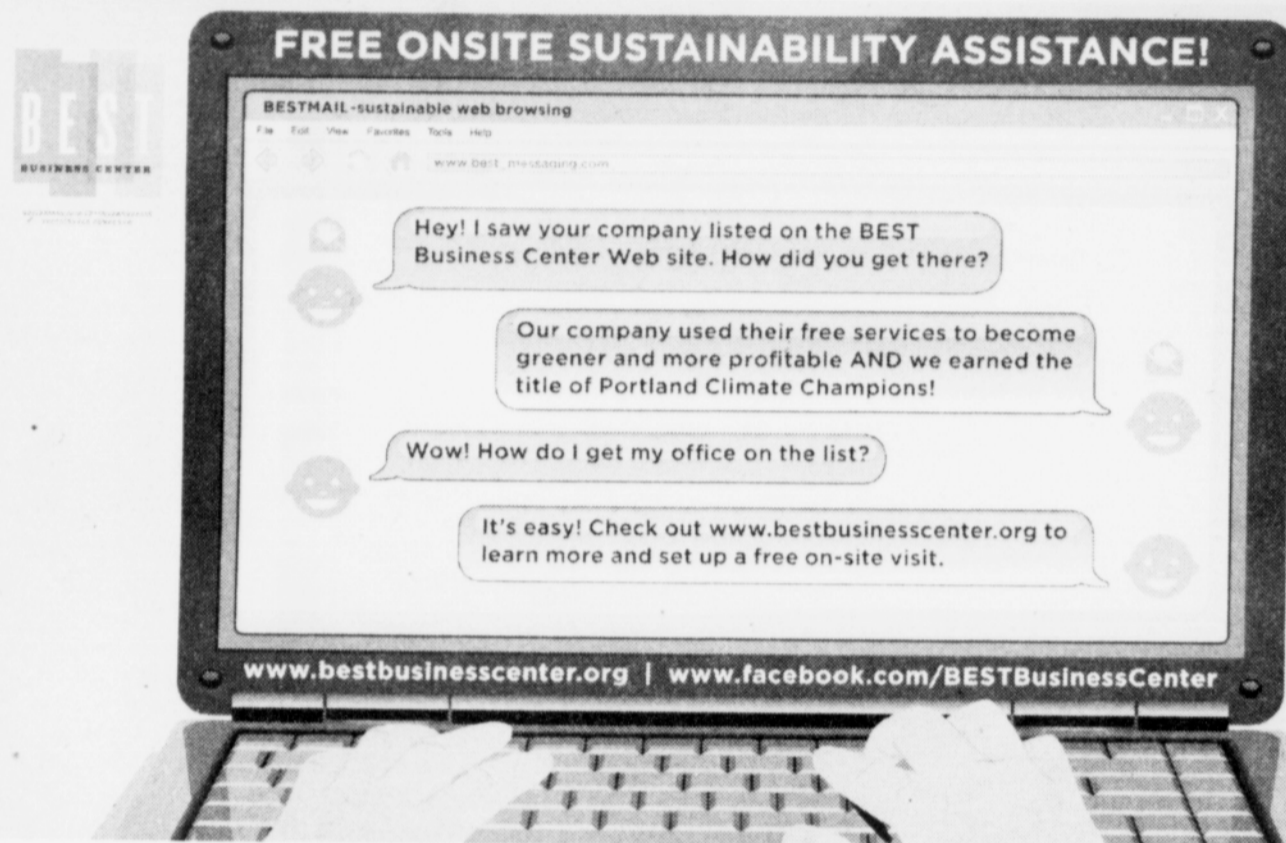


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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
 Karis Stoudamire-Phillips (left) and Serena Ashley of the Portland chapter of the Links, together with Ashley's children, Sinclair and Sierra, volunteer for a Back to School supplies drive at Madison High School in northeast Portland.

Back to School Supply Drive

For many years the Portland Chapter of the Links, Inc. has supported the community by securing school supplies for their annual Back to School Drive organized by their Services to Youth Committee.

This year, under the leadership of Links Karis Stoudamire-Phillips and Kimberly Matier the committee is partnering with Schoolhouse Supplies, a free supply store for teachers in the Portland Public School district, by joining their "Tools for Schools" program.

The organizations involved in this program adopt a high-need Portland Public school and provide each student with a backpack full of school supplies.

The Portland Chapter of the Links has adopted Rosemary Anderson High School for the 2010-2011 school year.

By seeking corporate sponsorships, support from Links supporters and Links members, the chapter plans to provide a backpack full of school supplies for 100 students at the northeast Portland school.

Members of the organization and other volunteers packed the backpacks on Thursday at Schoolhouse Supplies which is located on the campus of Madison High School, 2735 N.E. 82nd Ave. The backpacks will be distributed to Rosemary Anderson students on Tuesday, Aug. 31 at their "Back to School" celebration.

Cully Neighborhood

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about 30 percent of work was being done by disadvantaged people.

"It's a leading light for the rest of the country," said Hays of the program. "Portland's really out in front."

He said there is no shortage of older homes in need of weatherization, calling it "a problem that we'd be glad to have."

In addition to weatherization, Hays said that there are other

fairly simple things that can be done to create green jobs. He pointed to the Solarize Northeast project, where residents buy solar panels for their homes in bulk and split up the installation costs. He said that installing bioswales, which absorb storm runoff water, are also a good way to reduce costs associated with treating water while creating more jobs.

"This transition to a green economy is going to be a lot of work," he said.

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