



# PORTLAND: THE GREEN MEETINGS DESTINATION

## GREEN LEADERSHIP

- The City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability ensures that sustainability principles are thoroughly integrated into the core of Portland’s planning, urban design and government operations.
- Portlanders recycle 63 percent of their trash, one of the highest rates in the nation.
- Oregon introduced the first bottle bill in the United States in 1971.
- Travel Portland was the first CVB in the United States to join the Green Meeting Industry Council.

## TRANSPORTATION

- Portland’s MAX light rail system transports visitors from Portland International Airport to downtown Portland in less than 40 minutes.
- In “Fareless Square,” a 300-block area encompassing downtown Portland, the Oregon Convention Center and the Pearl District, transportation on all MAX trains, buses, trolleys and streetcars is free.
- Through a grant with The Climate Trust, Portland has retimed traffic signals at 135 intersections to reduce fuel consumption by 1.75 million gallons of gas per year and decrease CO2 emissions by 15,460 tons per year.
- Portland has the nation’s highest percentage of bicycle commuters, 3.5 percent – about eight times the national average. The 2000 U.S. Census found that more than 5,000 Portlanders commute to work by bicycle.
- Portland is the only large city to have earned the platinum Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) status from the League of American Bicyclists.
- Half-size blocks facilitate exploring on foot and restaurants, shops and attractions are within easy walking distance of most hotels.

## GREEN FACILITIES

- In 2008, the Oregon Convention Center became the first convention facility in the nation to recertify its LEED-EB (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – Existing Buildings) status at a higher level: Silver.
- Major hotels are Green Seal certified.
- Portland has more LEED-certified buildings per capita than any other city in the United States.
- More than 100 local structures, including the Pearl District’s “Ecotrust Building,” utilize eco-roofs: plant-covered rooftops that cleanse rainwater, absorb solar heat and provide excellent natural insulation.
- The Gerding Theater at the Armory is the only building on the National Register of Historic Buildings to achieve LEED-Platinum status.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING/GREEN SPACES

- Portland was named the “Greenest City in America” by *Popular Science* magazine in February 2008.
- The city garnered the top spot for “Environmental Awareness” and “Public Transportation” in *Travel + Leisure*/CNN’s 2007 favorite cities poll.
- Dozens of Portland chefs are committed to working with local farmers, putting the city at the forefront of the “FLOSS” (fresh, local, organic, seasonal and sustainable) food movement.
- Portland is home to both a sprawling urban wilderness – the 5,000-acre Forest Park – and the world’s smallest dedicated park, Mill Ends Park (24 inches in size).
- There are 181 developed parks and 150 miles worth of trails within Portland’s boundaries.
- All Oregon cities have an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to limit urban sprawl and preserve farms and forests. Portland’s UGB is recognized as an example of successful urban planning.