Oregon’s Exploration into Buy Clean Policies

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What does the Construction Section do?

- Leads continuous improvement of overall construction program quality and statewide consistency.
- Responsible for statewide construction policies, procedures and processes.
- Provides construction expertise and training programs.
Why do we have a Climate Office?

- Transportation accounts for about 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon.
- GHG emissions will exacerbate climate change with increasing impacts on weather, people, plants, and animals.
- ODOT is committed to reducing GHG. We follow the Statewide Transportation Strategy (STS) for GHG reduction.
GHG Inventory: Operations, Materials & Fuels

• Reduce GHG from construction and maintenance operations
  • Fuels (mobile and stationary)
  • Materials (asphalt and cement concretes)

• Strategic Action Plan:
  • Set climate change emission baseline
  • Phase in lower carbon materials, fuels & practices
  • Monitor and adjust

Oregon Department of Transportation
Operational Greenhouse Gas Reductions: Best Practices & Recommendations
Recommendations... over 40 total

• Maximize use of SCMs

• Support contractor and materials industry transitions

• Develop Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) program
Oregon House Bill 4139 – “Buy Clean”

- Requires ODOT to set-up a “program for GHG reductions”
- The agency to collect EPDs, conduct LCAs on asphalt, concrete and steel
- ODOT to devise strategies for reducing GHG emissions
- Allows for regional variability and prioritization of quality / performance
HB 4139 Implementation

- Weekly team meetings
- Research and test low-carbon materials
- Hiring Sustainability Engineer
- Technical Advisory Committee
Recommendations for consideration:

• Facilitate training, LCA education

• Improve data, best practices for “use phase”

• Focus on EPDs for specific ingredients

• Stakeholder outreach
Thank you!