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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oregon 350 Coastal Climate Crisis Walk
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Portland area to join 350-Mile Oregon Coast Walk on Oct. 24

On Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, the Mayor's Office will proclaim Portland's official participation in the "350" International Day of Climate Action. Over 3,000 actions in 158 countries around the world are being planned for this date. "350" refers to the parts per million (ppm) now considered to be the safe level for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. That level of CO₂ has been included in the draft global climate treaty, which will be negotiated in Copenhagen in December. The current level of CO₂ in our atmosphere is approximately 390 ppm.

To honor this Day of Climate Action, Phil Carver—an economist, retired from the Oregon Department of Energy—has organized a 350-mile walk along the Oregon coast. Carver and his friends are walking to demonstrate the potential impact of global warming on the coastal shoreline, estuaries and rivers in Oregon. The group began its walk on Sept. 20 at Sunset Bay, south of Coos Bay, headed for Portland via Astoria.

Carver and his companions have been meeting with citizens, camping at state parks and staying in people's homes along the way. They will complete their walk on Oct. 24, arriving at Portland's Pioneer Square for the Climate Action Rally, which will be held from 12:50 to 3 p.m. Music, song and dance will be part of the rally, as well as activities that will link Portland with other communities around the world.

All are welcome to join the walkers on their last eight miles at Cathedral Park starting on the north end of the St. John's Bridge at 9 a.m. They may also join the walkers at Wallace Park (arriving at 11:15 a.m.) in northwest Portland for a leisurely two-mile walk. People can also join at Tanner Springs Park (arriving at 12:15 p.m.), or Jamison Square (arriving at 12:25 p.m.) in northwest Portland for shorter walks along Eleventh Ave. and Morrison St. to Pioneer Square.

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MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church » American Baptist Churches of Oregon » Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) » Christian Methodist Episcopal Church » Church of the Brethren » Community of Christ
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon » Episcopal Diocese of Oregon » Evangelical Lutheran Church in America » Greek Orthodox Church » Presbyterian Church (USA)—Presbytery of the Cascades
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) » Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland » United Church of Christ » United Methodist Church » Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

For more information about the coast walk, other events in Portland, and Pioneer Square, go to www.350oregon.org. For more information about the “350” International Day of Climate Action, go to www.350.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Oregon Interfaith Power and Light project engages the faith community to strive for accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world. EMO is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.