



Regional partner

Working together to help meet Oregon's target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks



SPRING 2013

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES SCENARIOS PROJECT



Climate benefits

Mixed-use development	★★★★★
Active transportation	★★★☆☆
Transit	★★★★★

These greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies are an important part of what the Gateway area in Portland is already doing to realize its vision for the future, and provide a strong foundation for meeting state climate goals for 2035.

For more information on greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies, refer to the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project website at www.oregonmetro.gov/climatescenarios.



Keys to success

Encourage grassroots community building activities

The East Portland community developed the East Portland Action Plan with the assistance of the City of Portland, and received funding to hire an advocate. The advocate has expanded the capacity and improved the advocacy of East Portland and Gateway community members. The EPAP now includes many governmental partners working with community members to improve the quality of life in East Portland.

Support community involvement

The Growing Gateway EcoDistrict was conceived and developed by the community, including residents and businesses, in partnership with the Portland Development Commission, City of Portland, and the Portland Sustainability Institute.

Develop and foster public-private partnerships

Many Gateway businesses support civic ventures in Gateway, including the summer Movies in the Park series and the Sunday Parkways bike ride event. The Glisan Commons mixed-use project included significant public investment to meet affordable housing and revitalization goals.

About Metro

Metro crosses city limits and county lines to build a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Representing a diverse population of 1.5 million people in 25 cities and three counties, Metro's directly elected council gives voters a voice in decisions about how the region grows and communities prosper. Metro works with communities, businesses and residents to make the Portland metropolitan area a great place to live, work and shape the future.

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COMMUNITY CASE STUDY SERIES

This case study showcases actions that communities in the Portland metropolitan region are already taking to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and small trucks.

This is one of eight in a series developed for the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project.

- Beaverton
- Clackamas County
- Gateway (Portland)
- Hillsboro
- Rockwood (Gresham)
- Wilsonville
- Employer-based commuter programs
- Neighborhood-based travel options



Strategies

- Mixed-use development
- Active transportation
- Transit

Gateway Community case study

Building community support for redevelopment

Adjacent to two regional freeways and served by three light rail lines and 13 bus lines, the Gateway area in East Portland provides one of the region's best transportation networks. It is projected to become the most accessible location in the Portland metropolitan region in 20 years, creating a new center for jobs and the residents of East Portland. With increased activity, the area will be a destination for working, shopping and recreation, and home to thousands of people, both newcomers and longtime residents.

With this focus, it is evolving into a source of community pride as an embodiment of the values and aspirations of the East Portland community. Redeveloping a low density, suburban style commercial and retail area into a more dense, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use community will require sustained investment. The Opportunity Gateway Concept Plan and Redevelopment Strategy, the culmination of an effort by hundreds of stakeholders over a two-year period, sets the stage for a transformation that supports sustainable development and helps the region meet the state mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for cars and small trucks.

Key challenges

- Options for residents to gather and hold community events are limited due to a lack of parks and open spaces.
- There is an absence of quality affordable and market-rate housing.
- Lack of infrastructure makes it difficult to support urban development in a suburban place.
- There is a need to attract more family-wage jobs to the area, matched to the skill sets of the existing workforce.



The Oregon Legislature has required the Portland metropolitan region to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions from cars and small trucks by 2035.

Planning for healthy communities and sustainable development

The Opportunity Gateway Concept Plan and Redevelopment Strategy, approved by the Portland City Council in 2000, calls for generating more activity in the Gateway area by developing retail and housing opportunities that create jobs and enhance livability. Complementing the existing transportation network with an improved local network of streets, sidewalks, and transit services will increase options for walking, biking and taking transit to meet everyday needs. The plan's proposal for a variety of amenities including grocery stores, schools, parks, and employment centers in close proximity to where people live will encourage the use of these travel options and promote a more active lifestyle.

The Gateway Transit Center will be converted from a primarily surface parking lot to a mixed-use community, complete with a public plaza, local shops, and entertainment. Proposed new street connections will reduce congestion on major



streets. Nearby street improvements including wider sidewalks, street trees, and bicycle lanes will encourage more walking and biking, help reduce the heavy reliance on automobile travel, and create a livable, healthy community. To realize this vision, the city has implemented policies and programs that leverage existing amenities while promoting redevelopment tools and opportunities. Some of the activities underway or already completed are highlighted in this section.

1 Growing Gateway EcoDistrict

The Growing Gateway EcoDistrict was created as a pilot project by the City of Portland along with four other areas of the city in 2009. It is a community driven initiative to organize, identify and implement projects that will lead to a more sustainable neighborhood where people want to live and work. The stakeholders of the Gateway area came together and formed a committee that has been working on setting goals and identifying projects that will help create economic growth and local jobs for the community. The district includes residents, small business and property owners, and institutions that are committed to improving the environment while meeting long standing neighborhood needs for jobs, safe streets and mixed-income housing. Growing Gateway is working to help residents and businesses make energy efficiency retrofits through its program,

Re-Energizing Gateway, as well as projects that improve a sense of place and connectivity in the district.

2 Creating a community gathering place

The Gateway community has long desired a public gathering space to enjoy in the heart of the community. The Gateway Redevelopment and Neighborhood Park Project, undertaken in 2009, seeks to promote and reinforce the identity of Gateway as a family friendly, multigenerational, and multicultural place to live and work.

In 2008, the Portland Development Commission and Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation purchased a 4.2-acre site along Northeast Halsey Street within the Gateway Urban Renewal District. Based on previous community outreach and planning efforts, it was decided this site should be a 3-acre park and 1-acre mixed-use development. The Gateway Park property is envisioned to be an important addition to the Halsey/Weidler commercial corridor and the entire Gateway community. Gateway has long been identified as one of the city's most park-deficient districts, making the acquisition of property for a park a priority.

3 Realizing a vision for sustainable development

In addition to the Gateway EcoDistrict and Gateway Park undertakings, there

have been other projects completed or planned that would facilitate the further re-development of the Gateway area, moving it toward the vision articulated by the community. Some of these actions include:

- roadway improvements along 102nd Avenue in 2008 including street bike lanes, planted center median strip, sidewalk widening, benches and other street furniture, and bioswales for stormwater run-off
- initiate the next phase of improvements on 102nd beginning in 2014
- construction of the LEED Platinum East Portland Aquatics Center in 2009, a neighborhood amenity financed through a parks levy and volunteer contributions from a partnership between David Douglas School District, Portland Adventist and Multnomah County for land contributions
- construction of Gateway Glisan, a catalytic mixed-use affordable housing and commercial project at the intersection of Northeast 99th Avenue and Glisan Street
- relocation of a Kaiser Permanente facility in 2013 to bring additional medical services to the Gateway area
- future plans for development of Gateway Green, a 40-acre park between I-84 and I-205 that includes a cyclo-cross track and urban park amenities, and demonstrates sustainable park features.



Timeline

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Community stakeholders engaged by the City of Portland to discuss concept of EcoDistrict and form work group	Work group becomes EcoDistrict Steering Committee and holds community meetings to solicit input for Ecodistrict vision and project priorities	EcoDistrict Vision developed and MOU signed documenting commitment to launch Gateway EcoDistrict and formalize partnerships between organizations	Organizational and governance structure developed; fundraising initiated for short-term staffing capacity and early projects	Fundraising and project implementation continues