



SPOTLIGHT ON... CHEMEKETA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AT A GLANCE

**Chemeketa
Community College**
4000 Lancaster Drive NE
Salem, OR 97309
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Chemeketa's 50-building campus is an environmental leader among community colleges.

HERE'S HOW:

LIGHTING: Occupancy and daylight sensors reduce electricity use; old halides are replaced with compact fluorescents.

LANDSCAPING: Lawn clippings and mulched tree branches are used as compost; pesticide use was reduced significantly.

REUSE: Purchase of used facilities equipment saves thousands of dollars.

BULK PURCHASING: Electronic equipment and paper are purchased in large quantities.

RECYCLING: Recycling stations throughout the college allow students to sort their paper, cans, and bottles.

EDUCATION: Chemeketa educates thousands of students every year so all recycling, energy efficiency, landscaping and renewable energy projects have the potential to inspire students.



Chemeketa Community College, with more than 50 buildings on its Salem campus, is one of the largest organizations to be EarthWISE certified.

Their efforts are noticeable inside the buildings with new recycling stations and bins, automatic light sensors, low-flow water features and water-bottle refilling stations at the water fountains. Outside, a new stormwater retention pond—built to drain stormwater from new buildings and future buildings—will be used as an on-site teaching lab. Students working in a newly designed garden are growing food for Chemeketa's student food pantry.

Practices that are not as obvious—but no less important—include landscaping for a beautiful campus with minimal chemicals and money, bulk purchasing of recycled paper and electronic equipment and, when appropriate, buying used rather than new equipment.

A highlight of their sustainability commitment is the renovation of Building 8 and construction of a 71,000-square-foot addition to create the Chemeketa Health Sciences Complex.

All aspects of this building are ecofriendly: more than 75% of the construction waste was diverted from disposal for reuse or recycling; the project exceeds Oregon's energy code by 50%; the building uses 20% less potable water than conventional buildings; and water for landscaping is 50% less than conventional sites. The building has passive heating and cooling but also features a 60-kilowatt solar panel system. As part of the Energy Trust of Oregon's pilot program "The Path to Net Zero," the complex boasts a year-long monitoring system to determine the building's energy performance. All of this work means that the building meets some of the most stringent green standards created.

Changes to their existing buildings are just as significant.

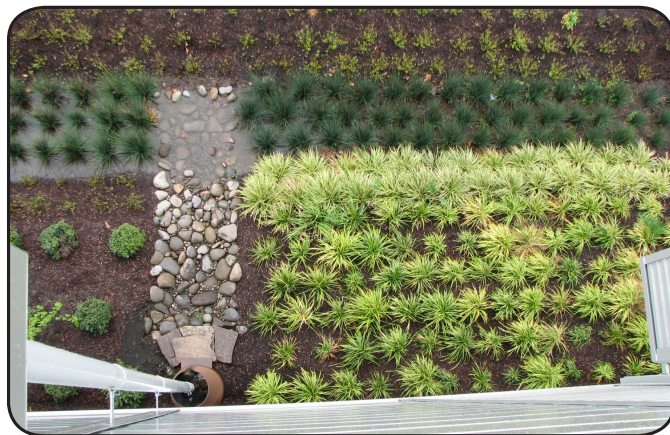
Fifty-four custom-designed recycling stations have been installed in buildings across campus. There, students can recycle paper as well as cans and bottles. Sustainability coordinator Stephania Fregosi says the stations have the potential to reduce the waste by 50% by volume and save the college \$6,000 to \$10,000 a year in garbage hauling fees.

"Our bottle and can recycling has been extremely low," she said. "The main savings will be in cans and bottles."

Not only will the recycling program save the college money, but it will help sustain the Community Transitions Program, which offers job training for students with disabilities. The program will keep the 5-cent deposits from cans and bottles.

The college also has invested in water bottle filling stations to reduce the number of plastic disposable water bottles purchased by students. In fact, in the first few months of operation, their eight water filling stations resulted in thousands of bottles being refilled instead of trashed.

Several buildings feature motion sensors so only occupied rooms have the lights on. Daylight sensors further reduce electricity use by dimming the lights when the sun is out.



Alongside Building 8 at Chemeketa Community College, native plantings help collect rainwater and filter contaminants before the water drains away. The landscaping also meets another need: it is beautiful!

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Classroom daylight and occupancy sensors greatly reduce energy use.



Automated windows with shading devices in Building 8 dim, depending on the inside temperature, to reduce heat gain.



Students grow food for Chemeketa's student food pantry.



Water bottle filling stations reduce the number of plastic bottles purchased. Located near water fountains, they keep track of how many new bottles are avoided.

As maintenance crews replace lights, they replace them with the most energy efficient product possible. They have already replaced 75 halides with compact fluorescent bulbs.

As for the college's water use, all faucets have aerators or screens to reduce water use. All new faucets are battery-powered and turn on with a sensor. All new toilets have low flow options. And four years ago, the irrigation system was hooked into a weather station to adjust water usage based on weather conditions.

Other practices are less noticeable, but no less impactful.

The college's facilities manager Mike Morelli purchases used equipment—saving both money and precious resources used in the manufacturing of new equipment. For example, Morelli bought two used scissor lifts for under \$10,000—a new one would cost \$19,000.

An Integrated Pest Management strategy was implemented about 4 years ago. One of the tenets is to find the source of the problem and eliminate it: this works well with the ever-lasting ant problem. Instead of just putting out ant bait everywhere, maintenance crews track the ants and find out what they are eating. Instead of broad-leaf spraying, the landscape crew waits to see if there

are any pest problems in the grass, trees or bushes around campus.

The strategy has resulted in a marked decrease in broadleaf pesticide and herbicide use—from 120 gallons of chemicals to 15 gallons per year. It's saved the college \$600 in chemical costs and \$2,240 in labor annually.

Another landscaping strategy has saved the college significant dollars. Landscapers remove fallen leaves, grind them up, age them and bring the materials over to Sherwood Forest, a natural area on campus. Sticks are ground up on campus and put back into the bush and plant beds. Instead of spending \$8,000 on bark dust, the college only spends \$4,500. In addition, the college isn't paying for the campus debris to be hauled away each fall.

Even though it is difficult to quantify, Chemeketa's real impact may be in its unique ability to educate people. This is

a place where young people learn and explore and grow.

"Chemeketa takes its mission to educate students seriously and part of that education extends to how the college operates," said Fregosi. "It's important that students see that sustainable practices are not only important to Chemeketa, but also cost-effective."



Stephania Fregosi, Chemeketa's sustainability coordinator, stands next to the college's retention pond.

EarthWISE Certification
Chemeketa Community College received its EarthWISE certification in 2011. It is the first institution of higher learning to become EarthWISE certified.



WANT TO DO THIS AT YOUR BUSINESS?

Marion County's EarthWISE program can help. Visit mcEarthwise.net, call 503.365.3188 or email Earthwise@co.marion.or.us