



ABOUT

IDEAS IN ACTION

TRIM TAB

EDUCATION

RESOURCES

BRANCHES

Home

## OREGON'S PUBLIC SECTOR PUSHING IT

Friday, April 5, 2013

By Colin Price



The public sector in Oregon is launching new efforts to help transform our material economy. Leading local governments are trying out new ways to strengthen transparency and chemical hazard disclosure by leveraging their purchasing dollars and collaborating on a Healthy Purchasing Initiative. And Governor Kitzhaber signed an Executive Order (EO 12-05) last year establishing a new Green Chemistry Innovation Initiative at the State of Oregon. Both efforts illustrate how smart ideas and strategic partnerships lead to action.

While innovation is critical for businesses and the private sector, some public agencies, bureaus, departments, and divisions are also increasingly willing to test and adopt new strategies. That's one of the reasons these two initiatives are notable. Organizations in Oregon's public sector are becoming early adopters of innovative strategies and tools designed to strengthen transparency in the marketplace. They're taking important steps

that will allow for more informed materials selection decisions for their projects, facilitated by efforts like Declare and industry uptake of the Health Product Declaration.

**Advanced Vegetative Roof System Tray**  
Columbia Green Technologies

**Final Assembly:** Washougal, WA, USA  
**Life Expectancy:** 30 YEARS  
**End of Life Options:** Recyclable (100%)

**Ingredients:**

**Tray:** Adipic Acid, Polypropylene Copolymer, Talc, Ethene-1-Octene Copolymer, Ethylene-Propylene-Ethylidenenorbornene, Water, Diatomaceous Earth Flux Calcined (Orlando, FL); **Pins:** Nylon 6/6 Black

**Living Building Challenge Criteria:**

CGT-0001	EXP. 10/1/2013
LBC ZONE 5	07 50 00
<b>Declaration Status</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LBC Red List Free
	<input type="checkbox"/> LBC Compliant
	<input type="checkbox"/> Declared

MANUFACTURER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABEL ACCURACY  
INTERNATIONAL LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE™ [declareproducts.com](http://declareproducts.com)

Multnomah County and the City of Portland are building on their existing commitments to toxics reduction by piloting chemical hazard disclosure and safer alternatives requirements for architectural and engineering contracts as part of the Healthy Purchasing Initiative.

In typical Oregon fashion, both jurisdictions are establishing a coalition with other local governments and possibly businesses, working collaboratively to adopt harmonized approaches and share expertise. In a matter of months, this effort has already yielded commitments from the City of Hillsboro as well as the Port of Portland to collaborate, with others showing strong interest. Together, this group will further leverage their significant purchasing dollars and resources to send an even stronger signal to manufacturers that they value transparency and safer, innovative alternatives to hazardous chemicals in materials.

Both of these efforts will further strengthen demand for not only products and materials, but for firms that know how to navigate materials selection and specifications

While slower, the work implementing the provisions of Executive Order 12-05 at the state level is progressing. Oregon has a strong foundation in green chemistry and product design at our universities and in some of our key industries. State agencies are making sure that implementation is synergistic with these existing efforts.

Persistent pressure and opposition from industry trade associations and their lawyers has grown over the EO, while a group of leading businesses and nonprofits have stepped up and are voicing their support.

Recent letters to the Governor and key staff in support of executive order implementation illustrates how diverse businesses, advocates, and public agencies can collaborate for action. This collaboration is possible in part because safer chemicals, materials, and products benefit communities, ecosystems, and businesses alike.

Moving forward, there are opportunities to become engaged in these initiatives. If you'd like to know more about either effort, or share some of your expertise, feel free to contact me ([colinp@oeconline.org](mailto:colinp@oeconline.org)).



Colin Price is the Director of Research & Market Innovation with Oregon Environmental Council.

Declare

Materials Red List

Portland

Cascadia

## TRIM TAB BLOG

## Watching The Challenge Unfurl

Tuesday, April 9, 2013



Last night, I decided to unwind by watching the second half of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament's national championship game. During a commercial break I noticed a Lexus commercial featuring slick music and a split-screen footage of a car touring the uber-modern streetscapes of what I recognized as Vancouver.

## Metaphors, Poetry and the Governor - A Day in the Life of a Living Building

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

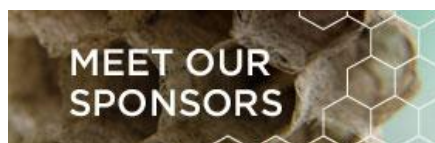


Today, Washington Governor Jay Inslee signed Senate Bill 5802 that aims to develop new solutions to ensure that the state of Washington meet the existing greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2020.

## International Living Future Institute and GreenWizard Form Partnership

Thursday, March 28, 2013

GreenWizard's Product Management Workflow™ Will Now Include Declare™ products

[Read More Blog Posts](#)




---

#### SUBSCRIBE TO CASCADIA UPDATES

First name

Last name

Email

SUBSCRIBE

#### CASCADIA GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL'S MISSION

To lead a transformation toward a built environment that is socially just, culturally rich and ecologically restorative.

FOLLOW US:

Copyright © 2012 International Living Future Institute. All Rights Reserved.