

11-22-2010

## Interview with Michael O'Brien, OSD, 2010 (audio)

Michael O'Brien

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Interviewee: Mike O'Brien

Interviewer: Ian Caputo

Date: 11/22/2010

Location of Interview: DiPrima Dolci

Research Assistant: Brian Hubel

Interview Series: Sustaining Northwest Landscapes & Communities

Recording Equipment: Digital Recorder (Windows Media Audio File) with an external, omnidirectional microphone

0:26 - How long have you lived in Portland?

0:43 - What brought you to Portland?

1:27 - Post high school education.

1:43 - How did you become involved in OSD? Energy Office merged.

3:14 - What did the Energy Office do?

4:18 - What are OSD's goals? Reduce, reuse, recycle. Help people rethink assumptions.

10:05 - Day to day activities.

10:42 - Initial involvement with LEED. Dialogue with builders.

13:03 - Green Investment Fund.

14:58 - Sustainable tenant improvement guide.

18:30 - Most effective programs? Tours of sustainable houses.

21:57 - Programs that were unnecessary in hindsight? Grants to businesses.

24:00 - Why has sustainability caught on in Portland? More open to sharing information and community input.

25:40 - Building approval process with helpful feedback vs. black box.

29:10 - Advice to contractors hoping to receive LEED certification.

34:44 - Graywater. Reuse on sight better for the environment, but poses health concerns.

38:20 - Composting toilets. Also a good idea, but with health concerns. Should be experimenting to perfect both before they're needed.

43:05 - How do you feel about the merger of Planning Bureau and OSD? Not pleased. Making it work is an unnecessary drain on both organizations' resources.

47:00 - What changes would you like to see? Climate change is not getting sufficient attention.

54:00 - Green construction. Energy efficient materials, such as clay.

59:10 - Your photography. Always wanted to be a photographer. Capturing images of things that may not last.

1:02:00 - Integrated design of buildings.

1:05:48 - What about the aesthetics? Arise out of making the building work.

1:06:55 - Changes in LEED standards. Now requiring that a building's actual energy usage be monitored before being certified.

1:10:30 - Need ways to give builders more incentive to care about a building's energy efficiency.