



Climate Smart Communities

2010-11 ACTIVITIES

Regional outcomes

People live and work in vibrant communities where they can choose to walk for pleasure and to meet their everyday needs.

Current and future residents benefit from the region's sustained economic competitiveness and prosperity.

People have safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life.

The region is a leader in minimizing contributions to global warming.

Current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems.

The benefits and burdens of growth and change are distributed equitably

Research and reporting

Climate Smart Communities | Land use and transportation scenarios planning

Climate Smart Communities | Greenhouse gas emissions analysis

Policy framework

Climate Smart Communities | Climate prosperity partnership

Climate Smart Communities | Preparedness framework

Climate Smart Communities | State framework

Climate Smart Communities | Materials management planning

Tools

Climate Smart Communities | Greenhouse gas emissions analysis toolkit

Climate Smart Communities | Materials management toolkit for local government

Actions

Climate Smart Communities | Clean fleet waste transport project

Climate Smart Communities | Low impact development



Talking about climate change

What is climate change?

Climate change occurs when there is too much carbon in the atmosphere. The three greatest sources of carbon emissions in the Portland metropolitan area are:

- goods and food consumed
- energy used in homes and buildings
- transportation by car, truck and public transit.

Nearly half of the region's greenhouse gas emissions come from the resource extraction, manufacturing and distribution associated with materials, goods and food used in homes and businesses.

Why should we be concerned?

Climate affects just about everything in our lives:

- the ability to grow the food we eat
- the kinds of infectious diseases and pests that can thrive in our region and affect our health
- the amount of water we have for drinking and maintaining our property
- the quality of the air we breathe
- how we travel for work, recreation and to manage our everyday lives.

We have a choice of action.

We are at a crossroads, with a choice between responsibly addressing the problem together now or ignoring it and dealing with more serious consequences later.

What Metro is doing.

As a regional government with responsibility for land use and transportation planning as well as waste reduction and disposal, Metro is providing leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through partnerships, legislative action, education and data provision.

Because we realize the impact we can have, Metro is examining all of its planning efforts, programs, projects, policies and internal operations for the potential impact each can have on climate change. Collectively, these actions are identified as our broad climate action effort called Climate Smart Communities.

What you can do.

Each of us has the opportunity to affect climate change in the simple choices we make every-day. Some of those choices may include:

- where we choose to live
- how we travel for work, recreation and to manage our everyday lives
- how we manage resources (water, electricity, gas) in our home, workplace, schools and community
- the choices we make when shopping for the things we need
- how and if we convey values and practices that support responsible action toward climate change to our children
- learning more about and participating in programs and policies that reduce the region's greenhouse gas emission.

Together, we can have an impact on our quality of life today and for future generations.