



Portland Democratic Socialists of America

ECOSOCIALIST WORKING GROUP



We live in a time of pervasive, concurrent crises. Federal agents are descending upon American cities to carry out terror campaigns against immigrants. The cost of the basic necessities of life — healthcare, housing, and food — continues to rise unchecked while our government spends trillions on war. All the while, the planet blows past every red line set by international climate experts.

The climate crisis is not a natural phenomenon - it is a product of exploitation. We wage war across the world to ensure cheap access to oil and gas which fuels climate change and a rolling refugee crisis. Immigrants seeking refuge here are persecuted by the Trump administration. Meanwhile, our cities have been designed for profit and speculation, cementing an unsustainable way of living. In this way, capitalism creates a nightmarish lattice which can appear impossible to escape.

Who We Are

We, the Eco-Socialist Working Group, are a working group within the Portland branch of the Democratic Socialists of America, the largest socialist organization in the United States. We focus on ecological issues within the chapter's larger mission of building a socialist society. Unlike other environmental groups, we see capitalism as the central driver of the climate crisis, rather than any single industry, individual, or government. Therefore, we cannot simply vote out the "wrong people" to resolve this crisis or pass policies to curb industry's worst excesses. Instead, we must create a new society, governed by the working class, with a fundamentally different orientation towards people and the planet. As Chico Mendes said: "*Ecology without class struggle is just gardening.*"

What We Do

Our organizing efforts center around pressing struggles local to Portland and the state of Oregon:

- Our **Environmental Justice** subcommittee works to combat local environmental threats like the CEI Hub in Northwest Portland which threatens to release millions of gallons of toxic petroleum during the inevitable Cascadia Earthquake.
- Our **Transportation and Infrastructure** subcommittee fights car dependency and classist infrastructure statewide. Its efforts helped win BAT lanes on 82nd avenue, protected bike infrastructure in NE Portland, and are now focused on keeping necessary infrastructure maintenance affordable for working-class people.
- Our **Public Power** subcommittee fights for cleaner, more democratic and more affordable energy. Data centers are driving up costs of residential electricity while fattening the wallets of the private equity owners of utilities like PGE.

Get Involved

We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 6:30 PM - check out <https://portlanddsa.org/events> to RSVP. You do not need to be a DSA member to attend or participate in the working group. You can attend virtually or in-person. Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions contact us at ecosocialistpdx@protonmail.com.



<https://portlanddsa.org/ecosocialism>

