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1 In my opinion, the city of Portland, Oregon, is one of the greenest cities in America. There are several reasons why this is true.

2 Each day, about a quarter of Portland workers commute by bike, car pool, or public transportation. Of these, 10,000 people bike to work on the city's 1,106 kilometers (700 miles) of bicycle paths.

3 And that's just the beginning. In 1987, Portland put its first recycling system in place. Portlanders now recycle two-thirds of their waste. That's one of the highest rates in the United States. Another fact is that city residents can choose to get their electricity from wind and solar sources. Even the parking meters are solar-powered.

4 Portland was also the first U.S. city to adopt a Global Warming Action Plan. Following this plan, Portland and the surrounding area were able to curb greenhouse gases by almost 13 percent. During this period, the greenhouse gases emitted in the rest of the United States were actually increasing.

5 If all this hasn't convinced you that Portland is the nation's greenest city, consider this. The city has 10,000 acres of parkland. This means that most people are within a half-mile walk to the nearest park. These parks help make Portland a truly green city!

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