**Left Coast Sustainability Factsheet**

Sustainability is a core value for us here at Left Coast. We strongly believe in responsible stewardship of our land. We take a dual pronged approach. First, we have implemented a variety of sustainable practices that limit the negative byproducts of our commercial operation and help to preserve the long-term viability of our framing practices. To achieve these goals our vineyards and winery are certified sustainable by [LIVE](https://livecertified.org/). LIVE uses a vigorous and scientific 3rd party certification process to ensure that the highest environmental standards are met and adhered to. Second, we seek to give back to the local ecology of our region. We have currently committed over 100 acres of the estate to permanent ecological compensation areas. These areas provide important habitat for local flora and fauna and we’ve partnered with the US Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that areas are properly managed. In the fall of 2016 we expanded the Left Coast Estate with the purchase of 130 acres of adjacent land to bring the entire estate to a total of just over 450 acres. The increased acreage includes some pristine old growth oak forest as well as areas that have the hydraulic composition to be restored to wetlands. We plan to expand our sustainable efforts by committing more acreage to ecological compensation areas with a goal of nearly 200 acres or 44% of the entire estate.

**Sustainability Practices**

* Gravity Fed Drip Irrigation System (GFDIS)

Our Drip Irrigation is 98% water efficient.

This means that 98% of the water used for irrigation makes it directly to each individual vine in the selected vineyard. This allows us to use less water because virtually none of it is wasted.

* Rain Fed Reservoirs Gravity Powered Irrigation

Our reservoir sits at the base our amphitheater shaped estate. This means that the estate water supply is generated through its own watershed. Our region of Oregon gets enough precipitation that the reservoir is typically filled by early December.

* Gravity Powered Irrigation

Water levels are closely monitored at our solar powered pump house. When needed, water is pumped from the reservoir up to our surge pond on top of Truffle Hill. All of the water used for irrigation can flow out of the surge pond via gravity to reach any of our 8 estate vineyards.

* Soil Moisture Probes

The probes are placed throughout our vineyard blocks to measure soil moisture amongst the vines roots. They are at depths of 12”, 24”, and 36” feet. This also us to monitor the hydric needs of our vineyards and only use water where it is truly needed.

* Solar Power

In 2008 Left Coast became the Willamette Valley’s leader in Solar Powered viticulture. We received the largest USDA renewable energy grant for the state of Oregon and installed two large solar arrays. One sits in the Latitude 45 vineyard near the entrance to the estate and the other on the roof of our winery. The two arrays combined generate an average of 83kW of power each day and provide over 90% of the estate’s electrical needs. We plan to expand our solar power to keep up with our growing business and return to being 100% solar powered by 2020.

**Left Coast Sustainability Certifications**

* Certified “LIVE Sustainable”

LIVE stands for Low Input Viticulture and Enology and is a vigorous third party certification process that ensures the best viticultural processes are used. Both our vineyards and winery are LIVE certified. The goal is to use a minimum amount of fertilizers and pesticides by following scientifically developed sustainable farming practices. <https://livecertified.org/>

* Certified “Salmon Safe”

Salmon Safe focuses on protecting fish and their watersheds. Given the importance of fish to the ecology of the Pacific Northwest it is vital to ensure that their delicate ecosystems are not adversely affected by our farming practices. <https://www.salmonsafe.org/>

**Conservation**

* The Willamette Valley Oak Accord

Left Coast is a founding member of the Oak Accord, which is a voluntary partnership of private landowners seeking to preserve Oak habitat in the Willamette Valley. The key outcome of the Willamette Valley Oak Accord is to improve or increase the amount of high quality oak habitat in the region. To achieve that goal, individual landowners will work on their property to restore existing oak habitat, or contribute to oak restoration work on another property. Since it’s inception over 1500 acres have been pledged to conversation in the Willamette Valley. <http://willamettepartnership.org/the-oak-accord/>

* Oak Savannah Restoration Project

In 2016 we joined the Partners Program with the US Department of Fish and Wildlife to preserve and restore 40 acres of old growth Oregon White Oaks at the center of the estate. Once the forest is fully restored we plan to expand the program to all of the oak forests on the estate and will have over 80 acres of forest reserved for conservation. In support of this project we hold an annual 10k Run/ 5k Walk to raise funds and awareness for Oak conservation. All proceeds from the race and food and wines sales for the day go directly to forest restoration.

<https://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/>

<http://leftcoastcellars.com/runfortheoaks/>

* NRCS Oak Savannah Restoration Project

We are in the process of applying to expand our Oak Restoration efforts. We have another cluster of newly acquired old growth oak forest containing some trees estimated to be over 600 years old. The varying ages and density of this 35-acre forest combined with our other conservation efforts puts us in a good position to be accepted into the NRCS Oak Restoration project this fall. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/or/home/>

* NRCS Wetlands Conservation

We are in the process of applying for a conservation easement with the NRCS with the goal of restoring 70 acres of the estate to wetlands. This will be a permanent easement and provides rare wetlands habitat in close proximity to the Basket Slough Wildlife refugee. This helps to create a green belt in our local region that can support greater numbers and diversity of threatened wildlife. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/or/home/>

**Left Coast Sustainable Winery Achievements:**

* Over 100 acres of the estate are currently committed to ecological compensation areas. We have plans to add another 50 acres to this program within the next 2 years and an additional 50 acres by 2022.
* Winery and Vineyards certified LIVE Sustainable.
* We maintain a trail system on the property to showcase conservation areas and better educate our visitors on the importance of sustainability.
* The winery and vineyards compost 100% of their waste. We mix the compost to create natural fertilizer that we put back in to the vineyards as well as our gardens.
* All of the water used in the winery is recycled and used to irrigate the grasses and landscaping surrounding the building. The water then flows downhill and is filtered through several alleyways of vegetation before it reaches the reservoir where it is again recycled to irrigate the vineyards.
* Raptor Habitat. We have erected several raptor perches and work with non-profits Perch and Turtle Ridge Wildlife to release rehabilitated raptors into the wild at the estate.
* Over 90% of estate’s energy needs are generated through our solar arrays. We plan to continue to invest in solar power to match the growth in the estate. Our goal is to be 100% solar powered by 2020.
* Farm to Fork gardening program where we organically grow as much food as possible for our Tasting Room. We augment our menu regularly to emphasize use of estate ingredients. We also maintain flocks of free range Ducks and Chickens for eggs and occasionally butcher them for meat.
* We’ve formed important partnerships with local conservation agencies to cooperatively manage our estate and ensure that we are a part of wider regional conservation efforts.