

sustainabilityprogram

REUSE > REINVEST > RETROFIT > RESPECT

ABOUT THE PRESERVATION GREEN LAB

More than 43% of the nation's carbon emissions come from the operation of buildings, which makes reusing and improving the energy efficiency of older and historic buildings an essential part of a sustainable future. The Preservation Green Lab will develop protocols for integrating the recycling and retrofitting of older and historic buildings into city and state plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and highlight the significant role that preservation can play in fighting climate change. The Preservation Green Lab will develop strategic policy options and demonstration projects to illustrate the ways in which public policy can promote building reuse, neighborhood reinvestment, and the greening of existing buildings.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation Green Lab, located in Seattle, will work with selected cities and states to create innovative sustainable development policy and showcase energy-efficient rehabilitation projects. Seattle, San Francisco and Dubuque are partnering with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and additional cities are under consideration. In addition to working directly with cities, the Preservation Green Lab will also serve as a national clearinghouse for best practices in the policy and green rehabilitation arenas

The Preservation Green Lab's on-the-ground policy work and demonstration projects will inform the National Trust's Sustainability Program, and be a resource for our regional offices, statewide and local partners, Main Street partners, municipalities and states, and other organizations working on climate change solutions. While much of the Lab's work will be focused on the Pacific Northwest, this office will also engage with municipalities, states, and preservation partners throughout the country.

The Preservation Green Lab offers a unique opportunity to develop cutting-edge public policy and demonstration projects. It will:

- Collaborate with selected cities to incorporate principles that support the reuse of buildings into zoning ordinances, municipal plans, building and energy codes and "climate action plans" to reduce carbon emissions.
- Collaborate with selected state governments on state policies that support the reuse and retrofit of buildings, such as historic tax credits and statewide energy codes.
- Identify buildings and provide technical assistance to demonstrate appropriate ways to reduce energy use in historic buildings. We anticipate that the Preservation Green Lab will address a range of historic commercial and civic buildings of varying ages and types, including the challenge of upgrading modernist buildings and iconic buildings from the recent past.
- Pursue opportunities to work with universities and non-profits that have led the way in the sustainability movement to fully incorporate the concept of recycling buildings into the environmental ethic.
- Coordinate with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Center for State and Local Policy to develop an information dissemination and communications strategy for the lessons learned at the Lab.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/sustainability/green-lab/>

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