Solutions for a livable future

At Portland State, we harness the strengths of our urban university to take on the environmental, social, and economic problems of our time. Our inextricable connections between classroom and city enable our students, faculty, and community partners to collaboratively design innovative, real-world solutions for our campus, region, and beyond.

GREEN CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

- Two MAX lines, the Portland Streetcar, and 15 bus lines converge on campus, making PSU the busiest transit hub in the Portland metro area.
- The Bike Hub is an on campus bike repair shop that provides tools, resources, and instruction to encourage students, faculty, and staff to commute to campus by bike.
- Broadway Housing Building, one of eight LEED certified buildings on campus, features the largest eco-roof in Portland.
- The PSU ReUse Room is a volunteer-run store that collects used office and school supplies and offers them for free to students, faculty, and staff.
- PSU’s campus community garden offers students living in residence halls the opportunity to have their own garden plot.

GREEN LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

- Freshmen can choose to live in a Sustainability Living Learning Community on campus and take part in collaborative projects to create a more livable society.
- Seniors in capstone courses work as teams with businesses, nonprofits, and civic organizations to address sustainability issues in Portland and beyond.
- Departments across campus offer degrees infused with sustainability, from a B.S. in Environmental Engineering, to an M.B.A. focused on leadership, innovation, and sustainability, to a Ph.D. in Health and Social Inequality.
- Students have the opportunity to learn about careers in sustainability and gain hands-on experience through career counseling, volunteer opportunities, and internships.

The Institute for Sustainable Solutions administers the 10-year, $25 million James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation challenge grant, awarded in 2008. This extraordinary gift enables us to position Portland State for regional, national, and international leadership by investing strategically in our sustainability research, education, and community outreach initiatives. Our goal is to harness Portland State’s assets to achieve transformational change in the University and the region.

Portland State’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines campus goals and identifies actions that will allow PSU to join leaders around the region in creating a vibrant carbon-light future. CAP aims to engage all aspects of the University in the pursuit of carbon neutrality while fostering a culture of innovation and educational inquiry.
Because sustainability requires knowledge from every field, at Portland State it is not part of any one department. Rather, it spans the university, unites creative thinkers from each discipline, and links community and global partners.

Campus-wide sustainability efforts are organized and managed by three main units:

**INTEGRATING RESEARCH, LEARNING, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The Institute for Sustainable Solutions (ISS) advances transdisciplinary research and education, and connects community and global partners to create a more livable future.

Jennifer Allen, Director | pdx.edu/sustainability/

**GREENING OUR CAMPUS**

The Campus Sustainability Office (CSO) aims to align operations, policies, and planning with campus conservation, climate action, and sustainability goals.

Jenny McNamara, Sustainability Coordinator | pdx.edu/planning-sustainability/greencampus

**PREPARING STUDENT LEADERS**

The Sustainability Leadership Center (SLC) fosters sustainability engagement and leadership opportunities that help students develop the knowledge, skills, and values to act as leaders in their future careers and communities.

Heather Spalding, Sustainability Leadership and Outreach Coordinator | ecowiki.pdx.edu/about/slc

To find out more about these or other sustainability efforts on campus, visit pdx.edu/sustainability/

ISS hosts the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability, an integrated series of courses addressing the environmental, social, and economic aspects of the field.

PSU lies in the heart of the SoMa (South of Market) EcoDistrict, one of the five pilot neighborhoods in Portland aiming to capture, manage, and reuse a majority of energy, water, and waste on site; provide a range of transportation options; ensure a rich diversity of habitat and open space; and enhance community engagement and well-being.

Our Ecosystem Services for Urbanizing Regions (ESUR) program is the first National Science Foundation Graduate Research Traineeship to focus on ecosystem services related to rapidly urbanizing areas. ISS will host 30 doctoral students in the next five years to tackle this challenging topic.