

# March 5-7, 2025



# HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

# 2025 Event Report

The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) offers a vital space for collective direction, collaboration, and solidarity across the region's colleges and universities. As political, social, and environmental issues grow increasingly complex, WOHESC 2025 convened and empowered the changemakers leading the way toward a more sustainable, just, and equitable future.

# Audience Breakdown

**421**

Attendees

**110**

Speakers

**18**

Campus &  
Community  
Partners

**25**

Sponsors &  
Exhibitors

## Attendees by Location

**286**

Washington

**108**

Oregon

**28**

Other

## Attendees by Category



Student  
**44%**

Facilities/  
Operations  
**10%**



Instructional  
Faculty | **11%**



Institutional  
Leadership/Senior  
Admin | **7%**



Other | **29%**

## Attendees by School

- Portland Community College - 74
- Oregon State University - 58
- Central Washington University - 26
- Portland State University - 26
- University of Washington - 25
- University of Oregon - 18
- Southern Oregon University - 14
- Bellevue College - 13
- Western Washington University - 11
- Evergreen State College - 9
- Gonzaga University - 7
- Washington State University - 7
- Wenatchee Valley College - 7
- Seattle Colleges - 6
- Willamette University - 6
- Linfield University - 5
- University of Portland - 5
- Lewis & Clark College - 4
- Cascadia College - 3
- Central Oregon Community College - 3
- Lane Community College - 3
- Yakima Valley College - 3
- Chemeketa Community College - 2
- Presidio Graduate School - 2
- Rogue Community College - 2
- University of Puget Sound - 2
- California State University - 1
- Clackamas Community College - 1
- Everett Community College - 1
- Lake Washington Institute of Technology - 1
- National University of Australia - 1
- Pacific University - 1
- Prescott College - 1
- Southern New Hampshire University - 1
- State University of New York: Empire State University - 1
- University of Redlands - 1

# Program

## Conference Theme:

# Cultivating Sustainable Communities

Centered on this year's theme, "Cultivating Sustainable Communities," the conference explored what it means to intentionally build environmentally conscious and socially responsible communities within higher education and beyond. Participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions, interactive sessions, and meaningful networking opportunities. Attendees left energized with actionable insights and strategies to implement on their campuses and in their work—strengthening the movement for sustainability and social justice across the Cascadia region and beyond.

## Our 2025 Program Included:

3  
Keynotes



30 Breakout  
Sessions



2 Plenaries



4 Tours



1 Sustainability  
Action Challenge



*"I found everyone to be incredibly friendly. The atmosphere was positive and I left feeling uplifted and motivated."*

- Andrea, Lane Community College



Waste  
Management &  
Recycling



Architecture



Green  
Transportation



Construction &  
Building



Energy  
Management



Food Service



Janitorial  
Supply

*"Connecting with regional colleagues and partners are a wonderful way to learn from each other, make our efforts meaningful, and promote collaboration!"*

- 2025 Attendee

# Thank You 2025 Sponsors



## Campus & Community Partners





# Sustainability Report

## Portland Community College - WOHESC 2025 Host Campus

Sustainability is a core theme of Portland Community College's mission and Strategic Plan. As a result, PCC embraces a hub model to institutionalize sustainability across the college with an emphasis on four major areas: Education & Outreach, Operationalizing Sustainability, Student Engagement and Community Impact.

PCC is Bee Campus Certified - part of the early adopters of the program and one of the first colleges to become certified to work together to conserve native pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing habitat, and reducing the use of pesticides. Students and employees work together to carry out these commitments and make their campus a better place for pollinators.

## Health Technology (HT) Building Sustainability Highlights

- 297 solar panels generate an estimated 144,000 kWh annually, powering 14 average US homes
- Pursuing LEED Gold certification with sustainability building features including natural ventilation to using recycled materials throughout construction and design
- Double windows that use two different coatings based on the window's solar orientation to save energy and the bioswale, reducing negative impacts by controlling flooding, reducing erosion and improving air quality
- Sustainable materials such as replaceable carpet tiles and rapidly renewable materials along with low emitting furniture
- Over 4,460 linear feet of wood was salvaged from the original exterior of the building and re-purposed as an interior finish
- More than 90% of construction waste was diverted from landfill through recycling or repurposing.
- Abundant natural light with daylight harvesting controls to minimize energy consumption
- Occupancy sensors throughout
- Reclaimed wood from the exterior
- Green-certified sustainable materials throughout
- Low flow fixtures in bathrooms and at all sink locations
- Insulation rating values 20% better than what is required by the Oregon Energy code
- Greenguard Gold-certified thermal, acoustic insulation, and drywall
- Drought tolerant indigenous plants and trees on the building site
- On-site stormwater mitigation

## Bold Reuse Return Rates

- 9oz cups (97%)
- 9.5" plates (87%)
- 7" plates (96%)
- Forks (98%)
- Spoon (95%)

# See You All in 2026!

**March 2-4, 2026**

**W**  
UNIVERSITY of  
WASHINGTON

Get involved with WOHEC! Contact us at [info@wohesc.org](mailto:info@wohesc.org) or 1.855.740.8417

# 2025 Testimonials

“I always come away with a strong motivation to do something... Inspiration does not happen in a vacuum – you have to get out there to meet people and see what they are doing!”

– Todd Cross, Oregon State University

“(WOHESC) was a transformative experience... our work was very well received and made a big difference, particularly for first and second year students.”

– 2025 Attendee

“As both a speaker and attendee at this year’s WOHESC, I was blown away by how well organized and useful the entire conference was. Can’t wait to attend again next year!”

– 2025 Attendee

“I am truly inspired by the positive attitude of those younger than myself. I am excited to try a few new things in my courses, and to get our club doing service projects!”

– 2025 Attendee