



## Environmental Programs Backgrounder

Summer 2017

### Mission:

The Port of Portland's mission is to enhance the region's economy and quality of life by providing efficient cargo and air passenger access to national and global markets, and by promoting industrial development.

### Policy:

The Port's environmental policy challenges all staff to integrate environmental stewardship into the business of operating marine and aviation facilities, and acquiring and managing industrial land.

The Port's environmental performance is one part of an organization-wide, triple bottom line focus on sustainability that also addresses social and economic performance.

### Programs:

The Port operates under a certified ISO 14001 Environmental Management System with independent third-party verification to continually track and improve environmental performance.

The Port pursues annual objectives and targets aimed at reducing its operational footprint and going beyond compliance to integrate sustainable measures into business operations.

**Enhancing and Managing Natural Resources:** The Port of Portland manages properties with an emphasis on protecting natural resources, drawing from the best available science. The Portland International Airport Wildlife Hazard Management program focuses on non-lethal tools to control species around airfields and prevent flight hazards. The Port manages 900 acres of wetland and upland mitigation sites, including the award-winning Vanport Wetlands. Current projects include restoring rare grassland for pollinator and bird habitat on Government Island and managing the Sandy Island Conservation Area for streaked horned larks.

**Conserving and Protecting Water Quality:** The Port's Water Resources program focuses on reducing water use and enhancing water quality. At several marine sites, stormwater is managed through porous pavement and bioswales. Irrigation systems use real-time meteorological data to determine watering needs. At the PDX terminal, low-flush toilets have dramatically reduced water usage, while an innovative aircraft deicing system treats stormwater runoff on-site.

**Reducing Energy Use and Emissions:** The entire fleet of PDX parking lot shuttle buses runs on compressed natural gas. PDX has 63 electric vehicle chargers, the most of any airport in the country. The Port purchases renewable energy certificates exceeding 100 percent of electricity use and is a partner in the Energy Trust of Oregon's Strategic Energy Management program. Repowering the *Dredge Oregon*, which maintains the Columbia River navigation channel, increased fuel efficiency and reduced diesel particulate emissions by more than 85 percent.

**Minimizing Waste and Recycling:** The Port has implemented a five-year plan to achieve 90 percent or greater landfill diversion rates at its facilities. The robust waste minimization program provides technical assistance and outreach to airport tenants to reduce waste and recycle a wide variety of materials. A composting program has diverted over 1,600 tons of food waste from the landfill. Working in partnership with Urban Gleaners, PDX restaurants have donated 67,000 community meals since 2015.

**Investing in Sustainability:** In 2010, the Port completed construction of a new consolidated headquarters building and parking garage at PDX. The LEED Platinum certified facility showcases innovative green building techniques designed to reduce water and energy use, improve indoor air quality, and minimize waste. It features an eco-roof and Living Machine wastewater treatment system.

### Recent Awards:

- **Ranked in the Top 10 in the Local Governments category and in the Top 100 (# 91) among 100 percent Green Power Purchasers**, Green Power Partner Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2016.
- **Airports Carbon Accreditation** for Portland International Airport, Hillsboro Airport and Troutdale Airport – making them the fourth, fifth and sixth airports in North America to achieve the status.
- **Sustainability at Work Gold recertification** of the headquarters building from the City of Portland, 2015-18.
- **STAR Award for Citizen Involvement** for the PDX Community Advisory Committee from the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission.

**Contact: Lisa Appel | Environmental Outreach Manager | 503.415.6047**  
[lisa.appel@portofportland.com](mailto:lisa.appel@portofportland.com) | [www.portofportland.com](http://www.portofportland.com)