

Sustainable City Year Program

What is SCYP

SCYP is a program of the University of Oregon and the Sustainable Cities Initiative that works with one Oregon city over a yearlong period. Students work on city identified, real-world projects that further the city's goals. Typically projects are already in the city's work plans and classes focus on specific, tangible, and beneficial outcomes and products.

SCYP is a proven model with years of success working with Gresham, Salem, Springfield, Medford, Redmond and now Albany. The model has been adopted and adapted across the country and internationally and now exists in over 27 universities.

A Typical SCYP Year

- 25 or more city-identified projects
- 500 students, upper-level and graduate-level classes
- 40,000 - 60,000 hours of student time
- Diverse project opportunities with 14 departments across campus:
 - Architecture
 - Arts & Administration
 - Business
 - Digital Arts
 - Economics
 - Environmental Studies
 - Geography
 - Interior Architecture
 - Journalism
 - Landscape Architecture
 - Law
 - Planning
 - Public Policy
 - Product Design

Benefits of SCYP

- Increase Capacity
- Expand the Conversation
- Test the Waters (take risks)
- Outreach (including marginalized groups)
- Increased Efficiencies
- Energize Staff
- Move Projects Forward
- Continued Momentum

Example Projects and Outcomes

City of Springfield

Springfield Public Library Facility Programming & Design
(Architecture)

Examine required elements and renderings for a new Downtown Springfield Public Library.

Outcome: Based on student work, library awarded facility planning grant; will begin library schematic design. After further fundraising, the City of Springfield will issue a professional design services Request for Proposals.

Market Feasibility of Density; High Density Residential & Student Housing (Business)

Economic analysis of residential density requirements and impacts on cost effectiveness of development in the Glenwood riverfront area; recommendations to incentivize higher densities including market feasibility of density bonuses.

Outcome: Following student-generated economic assessment of high density residential with a focus on student housing within Glenwood Urban Renewal Area, it was determined that the city should not focus on density bonuses.

City of Medford

Medford Downtown Wayfinding (Geography)

Collect data on wayfinding signs (location, description, appearance); analyze data to determine where and type of signs needed; recommend key sign locations to direct people so they can navigate downtown area.

Outcome: City Council approved money in biennial budget to finish UO study and then implement.

Public Engagement with Diverse Communities in Medford (Planning)

Elicit opinions about challenges and barriers faced by minority populations; identify mechanisms to help the city and Latino population develop a productive, lasting, and mutually beneficial civic engagement.

Outcome: Police Department pursuing student-recommended strategies such as regularly contributing to Medford's Spanish speaking magazine.

Bicycle Transportation in Medford: Connections to the Bear Creek Greenway
(Planning)

Create a more comprehensive and complete bicycle infrastructure by enhancing the use and connection of the Bear Creek Greenway to the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses.

Outcome: Student work presented to Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee; BPAC now working with city council to complete one of the projects.

City of Salem

Salem North Downtown Waterfront Redevelopment (Architecture)

Develop design concepts for opportunity sites in the area between River and Broadway, north of Union; identify barriers to redevelopment.

Outcome: Further studies completed; project in URA plan to allow future investment.

Industrial Ecology (Business/Management)

Recommendations for expanding industrial by-product reuse in dairy, food processing and at the Willow Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Outcome: Students addressed how waste generated in local facilities could be reused, recycled, or composted locally. The city started taking a local biofuel company's waste. The city earned \$1M (recurring) in tipping fees and turned waste into energy to power the plant through the cogeneration facility. The city is looking at cogeneration capacity expansion to capture more energy thereby reducing costs and serve more of the local hauled waste market.

Orchard Village: High Performance, High Density Housing (Architecture)

Create development plan for three-acre Orchard Village site, adjacent private property, and infill options for other SHA multi-family properties.

Outcome: Student designs used to seek HUD funding; developer pursuing student recommendations for an on-site garden and bicycle shop.

Integrating Pringle Creek with Riverfront Park (Landscape Architecture)

Develop design concepts for Pringle Creek trail connection. Students explored urban design-based approaches to the revitalization of the 13-acre riverfront site that included ecological restoration, riverfront access and transportation improvements, and community-oriented land use.

Outcome: Developer is daylighting portion of the creek based on student recommendations.

City of Redmond

Bike the Hub: Creating a Family-Friendly Bike System in Redmond (Planning)

Analysis of key public hubs in Redmond and transportation infrastructure to increase the walkability and bikeability of Redmond. Key suggestions ranged from the inclusion of vegetated medians and bulb-outs to repainting and increasing signage of bike lanes.

Outcome: Sixteen of 18 suggestions to be included in the upcoming city Transportation System Plan; student bike and pedestrian improvement recommendations along 15th Street from Obsidian Avenue through Highland Avenue and up to Deschutes Avenue to be incorporated into city street projects.

City Benefits Summary

Increase Capacity

- 25 or more city-identified projects
- 500 students, upper class and graduate-level classes
- 40,000 - 60,000 hours of student time
- Diverse project opportunities in 14 departments across campus

Expand the Conversation, Test the Waters (take risks)

- Access to nationwide best practices, latest ideas
- Creativity, new ideas — thinking ‘outside the box’
- Projects developed to a point where they can be evaluated
- Pre-consultant work (consultants, licensed professionals can then be more efficient and cost effective)

Outreach (including marginalized groups)

- Large outreach effort via range of mediums
- Students are disarming and open up conversations
- Reach beyond the vocal minority
- Cover more ground
- Fresh approach, no preconceptions
- Faculty national leaders in field

Increase Efficiencies, Energize staff

- Leverage resources by streamlining staff efficiency
- Connect across layers of government, partners, and community to identify and address gaps, overlaps
- Identify areas for cost savings
- Add capacity from UO and other partners (school districts, chambers of commerce, downtown associations, etc.)

Move Projects Forward

- “Un-stick” problem issues, projects
- Connections and conversations with the “right” people (getting things done)
- New energy, fresh perspective

Continue Momentum

- Connections between staff and stakeholders equals time and money savings
- Final products can be implemented or further study done by consultants or licensed professionals
- Focus on the positive in government by media, community
- New employees, citizens (former students) who understand local government