



The **GlobalOregon™** Concept

[Register](#) by May 2 for the kick-off of **GlobalOregon™** or at www.globaloregon.org and guarantee you will have a fresh lunch on May 8 to power your brain to produce innovative solutions to challenging international problems.

GlobalOregon™, an initiative of OHSU's Global Health Center, brings together Oregon's companies, NGOs, government, and academia. The goal is to explore how the state's green-energy and *other* industries can partner with poverty-bound communities at home and abroad to power development, advance health, and control disease and death from HIV-AIDS, TB, cholera, and other preventable diseases – and to do so while promoting Oregon's economy, trade, and jobs. Join other thinkers and planners on May 8th in the OHSU Old Library Auditorium to help develop strategies for how Oregon can help shape a healthier future for *everyone*.

GlobalOregon™ – The concept in a nutshell – actually, two nutshells. If you are a hard nut to crack, you may need to read both!

Nutshell #1. Oregon's Physical and Mental Energy has the Power to Prevent Fatal Diseases Worldwide. Today's worldwide HIV/AIDS epidemic mirrors the global cholera pandemics of yesteryear that claimed millions of lives across the world. More than 25 million people have died from HIV/AIDS, leaving over 14 million AIDS orphans in Africa, with greater numbers inevitable in countries like Zimbabwe, where 20% of adults are HIV-infected.

In 2008-09, cholera, a disease of historic importance, which results in a more rapid death than AIDS, generated even more African orphans by killing over 10% of adults in affected areas of Zimbabwe. Likewise, in the 1850s, 10% of pioneers on the Oregon Trail died from cholera, caused by lack of clean water and adequate sanitation.

Oregon *transformed* from developing to developed by harnessing river energy to generate power to pump fresh water, preserve food and medicine, promote sanitation, build and light hospitals, and distribute vaccines without spoiling. The same transformation from disease to health is possible in Zimbabwe, and in other low-income countries, with the introduction of sustainable energy sources, such as the solar, wind, wave and biomass energy devices now under development and in production in Oregon.

Nutshell #2. Oregon can do itself a favor by helping advance the health of the most disadvantaged on the planet. Oregon's standard of living, with our long healthy lives, is sustained by inexhaustible supplies of local energy. Likewise, today, local sources of (green) energy placed in low-income communities worldwide can battle malnourishment and infectious disease, which will improve and extend life. A green-energy device placed in a village can generate electricity to pump clean water free of bacteria; preserve food without the growth of toxic fungus; provide energy to cook without wood cut from dwindling forests; illuminate schools, homes, and clinics; and create an environment for many other health-promoting applications. Fewer children will die from preventable diseases, while health and longevity will advance in a recapitulation of the Oregon experience. This will be done best in partnership with communities that can benefit from such interventions.

Made-in-Oregon green-energy devices (e.g. solar, wind, biomass, microhydro, wave), innovative products of other Oregon industries (e.g. agriculture, construction, health), the know-how of Oregon's educators, researchers and students, and the on-the-ground experience of Oregon's NGOs, can synergize to jump-start development and advance health in low-income communities abroad where Oregon's NGOs and industry might operate. Select a village, obtain the full support of the community, partner in selecting an appropriate technology, and build on those opportunities. Resolve the problems, measure the health and societal impacts, perfect the model, and publish data in partnership with the community to demonstrate how that relationship has advanced development and health.

Demonstrable success on a small scale – powered-up villages with transformed health indices -- will position Oregon to compete for development and health funds to build and re-build communities in low-income countries. Examples of development funds include the billions of international dollars earmarked for Haiti's recovery and re-building, and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest commitment ever by any nation for an international health initiative that now includes other neglected diseases. By demonstrating success on a small scale, Oregon's green-energy, agriculture, construction, health, and other industries, can tap into those funds and, thereby, expand Oregon's economy by stimulating business, trade, and employment.

In a nutshell, Oregon can do itself a favor by helping advance the health of the world's most disadvantaged.

Click here for more details about the [GlobalOregon™](#) Concept.