

MAYOR ADAMS TERM IN REVIEW

PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Across the country and around the globe, leaders look to Portland to learn from the decades of pioneering planning and sustainability decisions that have shaped our city. These decisions have made Portland one of the most livable cities in the world and have helped foster a vibrant downtown surrounded by distinct neighborhoods, connected by an expansive transit network, and lush greenspace.

Despite the praise we get and the strides we've made, Portland still faces significant challenges. Over the last four years we have responded to those challenges with strategic plans and smart, innovative solutions to support a more prosperous, healthy, educated, and equitable city.

Aligning Resources

In 2009, we began our efforts by merging the Office of Sustainable Development and the Bureau of Planning into the new Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, to infuse sustainability into everything we plan and do. The Planning Commission also expanded its scope and membership. The new members of the Planning & Sustainability Commission provide a broad perspective on the issues that impact our community including health, equity, the natural environment, transportation options, and education.

The Portland Plan

We met with Portlanders in every corner of the city to develop a shared understanding of our challenges and begin to imagine the possibilities for what our city could look like in 25 years. Over two years, more than 300 public events, 20 public agency partners, and 20,000 comments resulted in the Portland Plan.

Practical, measured, and strategic, the plan recognizes that Portland is becoming a more racially, ethnically and age-diverse city. A truly sustainable Portland includes not just quality jobs and a healthy environment, but also meets the needs of our changing population and culture.

The Portland Plan is built around three integrated strategies: to organize policies and actions that address job creation and affordability, create opportunities for high-quality education, and building a more vibrant, connected city for all Portlanders within an equity framework.

Climate Action Plan

In October 2009 the City of Portland and Multnomah County Climate Action Plan, and set tough targets for reducing our carbon emissions: 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. This Plan is already demonstrating real results. Since 1990, carbon emissions have climbed by 12% nationally, while here in Portland we have reduced emissions by 6%.

On a per person basis, carbon emissions in Portland have dropped 26%.

The dramatic decline in emissions comes in the wake of major investments to help Portlanders reduce their carbon footprints. From pedestrian and bicycle improvements and curbside composting service to assistance for increasing home energy efficiency, the City has made major progress towards implementing the goals of the climate action plan.

Composting and Waste Management

In the fall of 2011, the City of Portland launched residential curbside food composting citywide. Portlanders living in single-family homes can now easily compost food scraps, including meat and bones, by putting them in their green yard debris roll cart instead of their garbage can. Each ton of food scraps diverted from landfills is about one ton of greenhouse gases not created. Since the new service began, Portland households have diverted nearly 40% of their waste from the landfill. Instead, food scraps are turned into nutrient-rich compost for agriculture and gardening.

We've made recycling downtown more convenient and are closer to achieving a 75 percent recycling rate by 2015. In March 2011 Public place recycling bins were installed on the Portland transit mall, between Northwest Irving and Southwest Jackson Street. These 175 bins have distinctive blue markings that guide where to place newspaper and magazines, plastic bottles and metal cans, and glass. In areas where there are recycling containers, we are diverting about 1,000 pounds of recyclables a week from the landfill.

Plastic Pollution Reduction

In an effort to minimize the impacts of single-use plastic bags, Portland's City Council was the first in the state of Oregon to pass an ordinance in 2011 that requires grocers to eliminate plastic checkout bags. In the first year, reusable checkout bag use increased over 300 percent. One year later, City Council voted unanimously to expand of the City's plastic bag ban to include all retailers and restaurants by October 2013. Now, fewer unnecessary plastic checkout bags will litter Portland's neighborhoods and natural areas.

Energy Efficiency

In June 2009, we <u>launched a City pilot</u> called Clean Energy Works Portland, with a goal of retrofitting 500 homes and infusing jobs in the construction and clean tech industries. In the original pilot we exceeded our <u>Community Workforce Agreement</u> goal of 30% for a total of 49.5% of the trade/technical hours worked by people of color. And, 22% of contractor payments went to minority-owned or women-owned small businesses.

Due to its <u>triple bottom line approach</u> and early successes, Clean Energy Works received \$20 million from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program to scale up the pilot statewide, <u>paving the way</u> for <u>Clean Energy Works Oregon</u>.

