

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

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**Date:** February 1, 2010

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item H, Informational item: DEQ's sustainability plan  
February 18-19, 2010 EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** Staff will provide the commission with an overview of the Department of Environmental Quality's draft sustainability plan.

**Background** In August 2008, DEQ's Executive Management Team adopted the Natural Step Framework. The Natural Step is a non-profit organization founded in Sweden in 1989. The Natural Step Framework is a widely used approach for helping organizations become more sustainable.

Since adopting the Natural Step Framework, DEQ has provided training to managers, held planning sessions to identify our vision, goals and actions, trained DEQ staff to be internal trainers and developed a comprehensive draft sustainability plan.

**EQC involvement** DEQ will provide periodic updates on planning and progress related to the implementation of the Natural Step Framework. Commissioners will be asked to consider the framework and sustainability principles as part of the 2011 update to DEQ's Strategic Directions.

**Next steps** Staff will train all DEQ employees statewide in the principles of The Natural Step and DEQ's draft sustainability plan through summer 2010. Sustainability team members will solicit feedback at those trainings and amend the draft plan. DEQ expects to finalize the sustainability plan in fall or winter 2010, with annual reviews of the plan to assess progress and identify areas for new or amended action items.

**Attachments** A. Draft sustainability plan

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