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The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife performs counts on anadromous fish and blue heron in the region. Portland General Electric also collects fish escapement data at dams on the Clackamas River. Great Blue Heron data have not been consistently collected.

To learn more about the ESA listing of steelhead, see the web pages of [The National Marine Fisheries Service](#) and Portland's [Endangered Species Program](#).

Benchmark #63 Public Transportation

Trend data on public transportation use are from the US Census Bureau -- decennial Census (years 1990 and 2000); all other years from the American Community Survey.

Vehicle miles traveled are tracked by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for each county in Oregon. The data are available at [ODOT's Website](#).

For more information on automobile dependence in the Northwest, see Northwest Environment Watch publication [Vehicles Outnumber Drivers in Northwest](#) (1995).

Benchmark #66 Air Quality

Ambient air quality is measured at sixteen stations which comprise the Portland-Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area Air Surveillance Network. Data collected at these stations is published in the "Oregon Air Quality Annual Data Summary," and is available from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The [Air Pollution Index](#) descriptors and values for air quality are good (0-50), moderate (51-100), unhealthy (101-300), hazardous (301-500), or very hazardous (500 and greater). Because of differences in data collection and validation, there may be differences between the number of days reported as not meeting government standards and the number of days the API exceeded the moderate range. The API is updated twice daily.

Benchmark #67 Climate Change

Data are from the City of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development. The City and Multnomah County have outlined local strategies for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in a joint [Local Action Plan on Global Warming](#). To learn more about local government initiatives towards climate protection, see the [International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives](#) (ICLEI) web site.

Benchmark #68 Water Quality

The Oregon Water Quality index is calculated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Monitoring Section. The score assigned to each monitored site is calculated from two seasonal means (Summer, and Fall, Winter, Spring) from data collected over nine-year periods. The eight parameters measured are:

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temperature, dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, pH, ammonia+nitrate, total phosphates, total suspended solids, and fecal coliform. The measure does not consider toxic substances, habitat, or biology. See DEQ's [Oregon Water Quality Index Report](#) for more water quality information on the Lower Willamette, Sandy, and Lower Columbia Basins.

Benchmark #69 **Water Consumption**

Data on water use are from the City of Portland's Water Bureau. Population estimates are from the Center for Population Research and Census, Portland State University.

Benchmark #70 **Energy Use**

The City of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development provided data on energy use in Portland and the metro region. Number of low-income homes receiving weatherization assistance is from the City of Portland's Carbon Dioxide Reduction Strategy Update, November, 1997.

Benchmark #71 **Solid Waste and Recycling**

Pounds per capita of waste disposed in the tri-county, metro region are from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Residential and commercial solid waste and recycling data are from the Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services' Management Report for Solid Waste and Recycling, May 1999, and are only available for the Portland Service area. Pounds of materials recycled and waste disposed from households at curbside are reported by franchised haulers in the Portland Urban Service area. Estimates for total materials recycled for residences and commercial activities, for both hauler collected and self-hauled materials, are calculated from estimates on pages 15 and 16 of this Solid Waste and Recycling Report. The report notes that ultimately, "...it is knowledge about what is left in the wastestream, rather than about quantities being recycled, that should guide our program planning and design efforts." (page 14)

National household recycling and solid waste disposal rates are from Characteristics of Municipal Solid Waste in the U.S., 1997 Update, by Franklin Associates, Ltd., Kansas. Comparisons between regions may be misleading however. There are no national standards for recycling measurement, so each locality can choose how and what materials to measure.

Metro tracks the number of individuals visiting their Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Centers. For more information on household hazardous waste and disposal, see [Metro Hazardous Waste Disposal](#).