



# CITY of BEAVERTON

## PRESS RELEASE

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### BEAVERTON NAMED A 2010 “SMARTER CITY” ENERGY LEADER BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

*- Energy efficiency projects, solar power program and renewable energy purchases among factors; Beaverton one of only four small cities in the U.S. named to list -*

**BEAVERTON, Oregon (August 6, 2010)** – Beaverton is one of just 22 cities across the U.S. and one of just four with populations under 100,000 named to the Natural Resources Defense Council’s (NRDC) “Smarter City” list of energy leaders.

“We have a supportive and creative administration,” said Cindy Tatham, Sustainability Program Coordinator. “We are not afraid to be leaders. If we can demonstrate a sustainability benefit to the community, there is a lot of support on projects.”

Projects that propelled Beaverton to the top included several initiatives identified in Mayor Denny Doyle’s 10 Point Plan such as making city buildings more energy efficient, offering weatherization loans to residents and a greenhouse gas emissions inventory. In addition, Beaverton has changed traffic signals over to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) technology and, with federal stimulus money, is updating streetlights. Solar Beaverton, a residential pilot solar energy program launched in May, helped raise Beaverton’s profile as well, significantly reducing the upfront costs of installing solar power in homes using federal and state tax credits, energy incentives and bulk pricing. Other areas of responsible energy use included Beaverton’s highly energy-efficient central plant, community participation in Environmental Protection Agency’s Green Power programs as well as a reduction in carbon footprint between 2000 and 2005.

The selection process began with a list of 655 cities with populations greater than 50,000. The list was whittled down to 22 by comparing carbon dioxide emission reductions, home heating and electricity consumption as well as considering factors such as designation as an EPA Green Power Community.

The full list of cities is as follows:

**Large** (population > 250,000): Austin, TX; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Dallas, TX; El Paso, TX; Long Beach, CA; New York, NY; Oakland, CA; Portland, OR; San Francisco, CA; and Seattle, WA.

**Medium** (pop. between 100,000 - 249,999): Berkeley, CA; Fort Collins, CO; Huntington Beach, CA; Reno, NV; Springfield, IL; and Santa Clarita, CA.

**Small** (Pop. < 100,000): Beaverton, OR; Denton, TX; Dubuque, IA; Santa Cruz, CA

For more information about the NRDC’s “Smarter Cities” designation and methodology, please visit <http://smartercities.nrdc.org/articles/american-cities-get-smart-about-energy>. For more on Beaverton’s sustainability initiatives, please check out the web page for Sustainable Beaverton, [www.beavertonoregon.gov/green](http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/green).

**ABOUT BEAVERTON**

Beaverton was recently recognized as one of the **100 Best Places to Live in America** by Money Magazine. In addition, Beaverton has been named the **safest city in the Pacific Northwest** for three consecutive years, as one of the **best places to raise kids** by BusinessWeek magazine, a **Tree City USA** for more than 15 years, an **All-America City finalist**, one of the **100 Best Walking Cities in America** by Prevention Magazine, the **Recycler of the Year** from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, a Bronze Award **Bicycle Friendly community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists and as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**. Beaverton also enjoys the most diverse population (by percentage of population) among Oregon cities.

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