



## ***The Long View***

Spring 2018

Greetings Sustainable Future Section members! Welcome to a newer format of our Section newsletter, *The Long View*. In 2018 we will use the *The Long View* to update you on Section activity and to cover a timely topic in a single article. Please let us know what you think and also let us know if you'd like to help produce a newsletter by contacting us through

<https://sustainablefuture.osbar.org/newsletter>

### **Section Update:**

We welcome several new members to our Executive Committee ("EC") giving us a broader geographical representation ranging from Eugene, Salem, and Portland areas. Our 2018 EC Meetings take place the first Wednesday of the month from noon to 1:15 p.m. and while they take place most often in Portland, they will be held approximately quarterly in Newport. We have also instituted participation by web conferencing to allow face-to-face meetings, while keeping the phone conferencing option. For more information, look for the monthly SFS agenda that the Bar sends to SFS members about a week or two before the meeting. All SFS members are invited to attend EC meetings.

Our SFS Committees, represented on our website at <https://sustainablefuture.osbar.org>, have been busy. Here is a brief summary of the activity: Our **Programs Committee** continues to produce high quality gatherings, usually CLE's but also gatherings to watch films of particular interest. Our **Legislative Committee** is leading the EC's efforts on advancing a possible legislative proposal through the Bar to amend Oregon's Prudent Investor Rule to add a law improvement component allowing trustees where appropriate to consider environmental and social governance ("ESG") in exercising their fiduciary duties. Our **Partners and Awards Committee** is performing the biannual update of the OSB Partners in Sustainability criteria, reviewing Partners applications, and will again lead the SFS in the Ecochallenge. The **Climate Change Committee**, a product of the SFS Climate Change Task Force Report that SFS adopted in January 2017, has been working to implement this report's recommendations, discussed in more detail below in this newsletter. Our **Website Committee** is updating the website and interfacing with the Bar on data loss issues that the Bar experienced in this first quarter 2018. The **Newsletter Committee** is revising format and content as noted above. SFS has also interfaced with members of other bar associations in the country and with our American Bar Association delegates to discuss issues of sustainability and law and the legal profession.

SFS members are encouraged to volunteer with any SFS committee in a project or an on-going effort where they have particular interest.

**SFS Climate Change Task Force:**

The Sustainable Future Section Climate Change Task Force Report (“Report”) produced several recommendations:

- Issue a Climate Change Statement
- Provide Legal Support for Climate Change Legislation
- Encourage Attorneys to reduce emissions and practice sustainability
- Amend the state Constitution to include a specific reference to the State’s duty to hold all natural resources in trust for future generations.
- Align State Bar/bar association investments with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) values

We refer interested persons to the Report to review the recommendations in greater depth.

[https://sustainablefuture.osbar.org/files/2017/03/SFS\\_ClimateChangeTFreport.pdf](https://sustainablefuture.osbar.org/files/2017/03/SFS_ClimateChangeTFreport.pdf)

A closer look at any of our SFS committee work demonstrates how we are working to implement these recommendations along with performing other functions of the Section’s charge. Some recommendations, such as amending the State of Oregon’s Constitution, are a larger reach than other recommendations, such as encouraging attorneys to reduce emissions and practice sustainability in their law practice. The individual efforts are important, though, and consistent with the Oregon State Bar’s Bylaw 26 regarding Sustainability.

The Report includes the science supporting efforts to reduce emissions causing climate change and describes efforts in the legal profession to address this challenge. The EC is working to synergize SFS committee efforts as the committees work at varying times and degrees on climate change related issues. SFS educates our section members and consequently any interested Oregon State Bar member, in issues regarding the science of climate change, we are working to support pro bono efforts in this area, and we are beginning to engage the Bar administration in considering law, the legal profession, and climate change. In addition, we communicate with U.S. lawyers outside of Oregon on the topic of the legal profession and sustainability as it relates to climate change. On April 28, 2017, 250 lawyers gathered by webcast or in person for a national conference, which included CLE credits for Oregon State Bar members in attendance either in person or remotely, focused on current work in which lawyers engage to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Sustainable Future Section participated along side other bar association organizations to present on evolution of the Section and the Climate Change Task Force Report. For more information on this CLE see the SFS website or contact the SFS Chair Diane Henkels dhenkels@actionnet.net.

On April 20, 2018 another conference will take place to continue the dialogue among lawyers on the topic. Sustainable Future Section commends and supports this education effort and will provide information shortly on how SFS members may participate in person and remotely at the

*Contact the Sustainable Future Section (<https://sustainablefuture.osbar.org/newsletter>)  
or any SFS EC member to let us know how we might add value to your  
Sustainable Future Section membership.*

conference. Meanwhile we encourage SFS members to join the SFS community in Linked In for dialogue and informal SFS updates.