

# Milwaukie Sustainability Tour

Saturday, September 19th, 2015  
from 11 am – 4pm

The Milwaukie Sustainability Tour will involve neighbors sharing their sustainable home practices with others to build a better community. Things such as food & yard composting, composting tea, mason bees, worm bins, rain gardens, solar panels, rain barrels, backyard chickens, veggie gardening, recycling, canning, freezing, dehydrating, and loads more. Sharing ideas among neighbors, exploring the great neighborhoods of Milwaukie, and building community are the goals of this fun, free event.

Come grab a map of the houses on the tour each day at Milwaukie City Hall located at 10722 SE Main Street in the Historic Neighborhood. The Bike Milwaukie group will have bicyclists available to escort those who go by bike. Tour stops will be welcoming visitors 11am-4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

★ **1** Brendan Eiswerth  
11009 SE 28th Ave.

My house is at 11009 SE 28th Ave. In 1998 I purchased my house, dug up the grass and put 2 raised beds in the front yard. I soon put in 2 more raised beds and a variety of herbs in and around the front of our house.

We utilized the front yard because it receives the most sun. We soon learned that having a vegetable garden in the front yard was a great way to get to know your neighbors.

I currently maintain the grounds at the Portland Waldorf School and am the manager and co-founder of the Milwaukie Sunday Farmers Market. Our family has always maintained the garden using organic methods. We water and weed by hand and add a few inches of composted cow manure in the spring and sometimes the fall. We never step in our raised beds so the soil is amazingly loamy. We especially enjoy growing winter crops such as kale, Swiss chard and garlic. It is such a joy to live in a place where you can garden year round.

★ **2** John and Barb  
2755 SE Washington

Our front yard that provides a wide variety of vegetables throughout the year and has an outstanding banana grove that grows small bananas. Stop by and see.

★ **3** Lisa Batey  
11912 SE 19th Avenue

The most obvious sustainability feature on my property is the rain garden (aka bioswale) between the sidewalk and the street, which was added in 2012. A roadside swale serves to treat stormwater coming off the road, driveway and sidewalk, with the sedges and rushes in the bottom of the swale serving to dramatically reduce the amount of oils and chemicals getting into our groundwater or our waterways. But if your home sits in a low spot, a rain garden can also be a tool for catching rainwater runoff before it finds its way to your basement. I will have some handouts on how to build a rain garden. I am also gradually expanding the percentage of my yard planted in native species, which seems to have increased the bird population. I also have a worm bin with red wigglers creating great fertilizer from veggie and fruit waste. My friend, Tom, a longtime beekeeper, may be around to give tips on beekeeping as well. Stop by!





**5** Vincent and Gwen Alvarez  
12671 SE Where Else Ln.

I purchased this 1923 cottage in 2001, my first efforts to update and “greening” this property were replacing the constricted galvanized plumbing with Pex piping, updating the electrical and stripping down to the studs half of the walls upstairs, allowing me to install insulation where there was none. I also added piping to be able to use greywater to use greywater to flush the toilets. I extended the gas lines allowing me to replace the electric dryer, water heater and stove with a gas units.

When I replaced the old metal roof, I installed two inches of foam insulation, which also allowed me to make space for continuous eve vents, where I had no attic ventilation before. I then installed a new standing seam metal roof at the time. I am currently working on building a high capacity water collection system to take advantage of our metal roof. This water will be used for watering our plantings.

I was quick to enter into the initial rounds of PGE’s Energy Generation purchase programs, I jumped at the chance. I generate more power than I use and sell back the excess to PGE. Having solar caused me to switch back to electric hot water in the form of a highly efficient heat-pump style of water heater. We also leased a Nissan Leaf electric car to take full advantage of our solar power.

**4** Cid Blase  
2021 SE Sparrow St.

My home is a restored 100+ year old farm house. Back in the day it was the only house in this area. I have fruit trees that I harvest, a large organic veggie garden, fruit and shrubs and flower beds. I preserve water by mulching many of my beds and I use straw to keep the weeds down as well. I have useful herbs throughout my gardens. This year was good for peppers and tomatoes, but I am not sharing. I have figs and red plums for sharing. My garden beds have been planted for year round appeal. My favorite things about my garden are my chickens. My neighbors across the street at 2111 SE Sparrow share my love of chickens and have two ducks, a mulch pile, a compost bin, they mulch their beds and conserve water using soaker hoses.



Historic NDA - Island Station NDA - Lake Road NDA - Linwood NDA