We're also collaborating to reduce energy use in large office buildings through a friendly competition called <u>Kilowatt Crackdown</u>, which aims to shave energy costs by \$2 million a year. Through a partnership with BOMA Oregon, the Energy Trust of Oregon, Northwest Energy Efficiency

Alliance, BetterBricks and Clark Public Utilities, Portland building owners can improve energy efficiency while achieving cost savings.

Urban Agriculture

At the beginning of his term, Mayor Adams launched the Portland is Better Together initiative to connect Portlanders with resources and opportunities they might be looking for during the national economic downturn. As part of the initiative, a dedicated team of volunteers and Master Gardeners dug up 700 square feet of City Hall lawn and planted it with lettuce, spinach, strawberries, squash and more. The City Hall garden continues to thrive and the harvest is delivered to Loaves and Fishes Elm Court, a facility for seniors a few blocks away.

The <u>Urban Growth Bounty</u>, launched in 2009, help Portlanders explore the world of urban homesteading through a series of hands on classes. The annual series has been a huge success with over 500 people enrolled every year and covers a variety of topics including beekeeping, urban livestock, cheesemaking, food preservation, eating sustainably on a budget and gardening.

Portland City Council adopted the <u>Urban</u> Food Zoning Code <u>Update</u>. The update removes zoning code barriers to urban food production and increases access to healthful affordable food for all Portland residents. The project amended zoning regulations around market gardens, community gardens, food membership distribution sites, and farmers markets. The update not only works to achieve our Climate Action Plan goals to significantly increase the consumption of local food, but supports the Portland Plan's healthy connected neighborhood strategy by

increasing access to healthy and affordable food at the neighborhood scale.

Central City

In the Central City we <u>laid the groundwork</u> for the <u>next iteration</u> of Portland's renowned efforts to <u>energize downtown</u>, build a robust network of transit options and enhance the business, cultural, retail, recreational and educational hub our city center has become. In the N/NE Quadrant, the quarter of our Central City that is poised to "pop" next with new investments in business and housing, we've <u>adopted a strategy</u> that integrates improvements to I-5 congestion and safety issues and with pedestrian, bike and open space amenities.

In the Central Eastside, we've adopted a reference plan for <u>burying the Eastside</u> <u>Freeway</u> that affirms our long-term interest in re-connecting the east side to the Willamette, as we did for the west side with Waterfront Park. At the same time, it gives long-time investors confidence that we can bury the freeway in place and improve access to I-5 southbound.

Ecodistricts

We have partnered with business and community leaders to establish <u>Ecodistricts</u> in five locations (<u>Gateway</u>, <u>Foster Green</u>, <u>Lloyd District</u>, <u>South Waterfront</u>, and <u>South of Market</u>) throughout the city. Ecodistricts use urban innovation to achieve neighborhoodscale sustainability through green, efficient buildings, vibrant public spaces and smart, integrated infrastructure. Working together, we can achieve better results. In 2012, Portland City Council unanimously reinforced their commitment to neighborhood-scale sustainability by adopting a resolution that

<u>formally designates</u> these five areas as Ecodistricts.

Local, Regional Planning

We advocated for no expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary, providing a consistent, strong voice at Metro's Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) for a tight urban growth boundary, insisted that new areas brought into the UGB were planned for transit-supportive densities, and opposed designation of the Helvetia area as an urban reserve.

We sought to answer the decades-long question about the future of West Hayden Island, initiating a public process supported by technical studies on the ecology, economy, and health impacts of potential development. We put forward a draft proposal for annexation and development that balanced community and regional interests; this plan is now in review by the Planning and Sustainability Commission.

We supported a collaborative process for planning in the industrial heart of the Willamette River, challenging both environmentalists and industry to find a middle ground that served the interests of the City as a whole. The River Plan North Reach was adopted, but later challenged by a few businesses looking for an even bigger piece of the pie; the plan was recently upheld in the state Supreme Court.

Portland hasn't always been known as a green city, but thanks to great planning and strategic investments we have improved our quality of life, reduced our carbon emission, and built a reputation as one of the most sustainable and livable cities in the world.

We took an integrated approach, worked across agencies, aligned resources, prioritized investments, and continued to lay the groundwork to ensure that Portland will be prosperous, healthy, educated and equitable for generations to come.