



CITY OF PORTLAND

Office of Sustainable Development

ENERGY DIVISION

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City of Portland and The Climate Trust Enter into Unique Agreement During the Holiday Season

Portland Receives \$500,000 from the Trust to Keep Traffic Flowing and Reduce Air Pollution

Portland, Ore.—Portland City Council and The Climate Trust today approved a unique contract to reduce greenhouse gases that cause global warming by improving the timing of traffic signals in Portland and the surrounding area. The Climate Trust will provide \$533,000 to the Portland Office of Sustainable Development for this project to reduce gasoline and diesel use and related emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the heat-trapping gas largely responsible for global warming.

"This is a great way for the City's signal system operators to take specific steps to improve the flow of traffic on some of our most congested arterials, while being a model for how cities can do their part to reduce air pollution and global warming," said Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

Over the next five years the Portland Office of Sustainable Development will work with the Portland Office of Transportation, Washington County, and the Oregon Department of Transportation to use The Climate Trust funding to improve the signal timing on seventeen metro area arterials. Signal timing improvements on SE Foster Rd, SE Division St, McLaughlin Blvd, Cornell Rd and a dozen other roads will improve traffic flow and reduce the fuel wasted from stop-and-go driving.

"This project helps reduce emissions from vehicles, Oregon's second largest source of greenhouse gases." said Mike Burnett, Executive Director of The Climate Trust. "Each year, we get stronger scientific evidence that human activity has already initiated rapid climate change, and that this problem will get much worse this century. We must act now to reduce the build up of CO₂ and other global warming pollutants in the atmosphere, or face a runaway climate."

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The program implements a key piece of Portland's *Local Action Plan on Global Warming*, that established a goal to reduce local emissions of greenhouse gases to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2010.

City program costs will be covered through a pay-for-performance contract with The Climate Trust, a Portland-based non-profit organization that invests in high-quality greenhouse gas offset projects. The Portland project reduces emissions of carbon dioxide – and other tailpipe pollutants – by reducing the use of gasoline and diesel.

The Climate Trust is a nonprofit organization formed in 1997 in response to landmark Oregon legislation requiring new power plants to counter their global warming impact. This innovative legislation allows power plant developers to meet this carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission standard by making a payment to The Climate Trust, which uses the funds to stimulate projects that avoid, displace or sequester CO₂ emissions. These projects are called offsets because they offset the production of CO₂ from new Oregon power plants. This project was chosen for funding from The Climate Trust's 2001 solicitation for offset projects.

The Climate Trust is now completing contracts for other offset projects also funded by new power plants owned or operated by Calpine Corporation, Avista Corporation, PacifiCorp Power Marketing, Inc., and NW Natural.

Further information about this and other offset projects funded by The Climate Trust is available at www.climatetrust.org.

For more information about Portland's global warming action plan and actions the City is taking to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources go to www.sustainableportland.org or call 503-823-7725.

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* Editor's Note: An ordinance allowing the Mayor to sign this agreement with The Climate Trust is on the agenda for the City Council meeting at 2pm on 12/26. The contract will take effect with City Council's approval.