



## Portland Sustainability Guide

Portland, Oregon is the biggest city in Oregon - home to about 620,000 people and roughly three million people in the Portland metro area. Portland is known for its lack of sales tax, rainy season, environmental consciousness, top breweries, food carts, reliable public transportation, and easy access to endless outdoor activities!

Portland is a beautiful, environmentally progressive city that has taken the concept of open space planning and compact urban growth to heart. The adoption of an urban growth boundary in 1979 has helped protect lands outside of the city to present day, while encouraging density and vibrancy within the city limits. Portland today has over 5,000 acres of green space and around 250 parks and recreational sites – including the world’s smallest park, Mill Ends Park. [Learn more about](#) the extensive history of sustainability and urban innovation.

Portland sources much of its energy from hydroelectricity produced in Oregon. The city has mandated that buildings supply all electricity needs community-wide with renewables by 2050 and has already met the goal of powering city operations with 100% renewable energy sources. Portland has also developed a City Energy Challenge Program and has mandated energy efficiency, benchmarking, and waste management programs. The entire metro area of Portland recycles, composts, and generates energy from (see: biomass, anaerobic digestion) over 60% of its waste. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability has led Portland to adopt a goal to raise the recycling rate of all recyclable materials to 90% by 2030.

Schools in Portland have also taken an aggressive approach to climate literacy and sustainability. In May, the Portland Public Schools (PPS) board unanimously passed the most comprehensive [climate literacy](#) policy of any school district in the country, pledging to abandon the use of text materials that deny the human roots of the climate crisis or that minimize its consequences. The resolution also called for every school to implement a climate justice curriculum and provide robust professional development opportunities. It grew out of a collaborative effort of teachers, students, parents, and community activists. Additionally, in January of 2020, Portland General Electric announced a first-in-the-nation partnership around open-source, K-12 climate change curriculum and awarded PPS \$250,000 to develop this curriculum and lead the nation in climate literacy! [Learn more about](#) PPS’ climate justice work and sustainability programming.

Sustainability is part of everyday life across the entire Portland metropolitan area and it takes many organizations to have such a robust community to support these initiatives. See here for a list of additional [sustainability related organizations](#) to check out and utilize as a resource during your time in Portland – and after!

# Sustainability at the Green Schools Conference

The Green Schools Conference and Expo (GSCE) is the largest gathering of green schools' advocates in the country. GSCE is produced in partnership between the [Center for Green Schools](#) at the U.S. Green Building Council and the [Green Schools National Network](#).

There are many sustainability features of the 2020 conference. Interested to learn more? Sign up for one of the behind the scenes sustainability tours offered to attendees on Tuesday.

Green Venue Hilton Portland Downtown	Key Initiatives at GSCE	How to be a Green Attendee
<p>Appliances &amp; products are <b>Energy Star</b> Rated and <b>Green Seal</b> Certified</p> <p><b>Composts</b> all food scraps for the past 15 years – far before curbside was widely available in Portland</p> <p>Recycles all leftover cooking oil to be converted to <b>biodiesel</b></p> <p>Works with <b>local donation or recycling partners</b> for leftover food and beverage, e-waste, furniture, and more</p> <p><b>No single use plastic water bottles</b> or single use coffee cups will be provided in guest sleeping rooms for GSCE</p>	<p>Plenary Luncheon meal will be <b>entirely vegetarian</b> to reduce the water, energy, and carbon footprint of the meal</p> <p>All meals will feature <b>locally sourced, in season ingredients</b></p> <p>Conference lanyards are made in the USA from <b>100% recycled</b> post-consumer plastic bottles</p> <p>All service-ware is durable and <b>reusable or compostable</b></p> <p><b>Housekeeping service</b> in guest sleeping rooms is <b>available by request only</b> to save water and energy from laundering bedding and towels</p>	<p>Bring and use your <b>reusable water bottle and coffee thermos</b></p> <p>Learn about the conference hotel sustainability efforts during a <b>back of house sustainability tour</b></p> <p><b>Return your conference lanyard</b> at the end of the event so it can be reused at a future event</p> <p><b>Go on a run</b> where \$1 per mile per participant will be donated to <a href="#">Girls Inc</a> on Tuesday, March 3</p> <p><b>Thank exhibitors and speakers</b> for minimizing handouts and giveaways</p> <p><b>Participate in Click</b> - the mobile app game - and receive points for sustainability and other challenges</p>

## Traveling Around Portland

Portland is a great city to explore and it's easy to get around using alternative transportation. Here are some suggestions for keeping your trip low impact.

