



MEDIA RELEASE

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Friends of Trees Earns Silver Sustainability at Work Certification

Portland, Ore—Friends of Trees has achieved Sustainability at Work silver certification and is recognized for its leadership in helping make Portland one of the cleanest, most sustainable cities in the country. To earn this honor, Friends of Trees completed numerous actions to benefit the local economy, the community and the environment, which were verified during an onsite visit with Sustainability at Work Advisors.

“Friends of Trees has been passionate about sustainability for years,” said Friends of Trees Executive Director Scott Fogarty. “We’re excited to participate in this important city program that encourages sustainable business practices.”

Friends of Trees has conserved energy and limited its use of disposable resources in a number of ways, including the following: establishing an ecoroof at its office and using native plants onsite to reduce stormwater runoff; having a majority of staff members bicycle, walk, or take mass-transit to work; composting kitchen waste; and using ceramic mugs and reusable dishware at multiple weekend community plantings from October through April. The nonprofit is working toward receiving gold certification this fall.

Friends of Trees’ Neighborhood Trees *Plant It!* campaigns in Portland, Eugene and Vancouver emphasize four key things that “grow” on trees: better health, energy conservation, a safer community, and even money. The nonprofit’s 3,500 volunteers contributed nearly 32,000 hours during the recent planting season, resulting in 5,300 new street and yard trees in Oregon and SW Washington and 38,000 new trees and native plants in green spaces throughout the Willamette and Columbia River watersheds. The plantings beautify neighborhoods, add shade to reduce energy use, clean our water and air, and provide habitat for songbirds, endangered fish and other wildlife.

Friends of Trees’ plantings also bring neighbors together, making community spirit grow as the trees they planted grow.

Since its founding in 1989, Friends of Trees has planted more than 450,000 trees and native plants in the Portland-Vancouver and Eugene-Springfield areas. Learn more at www.FriendsofTrees.org.