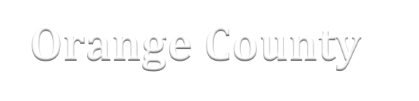
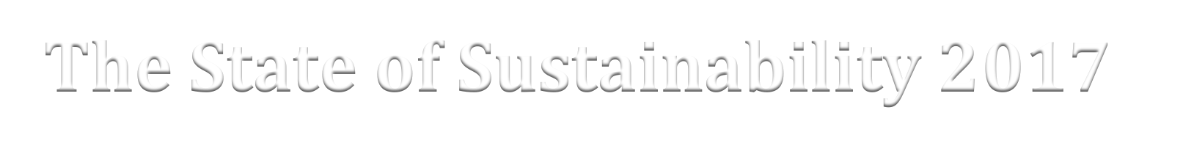
**Public Outreach**

**8.14 ASCE-OC State of Sustainability 2017 Report**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1. Section, Branch** | ASCE-OC |  |
| **2. Section/Branch Size** |  |  |
| **3. Project Contact** |  | |
| Name | Salem Afeworki, LEED GA, ENV SP | |
| Phone Number | 510-701-7056 | |
| Email | [safeworki@valuesustainability.com](mailto:safeworki@valuesustainability.com) | |
| **4. Project Category** | Public Outreach | |
| **5. Project Description** | ASCE-OC Sustainability Committee’s State of Sustainability 2017 Report provides a comprehensive picture of how sustainability is being approached by a wide range of organizations and agencies in Orange County.   * The survey was comprehensive: 17 individuals gave in-depth answers through an online survey during February and March 2017. The engineering, architecture and other professional respondents work in a range of fields, including transportation, energy, water, environment and education. They work for major architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) firms, small businesses, universities, non-profits, and many others. | |
| **6. The Process**  (What you did, When and How) | First, we developed the initial survey questions, and shared with the whole sustainability committee for comments or feedback. Then we made a list of professionals we would like to send the survey questions to. We set the timeframe and decided which platform to use (we used to google forms)**.** Then we sent out questions to already identified respondents and ask committee members to forward it to their colleagues, friends etc.And finally, we conducted data analysis, summarized findings using chart/graphics and developed the report. | |
| **7. Those in Charge** (Committee, Task Committee, Etc.) | Members of ASCE-OC Sustainability Committee were in charge of the project 100% - from design to full report development. | |
| **8. Time Frame**  (When Started, When Completed) | * The project started on Feb 2017, when survey questions were sent out and the final report was ready for publication by the end of 2017. We could have finished the project in 5-6 months but due to our day jobs and family commitments –we were not able to publish it as ASCE-OC’s Newsletter until the last week of December 2017.   <http://www.asceoc.org/newsletter/article/the_state_of_sustainability>  \_in\_orange\_county\_december\_2017 | |
| **9. Success Factors**  (The Parts that Worked Really Well) | We used to google forms to conduct the survey (free of charge) and the results were in a format (excel) that allowed us to process and analyze the results easily. | |
| **10. Setback Factors**  (The Parts that did Not Work Well) | Some of the questions were too broad – as a result, some of our respondents left it blank as it didn’t apply to their work.  Because it was the first time doing such a survey – we had a lot of general questions to have baseline information. Next time around, we should be able to develop more tailored and fit for purpose questions that dive into details. | |
| **11. Creativity**  (This is something off the wall that we did) | Almost all the sustainability committee members made sure that they completed the survey and forwarded the survey questions to their colleagues and counterparts.We also got 2 sustainability practitioners (non-engineers, MBAs) in OC that have over 30 years of experience in the field – provide input to our final report as editors and high-level contributors. | |
| **12. Administration**  (What was most Important?) | **Coordinating with** our respondents to get their survey answers on timely manner. | |
| **13. Follow-Up**  (What was most important?) | Making sure that the main author of the paper gets adequate feedback while developing the report – rather than waiting until the end to do so. | |
| **14. Recommendations**  (What you should ALWAYS do with this project?) | Design the questions very well that are tailored to local realities; assign responsibilities early in the project & make team members accountable; and get external feedback (outside the sustainability committee members). | |
| **15. Cautions**  (What you should NEVER do with this project?) | Stick to close ended questions (multiple choices) with max 1-2 open ended questions. Avoid providing many open-ended questions – as processing the data received is very labor/time intensive. | |
| **16. The Outcome** | A report on the State of Sustainability 2017 – Orange County | |
| **17. Ongoing Activity**  (Would you do it again?) | Yes! | |
| **18. Speaker Contact Information**  (person from your Region who would be willing to speak about the Best Practice) |  | |
| Name | Salem Afeworki, LEED GA, ENV SP, Aff. ASCE | |
| Address | 421 Bernard Street, Suite 123, Costa Mesa CA 92627 | |
| Phone Number | 510.701.7056 | |
| Email | safeworki@valuesustainability.com | |
| **19. Additional Comments** | Full report attached | |



