



**Bureau of Planning and Sustainability**  
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## Under 2 MOU – Appendix

### City of Portland, Oregon, USA

December 2016

#### Profile

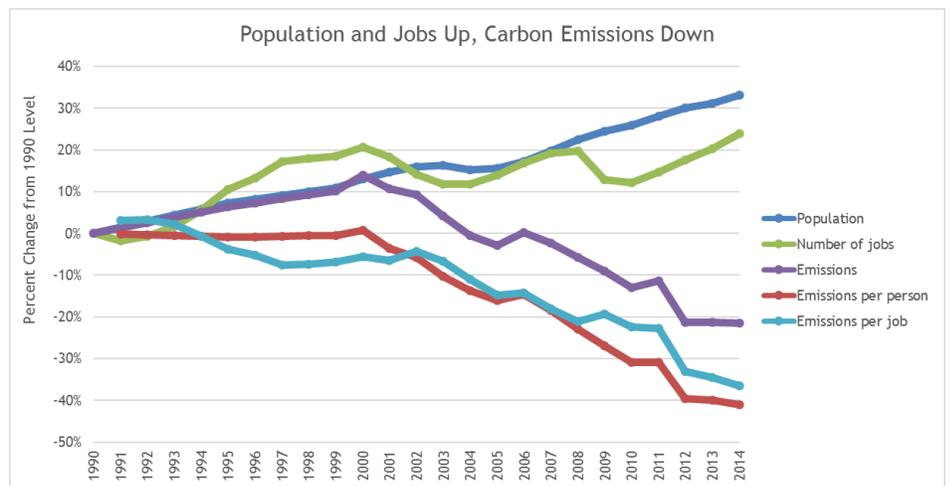
Located at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, Portland is a growing city of 630,000 in a metropolitan region of 2 million and in close proximity to the Pacific Ocean, Cascade Mountains, bountiful agriculture lands, and evergreen forests. Its diverse economy includes concentrations in manufacturing, high-tech, and athletic apparel, with an unusually high percentage of Portland’s jobs at small businesses. Portland has historically been more affordable than other West Coast cities, but it is currently experiencing extreme upward pressure on housing costs. Addressing inequities in wealth and opportunity is a top priority for Portland across all policy arenas, including climate change.

#### Targets and Emissions

Portland was the first city in the U.S. to adopt a climate action plan in 1993. In 2015 Portland adopted [its fourth climate plan](#) jointly with Multnomah County and reaffirmed a goal of reducing total local carbon emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 and 40% below by 2030.

As of 2014, per person carbon emissions were 9.1 metric tons, a decrease of 41% from 1990 levels.

Total carbon emissions were 7.1 million metric tons, 21% below 1990 levels.



#### Tools and Strategies

Portland’s Climate Action Plan seeks to maximize the economic, social and environmental co-benefits of transitioning away from fossil fuels by focusing on:



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- Strengthening the local economy.
- Shifting to low-carbon patterns of urban development, transportation, buildings and consumption.
- Creating and maintaining high quality jobs that are accessible to all.
- Improving community livability and public health.
- Advancing social and racial justice.
- Building strong, resilient infrastructure and supporting natural systems.

Key objectives and recent initiatives in Portland’s climate plan include the following, all underpinned by an accompanying set of climate equity objectives.

Climate Action Plan Objective	Recent Initiatives and Accomplishments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce the total energy use of all buildings built before 2010 by 25 percent.</li> <li>2. Achieve zero-net carbon emissions in all new buildings and homes.</li> <li>3. Supply 50 percent of all energy used in buildings from renewable resources.</li> </ol>	<p>All commercial buildings larger than 20,000 square feet are required to benchmark their energy performance and report key metrics to the city.</p> <p>Beginning in 2018, houses in Portland must obtain and display a home energy score when they are listed for sale.</p> <p><b>Results: Buildings are getting more efficient.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portland homes use 14 percent less energy per person today than in 1990.</li> <li>• The number of solar energy systems installed in Portland increased from a dozen in 2003 to nearly 4,000 today.</li> <li>• Portland is home to more than 180 certified LEED green buildings.</li> </ul>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Create vibrant neighborhoods where 80 percent of residents can easily walk or bicycle to meet all basic daily, non-work needs.</li> <li>5. Reduce lifecycle carbon emissions of transportation fuels by 20 percent.</li> </ol>	<p>In 2016, Portland adopted its first complete update to its Comprehensive Plan in 30 years, prioritizing walkable neighborhoods, middle-wage jobs, affordable housing, and efficient transportation systems.</p> <p>In 2015 Tilikum Crossing, the first new bridge across the Willamette River in more than 40 years, opened. The \$140 million bridge carries light rail, streetcar, buses, cyclists, and pedestrians, but no private vehicles.</p> <p><b>Results: Portlanders are driving less and using less gasoline.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even with a 33% increase in population, 7% fewer gallons of gasoline were sold in Multnomah County in 2014 than in 1990.</li> <li>• Seven percent of Portlanders bike to work, nine times the national average, with over 12,000 more people bike commuting today compared to 1990. Transit ridership has almost doubled over the past 20 years.</li> <li>• Since 1990, the Portland region has added four light rail lines, the Portland Streetcar, and 260 miles of bikeways.</li> </ul>

