



PORTLAND · OREGON



The Green

MEETINGS DESTINATION

TRANSPORTATION

- Portland International Airport's MAX light rail spur was the first train-to-plane option on the West Coast.
- Rides on all buses, light rail trains and streetcars in "Fareless Square" — a 330-block area encompassing downtown Portland, much of the Pearl District and the Oregon Convention Center — are always free.
- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, more than 5,000 Portlanders ride their bikes to work each day.
- Portland, through a grant from The Climate Trust, is retiming its traffic signals to reduce fuel consumption by 470,000 gallons of gas per year and decrease CO₂ emissions by more than 4,000 tons per year.

WALKABLE CITY

- Short blocks allow more natural light to fall to street level.
- A compact downtown allows quick and easy access to restaurants, shops and attractions.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING/GREENSPACES

- Dozens of Portland chefs live by the mantra "eat, shop, cook local." This philosophy supports hundreds of organic farmers, artisan cheesemakers, family owned wineries and small brewers.
- Portland is home to an annual green-living exposition, Natural Style: A Sustainable Living Festival.
- Portland was named "America's Cleanest City" in a recent *Reader's Digest* survey.
- Portland is home to both the nation's largest urban wilderness — the 5,000-acre Forest Park — and the world's smallest dedicated park, Mill Ends Park (24 inches in size).
- Portland has 278 public parks and 150 miles of trails.
- All Oregon cities have an Urban Growth Boundary, beyond which sprawl is prohibited.

RECYCLING*

- Portlanders recycled 54 percent of their waste in 2001, more than any other U.S. city.
- Oregon introduced the first bottle bill in the United States in 1971.

**Recycling statistics at Metro-region.org*

GREEN ROOFS/GREEN BUILDINGS

- Per capita, Portland has more LEED-certified buildings than any other city in America.
- In 2004 the Oregon Convention Center's expansion became the first convention facility in the nation to receive the new LEED-EB (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design — Existing Building) Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.
- One of the Oregon Convention Center's most beautiful green features is the Rain Garden, a series of landscaped waterfalls, pools and native grasses that scrub pollutants from the rainwater draining from the center's massive 5.5-acre roof.
- Portland's Ecotrust Building is one of three local structures with ecoroofs, plant-covered rooftops that cleanse rainwater, absorb solar heat and provide excellent insulation.

GREEN LEADERSHIP

- The website of the Portland Oregon Visitors Association (POVA) is completely powered by green energy sources.
- POVA was the first U.S. CVB to become a member of the Green Meeting Industry Council.



It's not easy being green.

Portland Oregon Visitors Association

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