

BEST Business Center launched -

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For Immediate Release

BEST Business Center launched:

Supporting local businesses in resource conservation

PORTLAND, ORE - One of the city's most celebrated green buildings was the site of the launch of a new service for Portland's small businesses, the BEST Business Center. Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman announced the opening of the BEST (Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tomorrow) Business Center on January 31 at the Gerding Theatre at the Armory, as part of a celebration of City of Portland RecycleWorks Award winners.

As described by Saltzman, the BEST Business Center is a one-stop service, providing a complete sustainability audit to businesses and then connecting them with service providers that will help them accomplish their conservation goals, all designed to also improve the bottom line. "Portland enjoys the benefits of having many companies who are stepping out and saying that prosperity and a legacy of environmental stewardship can be the same thing," said Saltzman. "We are working to help companies continue to be leaders in these efforts, and the BEST Business Center is a significant step in making it even easier for Portland businesses to do the right thing for both the environment and their companies."

A visit to <http://www.bestbusinesscenter.org/> launches the process. Businesses complete a survey on their current efforts, costs and needs, and submit their information. If preferred, the process can also be done by phone. Once this information is gathered, the BEST Business Center partners work together to analyze it, form a report of specific recommendations, and work with the business to provide clear ways for the owners and staff to take action-action that conserves resources and saves money.

Partners in the BEST Business Center include the City of Portland Water Bureau; the Portland Development Commission; Pacific Power; Portland General Electric; and Metro. BEST Business Center leadership is provided by the City's Office of Sustainable

Development (OSD). "The BEST Business Center represents the benefits of the strong spirit of cooperation that has made Portland a leader in so many sustainable initiatives," noted OSD Director Susan Anderson. "Our partners' vision in support of this program is what makes it comprehensive and innovative. A pilot project for BEST last summer was a great success; we are now excited to make BEST available to the broad array of small businesses that contribute such a significant share to Portland's vitality."

The BEST Business Center can be found online at <http://www.bestbusinesscenter.org/> or by calling (503) 823-3919.

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About the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development

Founded in 2000, the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development (OSD) brings together community partners to promote a healthy and prosperous future for Portland. OSD advances improvements and innovation in reducing global warming emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy, biofuels, waste reduction and recycling, sustainable economic development, sustainable food systems and green building practices.