- [Biketown](#) bike share one-way rentals
- [Scooter](#) share one-way rentals
- [Bike There](#) map
- [Walk](#) around Portland
- [MAX](#) TriMet's light rail
- [Carpool](#) platform
- [Aerial Tram](#)
- [Ride to Nature](#) map

**[Transportation to and from the Portland Airport:](#)** The MAX light rail Red Line is the easiest (and most sustainable) way to travel to and from the airport. Getting to downtown Portland takes about 38 minutes and costs \$2.50 (Uber/Lyft will cost \$20+). At the airport, the MAX station is located on the lower level next to the south baggage claim area. From your gate, follow the signs for baggage claim/ground transportation or view the [airport map](#).

# Fun Things to Do in Portland

## Food - Vegetarian and Vegan

Have you been thinking about cutting back on meat-based meals or taking the leap to eat vegan? Why not try going plant-powered while you're visiting Portland? - an herbivore's paradise!

### Downtown Portland and The Pearl

[Bamboo Sushi](#): Sustainability-focused sushi with plant-based options (also has NE & SE spots)

[Dar Salam](#): Iraqi cuisine with many plant-based options (also has NE location)

[Prasad](#): Plant-based bowls, salads, and smoothies

[Cafe Yumm!](#) Veggie-friendly local fast food, delicious bowls known for their Yumm! Sauce

[Sizzle Pie](#): Thin crust pizza with lots of vegetarian and vegan options (also has NE location)

### NE Portland

[Blossoming Lotus](#): Fresh, plant-based, seasonal selections

[Back to Eden](#): Bakery with vegan and gluten free desserts and light lunch items

[Black Water Bar](#): Punk rock dive with vegan bar food

[Bye and Bye](#): Southern-inspired vegan food, late night options

[The Sudra](#): Indian-inspired vegan menu with a full bar

### SE Portland

[Canteen](#): Smoothie and juice bar with yummy vegan bowl options

[The Sweet Hereafter](#): Popular neighborhood bar with vegan comfort food menu

[Harlow](#): Plant-based bowls, salads, and smoothies

[Epif](#): Vegan pisco bar inspired by the Andes region of South America

[Double Dragon](#): Vietnamese-inspired vegetarian and vegan bar

[Dove Vivi](#): Cornmeal crust pizzas with lots of vegan options

[¿Por Qué No? Taqueria](#): Mexican food with vegetarian and vegan options

[White Owl Social Club](#): Bar with expansive outdoor patio, you must try the beet burger

### North Portland

[Homegrown Smoker](#): Vegan BBQ plates and southern soul food

[Falafel House](#): Neighborhood food cart with mouthwatering falafel, shawarma, and seitan gyros

[Native Bowl](#): Food cart with fresh, healthy, and delicious bowl options



## Breweries

There are endless brewery options in and around Portland. Here are some of the most sustainable options and the local favorites to check out.

[Wayfinder Beer](#): Great outdoor patio

[Ex Novo Brewing Co](#): 100% non-profit brewery

[Breakside Brewery](#): Award winning beer and one of the only employee-owned breweries

[Rogue Eastside Pub & Pilot Brewery](#): Check out 36 different innovative brews on tap

[Cascade Barrel Brewing House](#): Known for their sour ales

[Hopworks Urban Brewery](#): Portland's most sustainable brewery (very bike and kid friendly!)

[Deschutes Brewery](#): The most classic and widely known Oregon brewery

[Ground Breaker Brewing](#): Naturally Gluten-free beer

## Attractions

Whether you want to get outside for a hike or bike ride or explore world-class attractions, Portland has no shortage of fun opportunities to keep you entertained! If you like wandering, check out this [article](#) about Portland's most interesting neighborhoods to explore.

### NW Portland

[Forest Park](#): At 5,200 acres, Portland's Forest Park is one of the largest urban forests in the US.

[Powell's Books](#): The world's largest independent bookstore spanning a city block!

[Hike to the Pittock Mansion](#): Explore Portland's enchanted Forest Park, culminating at a historic century home featuring a spectacular panoramic view of the city and Cascade Mountains.

[First Thursday's in Pearl District](#): Art galleries in the district are all open late into the evening for receptions and new show openings.

[Chinese Garden](#): Tranquil botanical garden featuring rare plants native to China, decorative stonework, and a tea shop.

### SW Portland

[Portland Japanese Garden](#): Many styles of gardens showcased in serene 5.5-acre space with waterfall, teahouse, and mountain view.

