

March 4-6, 2024

WASHINGTON



OREGON

# HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

## 2024 Event Report

The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) provides the opportunity for collective direction and solidarity in higher education for our region. As political, social and environmental issues become more complex, WOHESC convened and empowered stakeholders who are driving leadership and generating solutions for a more sustainable, just and equitable future. Our program was built around our 2024 theme - **Learning from Place: Solutions Beyond Boundaries** inspired by noted geographer, Dr. Yi-Fu Tuan, who coined the term topophilia as the affective bond with one's environment. Our program content featured how to use the environment to ground our inquiries that span politically-drawn boundaries to be inclusive of place within a bioregion. We focused on the critical linkage being sustainability and drawing upon its elements to bring together scholars, practitioners, students, and interested citizens to better understand spanning boundaries.

# Audience Breakdown

428

Attendees

113

Speakers

13

Campus &  
Community  
Partners

20

Sponsors &  
Exhibitors

## Attendees by Location

269  
Washington

91  
Oregon

32  
Other

## Attendees by Category



Undergraduate  
Student | 44%

Instructional  
Faculty | 12%



Facilities/  
Operations  
9%



Architecture/Construction/Engineering Services - 4%

Student Affairs - 4%

Sustainability Office - 3%

Extension/Outreach/Community/Engagement - 3%

Institution Leadership/Senior Administration - 3%

University Dean/Department Head/Unit Leader - 2%

Non-profit - 2%

1% or less - Consultant, Government, Information  
Services, University Relations, Office/Administrative



Graduate/PhD Student  
7%

## Attendees by School

- Western Washington University - 89
- Oregon State University - 36
- University of Washington - 30
- Portland Community College - 27
- Central Washington University - 23
- Skagit Valley College - 20
- University of Oregon - 17
- Whatcom Community College - 14
- Portland State University - 12
- Bellevue College - 11
- Evergreen State College - 11
- Southern Oregon University - 8
- Northern Arizona University - 8
- Cascadia College - 4
- Eastern Washington University - 4
- South Seattle College - 4
- Lewis & Clark College - 3
- Seattle Colleges - 3
- Seattle University - 3
- University of California, Los Angeles - 3
- Wenatchee Valley College - 3
- Gonzaga University - 2
- University of Puget Sound - 2
- Centralia College - 2
- Everett Community College - 2
- Grand Canyon University - 2
- Northwest Indian College - 2
- University of the Fraser Valley - 1
- Boise State University - 1
- Lane Community College - 1
- Reed College - 1
- University of Portland - 1

# Program

## Conference Theme:

# Learning From Place: Solutions Beyond Boundaries

The noted geographer, Dr. Yi-Fu Tuan coined the term, “topophilia” as the affective bond with one’s environment. The 2024 WOHESC theme built on that thought by using the environment to ground our inquiries that span politically drawn boundaries to be inclusive of place within a bioregion.

## Our 2024 Program Included:

4  
Keynotes



25 Breakout  
Sessions



3 Plenaries



4 Tours



1 Sustainability  
Action Challenge



*“The best part are the people; a combination of passion, intelligence, genuine care, and overarching positivity.”*

- 2024 Attendee



Waste  
Management &  
Recycling



Architecture



Green  
Transportation



Construction &  
Building



Energy  
Management



Food Service



Janitorial  
Supply

*“I loved meeting new people and hearing their experiences and sustainable practices at their own schools.”*

- 2024 Attendee

# Thank You 2024 Sponsors



SUSTAINABILITY  
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Sustainability, Equity,  
& Justice Fund

THE FOUNDATION  
FOR WWU & ALUMNI



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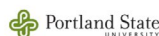
# Campus & Community Partners



Oregon State  
University



UNIVERSITY OF  
OREGON | Office of  
Sustainability



Office of  
Sustainability



# Sustainability Report

## Western Washington University - WOHEC 2024 Host Campus

Sustainability is a fundamental part of the mission and strategic plan of Western Washington University (WWU). From their commitment to renewable energy and waste reduction to sustainability-minded courses and the President's Sustainability Council, WWU incorporates sustainability into many areas of campus operations and academics, guided by the Sustainability Action Plan - the University's roadmap for protecting the environment, upholding social equity, creating economic vitality, and maintaining human health.

- WWU purchases 95% of its electricity from renewable sources through Puget Sound Energy's Green Direct program
- WWU bathrooms on campus have paper towel compost bins go directly to our composting facility as an effort to reduce waste on campus
- WWU's Community Supported Agriculture program connects students, staff, and faculty with Whatcom/Skagit County produce and producers promoting affordable, local, fresh, sustainably sourced food directly from farmers.

## Registration

- WOHEC Registration process utilizes a 100% paperless ticket system
- Lanyards are recycled from past events and collected at the end of WOHEC for next year re-use

## Printing and Signage

- Greatly reduce print programs offering a digital program via event app

## Marketing/Communications

- Messaging to attendees on how they can help make the event more sustainable - including bringing their own water bottles and using water refilling stations onsite.

# See You All in 2025!



March 5-7, 2025



Portland  
Community  
College

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