

Date: Jan. 28, 2011

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item E, Informational and discussion item: Climate Friendly Nurseries Project
February 16-18, 2011, EQC meeting

Purpose of item This item will inform the commission about the Climate Friendly Nurseries Project, a partnership between the Oregon Association of Nurseries and the Oregon Environmental Council, with assistance from Oregon State University and Ecos Consulting.

Why this is important Nurseries are a leading industry in Oregon, and are taking a leadership role in mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. By establishing the Climate Friendly Nurseries Project, Oregon's nurseries have an opportunity to reduce energy, resource inputs and greenhouse gas emissions while achieving greater economic efficiency and profitability.

Background and other information The Climate Friendly Nurseries Project began in August 2009 and will run through 2012. It is the forerunner in a larger sustainability initiative by the Oregon Association of Nurseries that includes a commitment to reduce industry energy use by 25 percent by 2020, and development of sustainability certification standards for the nursery industry. The project provides resources and tools, like the Best Management Practices for Climate Friendly Nurseries guide released in August 2010 and an online greenhouse gas emissions tracking tool specifically designed for nurseries, to help nurseries reduce operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Sixteen Oregon nurseries, from small family operations to some of the largest nurseries in Oregon, are actively tracking their greenhouse gas emissions as part of the project, and have committed to implement at least one best management practice to reduce their emissions in 2011. One goal of the project is to assess the effectiveness of specific practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in participating nurseries, and share lessons learned about the most effective best management practices with the larger nursery industry. The Climate Friendly Nurseries Project is also sharing general information about best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and available resources and incentives more widely with the Oregon nursery industry through a "Road Show" presentation at Oregon Association of Nurseries Chapter meetings, OSU workshops, and the Best Management Practices for Climate Friendly Nurseries guide.

The Climate Friendly Nurseries Project states that the management and reduction of resource consumption and greenhouse emissions is a long-term process that achieves the following strategic objectives:

- Increase nurseries' understanding of resource-related costs, giving them more information with which to make informed business decisions, increase efficiency and reduce overall operational costs
- Proactively reduce operational greenhouse emissions and resource consumption
- Enable nurseries to be leaders on climate change in Oregon and beyond.

Resources

1. Climate Friendly Nurseries Project website:
<http://www.climatefriendlynurseries.org/>

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Information provided by the Climate Friendly Nurseries Project