

Green Programs for Small Businesses

There are many resources in the Portland region to assist small businesses that are interested in making their operations greener. Whether you want to increase energy efficiency, lower your utility bills, install an ecoroof, switch to solar power, or manage stormwater – there is a resource that can help you. The following organizations offer technical assistance, financial incentives, and grants to help small businesses become more environmentally sustainable.

BEST Business Center

<http://www.bestbusinesscenter.org/>

The Best Business Center is a one-stop shop for small businesses who want to become greener, providing a free evaluation of your operations and a customized report that includes recommendations, resources, and information about financial incentives.

Energy Trust of Oregon

<http://www.energytrust.org>

Energy Trust of Oregon is dedicated to promoting renewable energy and efficiency. It provides technical assistance and cash incentives to small businesses for energy-efficient upgrades to existing facilities, commercial new construction and major renovations, and production/industrial efficiency projects.

Energy Star

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_index

Energy Star, a division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides technical assistance, email support, how-to guides, and state-by-state financial assistance information for small businesses who wish to make lighting, heating, air conditioning, and energy more efficient.

Solar Now!

<http://www.solarnoworegon.org/>

Solar Now! is a collaboration between Solar Oregon, Oregon Department of Energy, Energy Trust of Oregon, and the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to promote solar energy installation. Collaboration of state and federal tax credits, in addition to Energy Trust incentives and low-interest financing through Umpqua Bank provides small businesses up to 85% of project costs for eligible projects.

Bureau of Environmental Services

<http://www.portlandonline.com/BES/index.cfm?c=48724>

<http://www.portlandonline.com/BES/index.cfm?c=43077>

The Ecoroof Program through Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) accepts applications from small businesses for grants that fund up to \$5 per square foot for installation of ecoroofs, which help manage stormwater, improve air quality, and improve energy efficiency.

BES also offers Community Watershed Stewardship Grants, which cover up to \$10,000 for ecoroofs, stormwater management projects, restoration, and naturescaping.

Oregon Department of Energy

<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/CONS/BUS/BETC.shtml>

<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/LOANS/selphm.shtml>

Oregon's Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) allows small businesses to apply for tax credits for projects that address renewable energy, green building materials, recycling, alternative transportation, and more. Businesses must apply before starting the project, and qualifying projects receive can 35-50% of eligible project costs in tax credits.

The Department of Energy also offers low-interest loans through the Energy Loan Program for projects that promote renewable energy and efficiency.

PDC Sustainable Business Assistance

<http://www.zerowaste.org/sba/>

The Sustainable Business Alliance helps small businesses become greener by providing technical assistance through Zero Waste Alliance and funding sources from Portland Development Commission (PDC). Eligible projects can receive a 50% match up to \$10,000, along with expert advice on green building, energy management, waste stream diversion, process improvement, and more.

Green Building Hotline & Resource Center

<http://www.buildgreen411.com>

503.823.5431

The Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability offers a list of green building tools, including resources for making business operations greener, networking partners, marketing resources, and start-up assistance.

ShoreBank Enterprise Cascadia

<http://www.sbpac.com>

Shorebank Enterprise Cascadia, a non-profit affiliate of Shorebank Pacific, aims to invest in people and their communities to create economic equity and a healthy environment. Shorebank's collaboration with the non-profit arm allows them to exceed normal lending amounts, up to 85% loan-to-value, for green building projects.

Green Features for Business [Interstate URA Only]

<http://www.pdc.us/ura/interstate/greenfeatures.asp>

The Green Features for Business Grant is a competitive grant being offered through the Portland Development Commission for the Interstate Urban Renewal Area. The Green Features for Business Grant is intended to generate interest in sustainable design and practice in Portland's neighborhoods. The grant seeks both need based applicants looking to cover the incremental costs associated with sustainable building and those desiring to adopt more sustainable practices.

Green Investment Fund

<http://www.portlandonline.com/OSD/index.cfm?c=42134>

The Green Investment fund is a competitive grant offered by Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, making up to \$425,000 available for innovative green building projects. Industrial, commercial, multifamily residential, and mixed-use projects may apply.

Tenant Improvement Guide

<http://www.portlandonline.com/OSD/index.cfm?a=121802&c=42168>

The City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability offers a free, downloadable brochure to inform small businesses how to make green choices in construction of tenant improvements that save money, increase efficiency, and great a healthy workspace.

ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager

<http://www.energystar.gov/istar/pmpam>

Energy Star Portfolio Manager helps you track and assess energy and water consumption within individual buildings as well as across your entire building portfolio. Enter energy consumption and cost data into your Portfolio Manager account to benchmark building energy performance, assess energy management goals over time, and identify strategic opportunities for savings and recognition opportunities.