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7-28-2009

## Interview with Steve Cohen, Planning & Sustainable Development, 2009 (audio)

Steve Cohen

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Interviewee: Steve Cohen  
Interviewer: Chris Stephens  
Date: July 28, 2009  
Location: Ecotrust Building, Portland, OR  
Research assistant: Matthew Smith  
Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES  
Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILES)  
WITH AN EXTERNAL OMNIDIRECTINAL MICROPHONE

## Part 1

Introduction and equipment check

## Part 2

Time	Question
00:02	Where were you born and raised?
00:07	How long have you lived in Portland?
00:12	What brought you to Portland?
00:31	Where were you educated after high school?
01:13	How did you get involved in your work?
02:20	How would you define sustainability?
02:48	How do you assess or gauge progress towards sustainability?
06:52	Can you define "a program"?
09:17	What organizations do you volunteer with?
10:27	Which organizations that you volunteer with do you view as the most beneficial and why?
12:17	Which of these volunteer organizations do you view as the least beneficial or successful?
13:30	What are some of the policies you have been involved in developing? What do you like about them? What do you dislike about them?
17:30	In terms of sustainability, where do you think Portland is now? Where is it actually going? Where would you like it to go?
20:43	How can the lessons that Portland has learned be applied to other cities and areas?
24:17	What do you view as the responsibilities of federal, state, and local government to support urban farming?
30:03	Earlier you mentioned that local governments should get out of the way so people could plant local crops temporarily and then the owners of the land would come in and do something with it later... Do you foresee any conflicts where the people have been planting on this land and they want to continue planting?
32:47	Where isn't it appropriate for people to plant?
35:03	What do you view as the long-term role of "big business" in urban farming / getting food? (Interviewee heard "goal" instead of "role")

- 35:15 What do you view as the long-term role of “big business” in urban farming / getting food?
- 37:54 In your opinion, what percentage of total food can be grown in urban agriculture?
- 39:31 If you could snap your fingers and change the current food distribution system, what changes would you make?
- 42:23 Not focusing on the distribution side of things, what would you like to see change?
- 45:57 You have been interviewed before. What is the one question that you have never been asked that you would like someone to ask?
- 49:29 You mentioned the acronym CSA, I was wondering if you could expand on that...