



# Environmental Programs Backgrounder

January 2016

**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.

**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 the operational footprint and going beyond compliance to integrate sustainable measures into business operations.

**Preserving and Restoring Natural Resources** The Port manages properties with an emphasis on protecting natural resources, drawing from the best available science and research in the field. The Portland International Airport Wildlife Hazard Management program focuses on non-lethal tools to control species around airfields to prevent flight hazards. The Port manages over 900 acres in its mitigation program, including the award-winning Vanport Wetlands. It is currently restoring rare grassland to enhance habitat for pollinators on Government Island.

**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 runoff on-site.

**Reducing Energy Use and Emissions** The Port reports its greenhouse gas emissions to The Climate Registry, and was a founding member in 2008. The Port purchases renewable energy certificates equivalent to 100 percent of electricity use and is a partner in the Energy Trust of Oregon’s Strategic Energy Management program. Port Executive Director Bill Wyatt is a member of the Governor’s Commission on Global Warming. The entire fleet of PDX parking lot shuttle buses runs on compressed natural gas. The airport now has 48 electric vehicle chargers, the most of any airport in the country. The Dredge *Oregon*, which maintains the Columbia River navigation channel, recently had more efficient engines installed, significantly increasing fuel efficiency and reducing particulate emissions by 88 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 assist airport tenants and airlines reduce waste and recycle a wide variety of materials. A composting program has diverted over 1,600 tons of food waste from the landfill. At PDX, a food donation program has donated 180,000 lbs. (90 tons) of food, or 120,000 meals, since its inception in 2013.

**Investing in Sustainability** In 2010, the Port completed 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 (at # 72) among 100 percent Green Power Purchasers**, Green Power Partner Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2015
- **Airports Carbon Accreditation** program certification 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** at the headquarters building from the City of Portland, 2015-18.

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