

January 28, 2011

**To Whom It May Concern:**

In 2009, the Portland Sustainability Institute (PoSI), in partnership with the City of Portland, launched the EcoDistricts Initiative. An EcoDistrict is a neighborhood committed to sustainability. The ingredients of an EcoDistrict are empowered people, green buildings and smart infrastructure. EcoDistricts are the right scale to accelerate sustainability — small enough to innovate quickly and big enough to have a meaningful impact.

The EcoDistricts Initiative is a strategy to launch EcoDistricts throughout the region. We have begun with five pilot neighborhoods, Lents, Gateway, University District, South Waterfront and Lloyd District. They have each committed to creating positive environmental impacts, driving economic prosperity and empowering their communities in the process.

The process includes in each pilot district includes 1) engaging the community to formalize a local governance structure; 2) completing an integrated sustainability assessment and action plan; 3) implementing projects to support goal achievement; and 4) tracking and monitoring the results over time.

The Portland State University EcoDistrict is well organized and expected to provide some of the earliest wins in the city-wide initiative. As a district with primarily one institutional owner, the University district is likely to set examples for other pilots in creating programs across multiple buildings, unique partnerships with property owners, and seeing the value of investments with long term paybacks.

Some of the key projects expected to come from the EcoDistrict Initiative are partnerships with neighboring landholders in energy efficiency upgrades, stormwater management corridors, district energy, demand management competitions, transportation incentives and the idea of a parking benefit district, among many other emerging strategies. There has already been tremendous interest and student leadership to help baseline performance and pilot small scale strategies like a waste management plan across three blocks in the district.

The University EcoDistrict is definitely an innovative program worthy of a STARS Innovation Credit. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Thank you,



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