

Date: October 18, 2010

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director



Subject: Agenda item O, Informational and discussion item: Strategic Directions ecological economics and funding discussion
October 20-22, 2010, EQC meeting

Purpose of item This item will provide the commission with information about ecosystem services, ecological economics and funding models in discussion with Robert Costanza, director of the Portland State University Institute for Sustainable Solutions.

Why this is important As Oregon's state economic forecasts continue to decline, DEQ may need to fulfill its obligations as the state environmental protection regulatory authority with less funding from state general and lottery funds. The discussion will help the commission as it deliberates on the next version of strategic directions and evaluate opportunities for alternative models and understanding of the economics of environmental protections when evaluating DEQ's Strategic Directions update for 2012.

Background and other information Robert Costanza joined the Portland State University Institute for Sustainable Solutions as director in September 2010. Prior to his work at PSU, Costanza was the Gund Professor of Ecological Economics and director of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics at the University of Vermont from 2002 until 2010. He is internationally acclaimed for his visionary work across disciplines, linking ecology and economics to sustainability. In addition to his role as director of the Institute for Sustainable Solutions, Costanza is a professor of sustainability at PSU.

Next steps EQC will meet in November 2010 for a special meeting and retreat focused on the 2012 update to DEQ's Strategic Directions. The information and discussions shared during this, and other, items will help inform the commissioners about Oregonian's concerns and priority work for DEQ over the next six, 10 or 20 years. After the commission meets in November, DEQ will begin a process to draft and share its proposed updates throughout 2011 for final EQC review and approval by late 2011.

Attachments None

Report prepared by: Stephanie Clark
Phone: 503-229-5301

Background information provided by Portland State University