

Veggie: Diet education is important

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Resseguie said the most important thing about being a vegetarian is educating yourself on what you need to eat.

"It's not a very big challenge as long as your diet didn't consist of twinkies and white bread [before becoming a vegetarian]," Resseguie said.

Resseguie said he has noticed most restaurants in town now feature a vegetarian menu or column, making it increasingly easy to be a vegetarian in Eugene. There are at least eight natural food stores in the Eugene area, he said.

The consensus? It's easy being green in Eugene.

State could weigh a tax on pollution

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — A "green tax" movement to cut traffic and pollution is slowly gaining ground in Oregon as a way to link dissatisfaction with taxes and frustration with environmental regulation.

Some European countries, notably Sweden, are moving in this direction, but no American state has yet embraced taxes on pollution. Minnesota lawmakers are debating a bill that would impose a \$1.3 billion pollution tax to reduce property taxes for schools.

In Oregon, Gov. John Kitzhaber has opened the door to discussion. A committee

that reviewed the state's tax system mentioned the possibility in its recent report.


"I think it's definitely a chance to air these issues more than they have been and at a higher level than before," said Jeff Allen, executive director of the Oregon Environmental Council.

The idea resulted from the economics of taxation: whenever something is taxed, there tends to be less of it.

John Ledger, a lobbyist for Associated Oregon Industries who focuses on environmental issues, said industry already pays plenty of fees related to pollution.

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