



CITY OF PORTLAND
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland Green Building Policy Strengthens Environmental Development Practices City Council Adopts Standards and Incentives to Stimulate Sustainable Economic Development

Portland, OR – Portland's leadership in high performance green buildings, low impact development, and smart growth got another boost today from City Council, with Commissioner Dan Saltzman's recommendations to improve and expand the City's four-year old Green Building Policy. The new policy includes more rigorous standards for City owned facilities, PDC-funded projects and incentives to facilitate the permitting of LEED registered buildings in the private sector.

The Resolution, introduced by Commissioner Saltzman, recommends a series of new actions. All new City facilities must meet the **Gold** level of the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) system. LEED, a green building rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, has become the most widely used tool in the U.S. to help design and evaluate the environmental performance of a building.

Portland joins Scottsdale, Arizona as the second city in the country to require LEED Gold certification for City facilities. Regionally, Vancouver, BC also requires all of their municipal facilities to achieve LEED Gold.

The City's investment in green building practices and technologies does triple duty. It helps clean up Portland's environment by protecting local watersheds, improving air quality, and creating new habitat. It enhances the City's livability through pedestrian and transit friendly buildings with healthier indoor air quality. It stimulates investment in sustainable economic development.

"Enhancing Portland's green building policy helps link environmental protection to job creation," said Saltzman. "Portland is home to a diverse array of companies ranging from LEED-accredited architecture & engineering firms to green building product manufacturers and financial institutions, all benefiting from the City's commitment to environmental innovation and sustainable economic development," he added.

The City's updated policy addresses four major areas:

- **City facilities** (Buildings constructed, owned, leased and managed by the City of Portland). Increase LEED NC (New Construction) threshold for all new facilities projects from "Certified" to "Gold." Major retrofits and existing occupied buildings will achieve LEED EB (Existing Buildings) "Silver" standards. Tenant Improvements and leased facilities will achieve LEED CI (Commercial Interiors) "Silver" and/or G/Rated Tenant Improvement Guide certification. The City will also incorporate ecoroofs and Energy Star rated roofing when practical s into all operations and maintenance guidelines.

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- **City-funded private sector projects** - City Council directs the Portland Development Commission (PDC) to adopt LEED NC “Silver” standards for all private-sector development over 10,000 square feet that receive financial assistance from PDC and other public agencies (including value of fee or tax waivers) totaling over \$200,000 or 10% of the total project costs.
- **Public infrastructure** - The construction and maintenance of public infrastructure (utilities, streets) will incorporate green practices established by the Water Bureau, Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Office of Transportation and Office of Sustainable Development.
Private sector development - All private-sector projects meeting LEED Silver standards will receive special technical assistance from the City’s Bureau of Development Services through their established “Process Management” program. Additionally, projects can access the City’s nationally recognized G/Rated technical assistance program and Green Investment Fund (a five-year, \$2.5 million grant program that supports cutting-edge green building technologies).

“The City’s Green Building Policy has helped transform the development industry in Portland. We now have the most LEED-registered projects in the country,” said Susan Anderson, OSD Director. “This new and integrated package of standards and incentives will ensure Portland continues to be a green building leader.”

About OSD

The Office of Sustainable Development (OSD) brings together community partners to promote a healthy and prosperous future for Portland. OSD advances improvements and innovation in energy use and technologies, waste disposal, recycling, sustainable purchasing, environmental education and high-performance green building practices. OSD programs, policies and partnerships are key to community health, economic and environmental opportunities for Portland, its businesses and residents.

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