



Media Release

Portland Water Bureau

For Immediate Release

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Portland Water Bureau filtration project recognized for exceeding environmental and social standards

Bull Run filtration facility earns Envision Platinum verification for achievements in human health and well-being, community development, collaboration, conservation, ecology, emissions, and resilience

The Portland Water Bureau is proud to announce that its Bull Run filtration facility has earned an Envision Platinum Award, the highest award level offered. Presented by the [Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure](#), the Envision Platinum Award honors projects that demonstrate exceptional performance across a range of sustainability indicators, including quality of life, leadership, resource allocation, natural world preservation, and climate resilience.

The Bull Run filtration facility is a transformative project that strengthens the region's drinking water system while advancing sustainability, resilience, and community values. Designed to remove *Cryptosporidium* and other potential contaminants from the city's primary drinking water supply, the seismically resilient filtration project will also make our system more reliable and reduce the impact of future risks like wildfires and extreme storms.

"Projects like filtration are critical investments in the livability, health, safety, and prosperity of our city. Great care and vision go into designing these projects with future generations in mind," said Mayor Keith Wilson. "The Envision Platinum Award demonstrates the City of Portland's commitment to building a facility that delivers clean, safe, reliable drinking water while also strengthening environmental resilience and sustainability."

The Bull Run filtration facility integrates a wide range of sustainable features, including energy-efficient treatment processes, habitat restoration efforts, and careful site design to minimize environmental impacts. The Envision framework provides a comprehensive approach to evaluating a project's sustainability outcomes, and the Bull Run filtration facility demonstrated measurable achievements in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing ecosystem services, and supporting local economic development.

“This recognition reflects the care, collaboration, and long-term thinking behind the Bull Run filtration project, one of the most significant infrastructure investments in Portland's history,” said Deputy City Administrator for Public Works Priya Dhanapal. “It protects public health, strengthens system resilience, and ensures safe, reliable drinking water for Portlanders for generations.”

Beyond environmental goals, the Envision framework also considers a project's impacts on and collaboration with communities. The filtration project team prioritized community engagement throughout planning and construction. Team members continue to work closely with neighbors, Multnomah County, and regional partners to support inclusive, transparent, and ongoing two-way communication.

“This recognition reflects the technical rigor, innovation, and collaboration behind the Bull Run filtration facility,” said Director of Public Utilities Dr. Ting Lu. “Our team is delivering a project that meets regulatory requirements while advancing sustainability, resilience, and long-term system reliability.”

The filtration project is one of the most significant infrastructure investments in Portland's history and exemplifies the bureau's commitment to delivering safe, reliable drinking water for generations to come. The filtration facility is currently under construction and is expected to begin serving filtered water in 2029. Once operational, filtration will play a vital role in ensuring compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and maintaining the high quality of Portland's water supply into the future.

[For more information about the Bull Run filtration facility and the Portland Water Bureau's work, visit our website.](#)

About the Portland Water Bureau

The Portland Water Bureau serves water to almost a million people in the Portland area. Portland's water system includes two great water sources, 54 tanks and reservoirs, and 2,250 miles of pipe. With 600 employees working on everything from water treatment to customer service, the Water Bureau is committed to serving excellent water every minute of every day.

About the Public Works Service Area

The Public Works Service Area keeps Portland running by managing the city's water, sewer, stormwater, parks and transportation systems. It includes the Bureau of Environmental Services, the Portland Bureau of Transportation, Portland Parks & Recreation, and the Portland Water Bureau. Public Works ensures reliable infrastructure, invests in sustainability, and supports essential services that enhance daily life for Portlanders.

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