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Principal Researcher: **Salem Afeworki, LEED GA, ENV SP, Aff. ASCE**

Editor: **ASCE-OC Sustainability Committee members**



We are grateful to the 17 professionals living or working in Orange County (OC) who took the time to share their experiences, insights and outlooks in this survey. My thanks and appreciation also go to ASCE Sustainability Committee members for assistance in scoping the project, as well as other professionals who contributed their time and talents. A special acknowledgement goes out to those individuals in OC who helped refine the survey instrument and thereby contributed valuable insights into this effort: William Borges and John Irvine.

**ABOUT VALUE SUSTAINABILITY**

Value Sustainability is a southern California based SBE/DBE firm that offers high quality and cost-effective strategic consulting services to agencies and private sector clients. The firm specializes in providing advisory services in sustainable design, planning, reporting, climate change management, and community engagement. We take a pride in being passionate sustainability practitioners with diverse backgrounds, disciplines and outlooks. Our main objective is to help clients identify opportunities and synergies to develop and implement robust solutions thereby making sustainability an essential tool for unlocking business value. We are green change agents integrating sustainability, systems thinking and responsible transformational leadership into daily business practices. For more information on who we are and what we do please visit: [**www.valuesustainability.com**](http://www.valuesustainability.com/)

**CONTENT**

**Key Takeaways**

**Chapter 1:** The Respondents

**Chapter 2:** Importance of Sustainability

**Chapter 3:** How do you organize Sustainability?

**Chapter 4:** Put money where your mouth is

**Chapter 5:** Making it Real

**Chapter 6:** Earning the Return

**Chapter 7:** Looking Outward and Forward

**Chapter 8:** Conclusion and Recommendation



**Welcome to American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE-OC) Sustainability Committee’s State of Sustainability 2017 Report - a comprehensive picture of how sustainability is being approached by a wide range of organizations, firms and agencies in Orange County.**

In this report we asked the OC community about:

* **The significance of sustainability.** What does it mean for different organizations? How seriously is it taken at the highest levels of management? Who, ultimately, takes responsibility?
* **The organization of sustainability operations.** Does silo thinking about sustainability still prevail, or is sustainability becoming embedded throughout the organization? Is sustainability still largely a marketing effort – providing information, training and monitoring – or a frontline role, with direct bottom line benefits to the organization? What place does sustainability have in agenda setting?
* **Sustainability budget and returns.** What resources do organizations dedicate to sustainability? What are the identifiable returns-on-investment (ROI) and how are they measured?
* **Future prospects.** How will sustainability evolve in the year ahead, and what will the situation be in five years’ time?

Our respondents told us that the great majority of firms and agencies are now convinced of sustainability’s value. The sustainability discipline has started to slowly escape from its silo and is becoming a vital aspect of strategic planning, engineering, construction and even operations and maintenance. This is especially true for public agencies that have the greatest reputational and operational risks as they build and operate long-lived infrastructure. In addition, the regulatory requirements in the State of California are forcing agencies and businesses to develop a strategy to minimize their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, promote healthy living, create green jobs, and contribute positively to socio- economic qualities of life.

Although sustainability is becoming a key strategic issue for public sector and private consulting firms, our respondents reported that there is considerably more work ahead to leverage its potential. This is no surprise. Huge changes are needed to current, conventional business practices and models. Further, they cannot be implemented overnight. In this context, the *State of Sustainability 2017, Orange County* report is a baseline study, a starting point for further work.