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Subject: Contribution to SMMP Document
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Attachments: [SMMP Introductory Paragraphs.docx](#)

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Hello All,

I will yield to my far more knowledgeable subcommittee members regarding the composition of the TOC and the content of the section introductory paragraphs. I have targeted the attached verbiage to the document introduction, Section II in the Table of Contents.

We have an enormous store of knowledge and experience on this subcommittee that I wish to acknowledge and yield to. I feel very fortunate to have served on this subcommittee because I have learned so much from all of you.

The attached document contains some main points that I would like to make sure don't get lost in the shuffle. These points have been made throughout our discussion by various members but I would like to list them here to make sure we cover them in our document.

First and foremost, in my opinion, the Benton County 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative values should permeate this document. I hope some of the aspirational concepts I have raised in my Introductory paragraph (attached) can be blended into the SMMP Subcommittee's report.

Cheers,

Marge

SMMP Introductory Paragraphs

CONTRIBUTION TO INTRODUCTION:

Benton County, OR residents are, in general, highly educated and engaged in their local community. Many are passionate about the stated values expressed in the 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative. Therefore, it is important to not just keep those values in mind during the entire process of formulating an SMMP plan, but require the consultant to trace each recommendation back to the values expressed in the Initiative.

Engaging with the community throughout this process with any innovative measures on how this can take place, either virtually or with town hall type gatherings would be important. As would experience in such community engagement.

I believe this community could spearhead a revolutionary full-cycle materials management program when the Coffin Butte landfill reaches its conclusion and the choices residents make become economically and practically noticeable. At present, no matter what a Benton County resident does, no matter how environmentally conscious and steadfastly concerned they are about the environment that is passed to future generations, any waste management action a resident makes is lost in and dwarfed by the actions of the 28 or so other municipalities from which waste is accepted. Once the landfill is quiesced, Benton County residents will be able to see a measurable influence on disposal costs and concomitant beneficial environmental effects from intelligent re-use of materials.

Benton County is positioned to be extraordinary in terms of its waste management policies. Corvallis, the largest city in the county, hosts Oregon State University with 30,000+ students who constitute half the population. As a public land grant, research university, OSU, with an environmentally conscious student body can wield enormous positive influence on innovative waste management programs.

It is becoming recognized that landfills are an inefficient and environmentally costly method of waste disposal. As legislation continues to encourage wiser product packaging, producer responsibility, and product substitution, our community will look back to this Sustainable Materials Management Plan and judge us by standards that have not yet been formulated but that can be detected in the developing consciousness of our community's values statement.

This is a community that would, if challenged, embrace innovative ways to reduce our carbon footprint even if it meant a making a little more effort. Suggesting programs and ways in which the community could participate and measure their participation is important. Quiescence of the landfill is integral to the ability to measure recycling and re-use efforts. Designing systems to support individuals' sustainability goals is what our residents are telling us they want.

Given the values of our community it makes sense to look to European countries as models for our county's Sustainable Materials Management vision.

QUESTIONS I AM HOPING WILL BE ADDRESSED IN TOC SECTIONS:

How can we use government grants and programs that are being set up to combat the effects of climate change to create a truly unique and innovative program that makes the best use of the resources available in our county and highlights our most valuable assets to enable our residents to 'be their best selves' in terms of living a sustainable life?

How can we encourage local construction companies to provide recycling facilities for tenants with the use of building codes, subsidies or penalties to encourage responsible construction that will continue to be viable in the future?

How do we support and extend the Oregon 2050 Vision for Materials Management? How do we support Oregon SB 582, the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act, in our county? What is a practical, economically feasible, and innovative path for our county to move from where we are today to a responsible and sustainable community? How can we use our unique assets and any economic benefits we might glean from our county natural resources? Can we use our rivers and forests to foster more sustainable local practices?

Can we foster legislation to encourage building codes that support recycling capabilities and other sustainable materials use in construction? Can we require a level of waste reduction and re-purposing of building materials and demolition debris?