

The Portland Observer Sustainability



Controlling stormwater runoff and directing it to home landscaping sites can produce beautiful 'rain gardens,' like the landscaping above at the Humboldt Gardens housing site in north Portland.

Make it a Rain Garden Guide is resource for novices and experts

If you have a lemon, make lemonade. In Oregon, if you have excess rainwater, make a rain garden.

The Oregon Rain Garden Guide, produced by Oregon State University, is the state's first stormwater management resource for both novices and expert landscapers.

An increasing number of Oregonians are disconnecting downspouts, building rain collection barrels and planting rain gardens to

harvest water from their businesses, schools and front yards. Rain gardens are sunken beds that absorb and treat stormwater runoff from rooftops, driveways and other paved surfaces. The landscaping intercept runoff to reduce floods, recharge drinking water—and filter oil, garden chemicals and other pollutants. Rain gardens also provide wildlife habitat.

"Rain gardens are the workhorses

of low impact development," said Robert Emanuel, an OSU Extension specialist who co-authored the rain garden guide.

The 44-page publication is available for \$4.95, but it is also available for free online at seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs..

Wind Turbine Growth

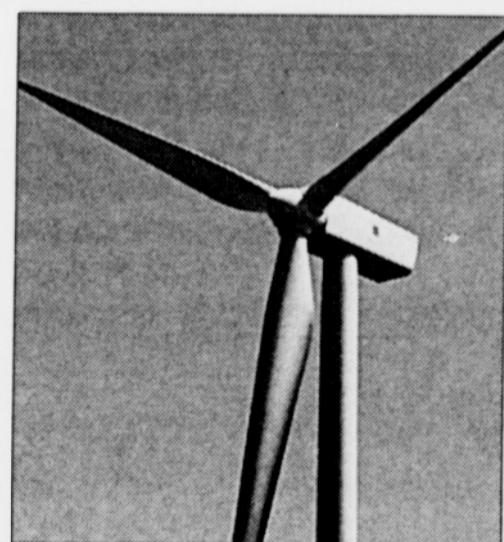
Company anchors itself downtown

(AP) -- Vestas Wind Systems, the world's largest wind turbine maker, ended concerns it might leave Oregon by announcing Wednesday it will keep its North American headquarters in Portland.

The Denmark-based company plans to turn a vacant and former Meier and Frank warehouse in the city's upscale Pearl District into its new, 172,000-square-foot headquarters. The \$66 million project is expected to create about 500 construction jobs, and Vestas promised to add 100 employees to its Portland work force over the next five years.

Vestas moved to Portland from Southern California in 2002.

"This is much more than just a building," Gov. Ted Kulongoski said at a news conference, where he was joined by Portland Mayor Sam Adams and Vestas Americas Presi-



dent Martha Wyrsh. "This is a statement about who we are as a state and as a city. It is a statement about Oregon's commitment to renewable energy and energy independence for this country."

To entice Vestas to stay in Portland, the state offered \$2.25 million in incentives and the city provided an \$8 million, zero-interest loan. Vestas must repay the state \$1 million if it does not retain its existing 400 Portland employees and add another 100 jobs.

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5329 NE MLK Jr. Blvd, 2nd Floor,
Portland, 97211

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Public Health Health Department

Se habla español: other interpretation by appointment.