[World Forestry Center](#): Visitors will be both educated and entertained as they learn about the importance of forests and trees in our lives, as well as environmental sustainability.

[PSU Saturday Farmers Market](#): Saturdays 9 AM – 2 PM, held in the City's Park Blocks. 100+ vendors from local farms selling fresh and prepared food and featuring live music.

[Portland Children's Museum](#): A museum that uses familiar materials to craft priceless opportunities for children to learn through play.

### NE Portland

[DIY Bar](#): Self-guided DIY craft projects with a bar offering wine, beer or cider on tap. They provide the tools, materials, and tutorials. Good for groups, book or call ahead for availability.

## SE Portland

[Mount Tabor Park](#): Summit Portland's "urban volcano" on one of three paved trails perfect for walking or biking and a great place for a picnic lunch.

[Oregon Museum of Science and Industry \(OMSI\)](#): Igniting fun and curiosity at the intersection of science, technology, and design.

[West Moreland Nature Park](#): Site of the Nature-based Play Initiative to create settings in developed parks that encourage creative play and interaction with natural features.

## Extending Your Stay

If you plan to extend your trip in Oregon, check out the list of local favorites or explore [Travel Oregon](#) for more destination and travel ideas

[Multnomah Falls](#): This 611-foot tall waterfall is awe inspiring and just 30 min outside Portland!

[Columbia River Gorge](#): A National Scenic Area featuring amazing biking, hiking, waterfalls, food, wine, and craft beer.

[The Oregon Coast](#): The coastline is one of the most stunning in the country, complete with state parks and harbors and is perfect for a day trip or weekend getaway.

[Mt. Hood Fruit Loop](#): This attraction is located in the beautiful Hood River Valley. Come taste Oregon wines, fruits, vegetables, flowers, ciders, and food.

[Silver Falls](#): Check out the famous South Falls and see what a 177-foot curtain of water looks like from behind.

[Wineries](#): The Willamette Valley hosts over 500 wineries and lots of other great attractions.

[Rice Museum](#): Do you love rocks and geology? Then the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals is not to miss.

[Bend](#): If Portland is a little too urban for you, take a trip up to the small but super hip city of Bend, dubbed the outdoor playground of the West.

[Confluence](#): Confluence is a non-profit organization that connects people to the history, living cultures, and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices. Check out their many beautiful and unique river sites and events all throughout the Columbia River system.



# Sustainability Hot Spots



**Portland Sustainability Walking Tour:** This walking, running or biking tour of downtown Portland starts at the Vera Katz Statue on the Eastbank Esplanade, crosses the infamous Hawthorne bridge, weaves through downtown, and continues along the Portland downtown waterfront and Springwater Trail to complete a 3-mile loop.



**Oregon Zoo Education Center:** As a zero energy and biomimicry-inspired interpretive building, the Education Center at the Zoo aims to help visitors appreciate the small, unsung heroes of the natural world. The Center boasts a myriad of interesting features including 760 solar panels, high efficiency lighting and HVAC systems, bird-friendly lights, a pollinator garden, bee hotel, green roofs, and more, all of which is woven into the building and exterior landscaping.



**SCRAP PDX:** SCRAP PDX is a nonprofit, craft thrift-store whose mission is to inspire creative reuse and environmentally sustainable behavior by providing educational programs and affordable materials to the community. SCRAP collects discarded materials from the public that can be reused and given new life. Check out SCRAP's mural-making project at the conference!



**ReBuilding Center:** The ReBuilding Center is an eco-friendly vendor specialized in selling used, reclaimed, and salvaged materials for home projects. The Center works to make reuse the norm; provide access to affordable building materials; teach home repair and building skills; and divert over 1,800 tons of salvaged material from the landfill per year.



**Tilikum Bridge Crossing:** The first bridge of its kind in the U.S., Tilikum Crossing carries only MAX Orange Line trains, buses, streetcars, cyclists, and pedestrians over the Willamette River. The lights change colors based on the Willamette River's speed, height, and water temperature. Tilikum is a Chinook Jargon word meaning people, tribe, or family, and the name is intended to honor the native Multnomah, Cascade, Clackamas, and other Chinookan peoples.



**Portland Aerial Tram:** The Portland Aerial Tram or OHSU Tram is an aerial tramway that carries commuters between the city's South Waterfront district and the main Oregon Health & Science University campus. On a clear day check out the one of a kind city and mountain views. For a more complete adventure, consider the [4T Trail](#) combining Tram, Trolley, Train, and Trail.

This local Sustainability Guide to Portland was created by the 2020 Green Schools Conference & Expo Host Committee.