

January 12, 2007

Dear _____:

Last winter you participated in a breakfast discussion hosted by Oregon State University Extension at the Arlington Club in Portland on the topic of Environmental Issues. You may recall that a few of the primary messages expressed at the meeting included:

- The issue of accessing research and influencing the research agenda—especially research that relates to environmental issues in urban areas. The group went so far as to suggest a number of research questions. Most prevalent were the impact of measure 37, alternative energy, invasive species, economic value of open space, etc.
- There is a huge need for environmental education and involvement in community gardens, especially for youth, people of color, and low income audiences. This is increasingly important as Oregon's population grows and becomes more diverse.
- Need for public/resident education about IPM especially in relation to managing parks and other public lands.
- Recommend creating a Master Home Environment program to work with builders and home owners on indoor air quality issues including mold.
- Recommend that OSU conduct an annual survey of metro area residents to determine their highest priority related to the environment. This could be used by policy makers in resource allocation and could serve as the basis of:
 - An “annual conversation” with OSU on the environment
 - A Portland lecture series
 - Portland City Club forums

First, we would like to thank you for your participation in the conversation. Second, we'd like you to know that your advice is being taken into account as we develop plans to expand OSU's partnerships and programs in the Portland metropolitan area. For your information, a list of those who participated in the meeting is attached.

There have been a number of outcomes from this meeting including:

- The formation of a renewable energy core group at OSU.
- Funding has been allocated by OSU Extension for a major “Clean Air and Health Enhancement Initiative” lead by Ken Williamson in the OSU College of Engineering, which seeks to reduce the diesel emissions in and around the metropolitan area.
- Expansion of the 4-H Wildlife Stewards Program which is lead by Maureen Hosty, 4-H Youth Development Specialist in Portland.
- Creation of a multi-institutional planning group that will host an urban rural interdependence symposium in 2008.
- Funding allocated by OSU Extension for a mold/air quality innovative project lead by Susie Busler, Lane County and Jeanne Brandt, Washington County.
- Work to put the OSU Extension Master Gardener curriculum on the web.

- Development of a multi-discipline group to lead a project titled CLFFS (Community Landscapes, Farming, and Food Systems).
- OSU has begun publishing a research magazine “*Terra*.” Web access is available at <http://oregonstate.edu/terra/> To be added to the magazine distribution list contact nick.houtman@oregonstate.edu

In addition you might recall that we hired Beth Emshoff, a half-time OSU Extension faculty metro specialist who is located at the OSU Portland Center in the California Bank building in the downtown area. Beth has been working to help create local funding and program partnerships that address high priority issues through the knowledge resources of OSU and its partners.

If you would like additional information about any of these efforts, or would like to discuss other metropolitan area issues, please contact Beth Emshoff at 503-553-3446 or Lyla at 541-737-9920 or Scott at 541-737-2713. Again, thank you for your interest in OSU and your involvement in the Environmental Issues breakfast discussion.

Sincerely,

Lyla Houglum
Director of Special Initiatives
OSU Extension Service

Scott Reed
Dean & Director
OSU Extension Service

Attachment

C: President Ed Ray, Provost Randhawa, Bill McCaughan, Beth Emshoff, Gail Achterman, Ken Williamson, Anita Azarenko, Maureen Hosty, Susie Busler, Jeanne Brandt, Jan McNeilan, Bob Malouf, Roy Arnold, Nick Houtman, Luanne Lawrence, Jock Mills, Liz Clark, John Winder, Extension Cabinet, OSU Extension metro staff chairs