

# Climate Protection in the City of Portland, Oregon: Challenges and Solutions

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In 1993, Portland became the first local government in the United States to adopt a plan to address global warming. In 2001, Multnomah County joined the City of Portland in adopting a revised plan, the Local Action Plan on Global Warming, outlining more than one hundred short- and long-term actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2010. To place this goal in context, total greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. are now 17 percent above 1990 levels, and the target for the U.S. under the never-ratified Kyoto treaty is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions seven percent below 1990 levels by 2010.

Cities are responsible for 80 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions, and with the concentration of the world's population living in cities expected to increase from the current level of 50 percent to 60 percent by 2030, cities will continue to present the greatest opportunities to reduce global greenhouse emissions in the foreseeable future. Cities, particularly those experiencing rapid population and economic growth, will be much more likely to address their own greenhouse gas emissions if they can adopt practices that have proven to be successful in other cities. Although emissions from Portland and Multnomah County are a tiny fraction of global emissions, by demonstrating how communities can evolve and thrive while minimizing emissions, the City and County can have a significant impact on a global issue.

The City and County have made substantial progress in carrying out the goal of the Action Plan, and local emissions have begun to drop, sharply countering the national trend. Despite rapid population and economic growth, total local greenhouse gas emissions in 2006 were less than one percent above 1990 levels. On a per capita basis, emissions have fallen by 15 percent, an achievement likely unequalled in any other major U.S. city.

These accomplishments are the result of a diverse array of efforts by public agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations and local residents. Successes include:

- A 90 percent increase in public transit use since 1990.
- The addition of two major light rail lines and the Portland Streetcar.
- A recycling rate of 63 percent, among the highest in the nation.
- 150 high-performance (LEED) green buildings completed or underway.
- Planting more than 750,000 trees and shrubs since 1996, improving the quality of local waterways as well as absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- The weatherization of 35,000 multifamily units since 1990.
- The establishment of the Energy Trust of Oregon and consistent funding for energy-efficiency and renewable energy programs.
- A quadrupling of bicycle commuting to 4.4 percent, the highest among large U.S. cities and more than eight times the national average.
- Passage of a statewide Renewable Energy Standard, requiring that 25 percent of all electricity be produced from renewable resources by 2025, and 5 percent by 2011.
- Implementation of a local Renewable Fuel Standard, requiring that all diesel sold in Portland include at least five percent biodiesel, and all gasoline include at least 10 percent ethanol.
- The highest hybrid-vehicle registration rate in the U.S.

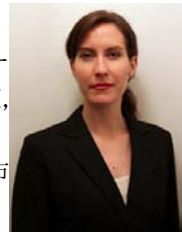
Achieving the City and County 2010 goal of 10 percent below 1990 levels remains a significant challenge, and it is important to recognize that even this goal is only the first step in addressing global climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that emissions must decrease by 50 to 85 percent during the next 40 years to stabilize the climate.

Portland and Multnomah County's efforts are a noteworthy accomplishment and represent a significant departure from the national trend, but these efforts must accelerate dramatically if we are to confront successfully the full magnitude of climate change. We need to set new, more aggressive goals, and to strategically implement the policies, programs, incentives and planning efforts needed to reach them. Some ideas under consideration are as follows:

- Establish an investment fund to pay for comprehensive, neighborhood-scale energy efficiency and clean distributed generation throughout Multnomah County.
- Require performance ratings for all residential buildings (at time of sale) and for all commercial buildings (by date certain or time of sale, whichever comes first).
- Require time of sale weatherization for all existing homes in Multnomah County.
- Require retrocommissioning/retrofits for existing commercial buildings, or establish energy budgets for representative building types. Reward buildings that come in under budget, and penalize those who exceed it.
- Develop and implement a plan for creating complete communities (commercial and civic services within walking distance or easily accessible via transit) throughout the county.

With persistence, coordination and innovation, Portland, Multnomah County and our many partners can serve as a model community that thrives, environmentally and economically, while addressing the challenge of climate change.

リサイクル産業専任,リサイクル  
ワークプログラム: 3R (リデュース,リユース,リサイクル)省資源,  
再利用,リサイクル)に関して技  
術指導および資源を提供する市  
と地域の連携事業を推進.



特に業界の永続的な構造変化を促すための建築  
提携,市場調査,業界規定,その他効果的方法に  
ついて精力的に取り組んでいる.ジャーナリズムお  
よび環境科学学士