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Publication: Oregon Business

Date: June 2021

Article: 2021 100 Best Green Workplaces  
in Oregon | p35



Welcome to our annual ranking of the **100 Best Green Workplaces in Oregon**. The following list showcases companies and nonprofits whose employees rate their employers' sustainability efforts highly. It also includes descriptions of employers' sustainability practices during the pandemic.

In the past 15 months, many employers have faced the challenge of continuing sustainable missions with a mostly remote workforce. The fact that many employees have not been in the office for more than a year has not stopped list participants from living out their sustainability ethos.

Green list employers, for example, have held virtual educational sessions to inform staff how they can continue green practices at home, such as providing tips on how to recycle Amazon packages and lessons on how to grow and cook food.

Others have undertaken energy-efficient office upgrades. These improvements have the added benefit of making offices more resilient against the spread of COVID-19, such as the installation of new HVAC systems that filter air more efficiently, and the addition of hands-free faucets and light switches that reduce water and electricity use.

Employers have also made efforts to boost employees' morale during this year of heightened anxiety. For several years, the notion of sustainability has widened to encompass social benefits as well as environmental protection. List participants point to their efforts to maintain employee well-being as proof of their commitment to sustainability. These initiatives include hosting virtual yoga sessions and happy hours, and sending employees wellness gift baskets with notes of appreciation.

As more employees return to the office this year, organizations are likely to maintain sustainable-workplace habits picked up in the pandemic. Employees have signaled their willingness to introduce hybrid-work models that allows employees to work part of the time at home. This will lead to reduced energy use and carbon emissions as employers downsize office space and employees commute less.

The pandemic has redefined and transformed many workplace norms. Being a sustainable workplace can take extra effort. But the past 15 months have taught us that challenges that seemed difficult to overcome before the pandemic now appear more surmountable, and may even accelerate the adoption of a more sustainable way of living and working.

BY KIM MOORE  
LIST COMPILED  
BY CRAIG PEEBLES

<b>1</b> Bartlett Tree Experts Clackamas Oregon employees: 35 Overall score: 297.15 Tree care company	<b>2</b> Green Acres Landscape Salem Oregon employees: 100 Overall score: 289.21 Landscaping contractor	<b>3</b> Energy 350 Portland Oregon employees: 38 Overall score: 285.84 Energy-efficiency consulting firm	<b>4</b> RHT Energy Medford Oregon employees: 16 Overall score: 282.45 Engineering consulting firm	<b>5</b> Vernier Software & Technology Beaverton Oregon employees: 109 Overall score: 282.10 Manufacturer and seller of STEM technology
<b>TIE 6</b> Hartmann & Forbes Tualatin Oregon employees: 82 Overall score: 280.30 Maker of window and wall coverings	<b>TIE 6</b> Pepper Foster Consulting Portland Oregon employees: 26 Overall score: 280.30 Business consulting firm	<b>8</b> American College of Healthcare Sciences Portland Oregon employees: 39 Overall score: 277.88 Higher education provider	<b>9</b> Sponsors Eugene Oregon employees: 40 Overall score: 277.67 Nonprofit provider of reentry services	<b>10</b> Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors Portland Oregon employees: 6 Overall score: 277.02 Nonprofit providing ecology lessons and field trips to K-12 students
<b>11</b> Lorentz Bruun Construction Portland Oregon employees: 54 Overall score: 276.10 General construction firm	<b>12</b> Rose Villa Portland Oregon employees: 200 Overall score: 275.63 Continuing-care retirement community	<b>13</b> Opinion Dynamics Portland Oregon employees: 15 Overall score: 275.06 Energy-efficiency research and consulting company	<b>14</b> Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide Eugene Oregon employees: 11 Overall score: 275.00 Environmental and public health law advocacy nonprofit	<b>15</b> Softstar Shoes Pilot Knob Oregon employees: 28 Overall score: 274.34 Shoe manufacturer