



Office of the Metro Auditor

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Audit looks at Metro's Environmental Sustainability

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The Office of the Metro Auditor released an audit today reviewing Metro's internal sustainability efforts. The purpose of the audit, titled *Sustainability Management: Focus efforts and evaluate progress*, was to determine if Metro strategically managed its efforts to achieve the intended results and ensure cost-effectiveness.

The Metro Council committed to establishing a sustainable business plan in response to global climate change. It passed a resolution in 2003 that set goals for internal sustainability at Metro facilities. In 2008, the Council made sustainability the guiding principle for all Metro policies and programs.

The Auditor's Office collected electricity, natural gas, fleet fuel, landfill gas, recycling, air travel, water and commuting data for each Metro facility. Auditors found that in FY07, 59% of Metro greenhouse gas emissions were generated by electricity and natural gas consumption. A review of expenditures during the same time period revealed that in comparison, 3% focused on energy efficiency. The audit concluded that in order to meet its objectives, Metro needed to develop clearer policies and goals, reduce organizational barriers, and ensure that the tools needed to measure success were in place.

"We found that Metro needs a more effective organizational structure and plan," Metro Auditor Suzanne Flynn said. "Any increase in effort could require shifting resources or additional funding." Auditor Flynn noted that funding and the resources available had been a barrier in the past. She was pleased with Metro's response to the audit and the fact that management has already started to implement some of the recommendations.

For more information, contact Suzanne Flynn, Metro Auditor, at 503-797-1891.

The audit report is available on the Metro website at <http://www.oregonmetro.gov/auditor>. Copies of the audit can also be obtained by calling the Office of the Metro Auditor at 503-797-1892. The Metro Auditor will brief the Metro Council on February 19, 2009.