<p>6. Reduce consumption-related emissions by encouraging sustainable consumption and supporting Portland businesses in minimizing the carbon intensity of their supply chains.</p> <p>7. Reduce food scraps sent to landfills by 90 percent.</p> <p>8. Reduce per capita solid waste by 33 percent.</p> <p>9. Recover 90 percent of all waste generated.</p>	<p>With the addition of weekly food scrap composting service and shift to every-other-week garbage collection in 2011, residential garbage taken to the landfill has decreased by over 35%, and collection of compostable materials has more than doubled. In 2016, Portland prohibited the demolition of houses built before 1916, only allowing those structures to be removed if they are fully deconstructed to maximize the materials that are salvaged for reuse.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Portland recycles or composts 70% of its solid waste.</p>
<p>10. Reduce consumption of carbon-intensive foods and support a community-based food system.</p>	<p>The Malden Court Community Orchard was created on City-owned property through a partnership with the nonprofit Green Lents and neighborhood residents.</p>
<p>11. Sequester carbon through increased green infrastructure (trees, plants, soil) and natural areas.</p>	<p>Over 3 million new trees and shrubs have been planted in Portland’s natural areas since 1996 through the City’s revegetation work, improving the air quality and the health of local watersheds and helping to cool the urban environment.</p> <p>Portland now has over 390 ecoroofs covering nearly 20 acres of rooftop.</p>
<p>12. Engage communities, especially impacted under-represented and under-served populations, in the development and implementation of climate change-related policies and programs.</p> <p>13. Motivate all Multnomah County residents and businesses to change their behavior in ways that reduce carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Through a partnership with Portland State University, 10 climate action-focused student interns were placed in community-based organizations that serve Portland’s under-served and under-represented communities.</p>
<p>14. Reduce carbon emissions from City and County operations by 53 percent from fiscal year 06–07 levels.</p>	<p>Since 1990, LED street lights and traffic signals, renewable power from in-pipe hydro, biogas, and solar energy, and a policy of investing in all energy-efficiency measures with a payback of 10 years or less reduced city government’s energy bill by 25%, saving \$7 million annually.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Carbon emissions from City operations are currently 32 percent below FY 06-07.</p>

## **Adaptation**

In 2014 Portland adopted a [Climate Change Preparation Strategy](#) and associated [Risk and Vulnerability Assessment](#). Key elements of both of these documents are also incorporated into Portland's overall 2015 Climate Action Plan.

Portland's primary climate risks are increased temperatures, drought, wildfire, flooding, and landslides. Portland's climate adaptation strategy identifies actions to be taken in three arenas: human systems, natural systems, and infrastructure and the build environment.

## **Priorities to 2020**

- **Climate equity:** Use carbon reduction actions to 1) prioritize equitable access to low-carbon solutions like active transportation and weatherized homes, 2) engage low-income populations and communities of color in climate policy and program design and implementation, and 3) ensure that climate preparedness activities prioritize residents who are most vulnerable to climate impacts.
- **Net-zero buildings:** Accelerate construction of net-zero buildings using technical assistance, incentives and recognition. Support more aggressive energy performance requirements in Oregon's statewide building code.
- **Electric vehicles:** Improve access to and visibility of charging stations, and motivate residents and businesses to transition to EVs.
- **Climate change preparation:** Increase Portland's ability to respond and recover to projected climate impacts of more (and more intense) flooding, landslides, heat waves, fires and drought.
- **Consumption-based carbon emissions:** Inventory and explore policy and program options to reduce all of the carbon emissions that are generated elsewhere because of Portland residents' consumption of goods (e.g., food, furniture, clothing, electronics) and services (e.g., health care, banking).