

**BENTON COUNTY, OREGON
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES MANUAL
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NO. 02-01**

TITLE: **Benton County Sustainability Policy**

SECTION: **Organizational**

DATE ADOPTED BY BOARD: 6/18/02 **SUPERCEDES:** N/A

SIGNATURE OF BOARD CHAIR: _____

1.0 Purpose

A number of steps are needed to achieve a sustainable future and will require the participation of all residents. Benton County government, as an initial effort under this resolution, shall focus on improving its internal operations as a step toward meeting this goal.

Benton County adopts the following definitions, goals and guidelines to promote sustainability.

2.0 Definition of Sustainability:

Benton County government must simultaneously meet environmental, economic, and community needs throughout our county. We must use, develop and protect our resources at a rate and in a manner that enables people to meet their current needs and also preserve resources for future generations.

3.0 Goals:

- a. Increase the economic prosperity and well being of all Benton County communities.
- b. Increase the efficiency with which land, energy, water and other natural resources are used.
- c. Reduce releases to air, water and land of substances harmful to human health.
- d. Reduce adverse impacts on natural habitats and species.

4.0 Guidelines:

As Benton County works toward sustainability, the county shall:

- a. Develop incentive-based mechanisms as possible alternatives to regulatory approaches;
- b. Understand the full costs and benefits of actions to ensure that decisions are fully informed;
- c. Measure resource use, environmental health, and costs to determine progress;
- d. Establish clear, measurable goals to guide county efforts toward sustainability;

- e. Employ the knowledge, expertise and creativity of county employees and residents to develop solutions;
- f. Build upon existing private and public efforts throughout the county, region and state to ensure cooperative and efficient results;
- g. Integrate strategies to enhance the effectiveness of new and existing efforts;
- h. Collaborate and cooperate to remove barriers and find solutions; and
- i. Emphasize on-going learning and adaptive management as techniques to continually inform and improve the process.

5.0 Summary:

All county agencies and employees will take actions to promote sustainable practices within county government. As an initial step, all departments shall focus on internal government operations. We will:

- a. Adopt Sustainability Practices within Department Operations to Reduce Waste
- b. Create a Sustainable Work Group
- c. Assess Options for Sustainability Indicators and Targets
- d. Conduct Business, Community and Public Outreach
- e. Identify Further Efforts