, October 5th, COCC is participating along with the city of Bend in [Week Without Driving](#). The mission of Week Without Driving is to raise awareness for the third of the population of the US that can't drive, and a call to address accessibility issues in transit for the community as a whole. To participate, avoid driving your car for this entire week. Use tools like the Get There Program to get from destination to destination. The goal is not perfection; it is to reflect on the major challenges posed by a car dependent infrastructure.

Joining this movement to bring those challenges to light, to encourage the city council to continue improving non-car transportation and promote a more accessible future with less emissions.

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## Get There Program

A lot of students are coming to Bend for the first time this Fall and learning how to get from place to place can be overwhelming. Get There Oregon is a program whose mission is to make multimodal transportation options (such as biking, carpooling, and transit) more accessible. They do this by providing information on alternative transportation methods, support for workplaces, and their free trip-planning tool [Get There Connect](#). Students and faculty can use the trip planner to determine how to commute while saving energy and money.

Faculty and staff can earn rewards for using alternative modes of transportation (carpooling or even working remote counts!) so check out the [Get There Rewards program](#).

### **NEW! Donate your rewards to student scholarships!**

COCC employees who enroll and used a commute option getting to and from work for 45 days (non-consecutive ok!) are eligible to receive a reward. Earn 1 point per day when you bike, walk, carpool, bus, telecommute, scoot, skate or compress your work week! Redeem the reward for a gift card or donate to the COCC Foundation for student scholarships! Contact HR to enroll!



## Native Species Highlight: Western Juniper

The Western Juniper is a short, twisted tree with scaly green leaves. They are well adapted to the high desert of Eastern Oregon, with a high resistance to drought and the ability to self-prune branches to conserve water. In winter, their small bluish berries are an important food source for native bird species and small mammals. It is also a popular nesting site for birds such as mourning doves and American kestrels.

Want to see one for yourself?

Try identifying one of our many Western Junipers throughout our Bend campus. They are common throughout Bend, Redmond, and Sisters. Oregon's oldest living Western Juniper is 1,600 years old and is located on Horse Ridge.



**SUSTAINABILITY**

<https://cocc.edu/committees/sustainability>

Questions or Ideas?  
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