

Presented by
THE WRIGLEY LECTURE SERIES ON SUSTAINABILITY

Local Approaches for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The Portland Story



SUSAN ANDERSON
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF PORTLAND

Paris has fashion. New York has its financial district. Las Vegas has gambling. And, Portland has....sustainability.

While many cities are just beginning to embrace the concept of sustainability, Portland has been hard at work for 30 years. The city's setting, among some of the most stunning natural beauty in the US, has instilled in Portland residents a deep-seated desire to protect natural resources and enable the built and natural environments to prosper and thrive together.

In 1993, Portland became the first city in the US to adopt a local-action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout all sectors of the community. The plan includes a goal of a 10% reduction in CO₂ emissions from 1990 levels by 2010. The city has closely monitored results of this plan and has tracked a reduction in per capita carbon dioxide emissions of 14% below 1990 levels. Most of the actions taken to reduce emissions were not done to impact global warming, but to cut costs, reduce traffic congestion, save money for homeowners, improve air quality and overall livability by developing a more vibrant, walkable city.

Many communities throughout the world are taking similar actions to Portland. These cities understand the value of a healthy environment on the overall vitality of a community and the economic advantages in terms of jobs and wealth creation. Portland businesses are now selling sustainable technologies, products and development services to the rest of the world. What started as an environmental movement has become a centerpiece of Portland's economic-development strategy.

Susan Anderson is the director of the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development. Since 2000, Susan has led a movement toward sustainable practices in a city that has become recognized worldwide for its ability to envision policies and programs that turn concepts into practical solutions with measurable results. In 1993, under Susan's leadership at the Portland Energy Office, the city became the first in the US to adopt a local global-warming plan.

Susan has worked with more than 30 communities to promote resource efficiency, renewable resources, and sustainable practices in commercial facilities, housing, transportation, land-use planning and economic development. She is a frequent speaker at national and international symposiums on sustainable development and business/government partnerships.

Thursday, November 29 – 3:30 PM
Tempe Center - Room 158
Arizona State University, Tempe campus

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