

City Innovation Snapshot PORTLAND, Maine, USA

Overview

- ▶ **Mayor:** Kate Snyder
- ▶ **Term:** 2019-2023
- ▶ **Innovation Lead:** Lena Geraghty
- ▶ **Population size:** 66 882 (2017)
- ▶ **Innovation / open data website:**
<http://portlandmaine.gov/2375/Smart-City-Innovation-Hub>

What is the organisational structure?

Situated in the City Manager's office, Portland's innovation work is led by **one dedicated staff member** who also serves as a Director of Innovation and Performance Management.



Spotlight

Portland's first innovation project involved the installation of new LED street lights across the city. The transition to LED lighting has reduced Portland's electrical use by 2.7 million kWh per year, while yielding more than \$1 million in savings. Through higher quality LED lighting, the switch also creates safer streets while reducing light pollution.

What is the city's innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Portland has no **formal innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- **Data analytics**
- **Technological innovation**

What is the city's innovation approach?

Similar to 24% of cities surveyed, Portland approaches innovation capacity in **specific policy areas**.

The top two priority policy areas for the city's innovation work are:

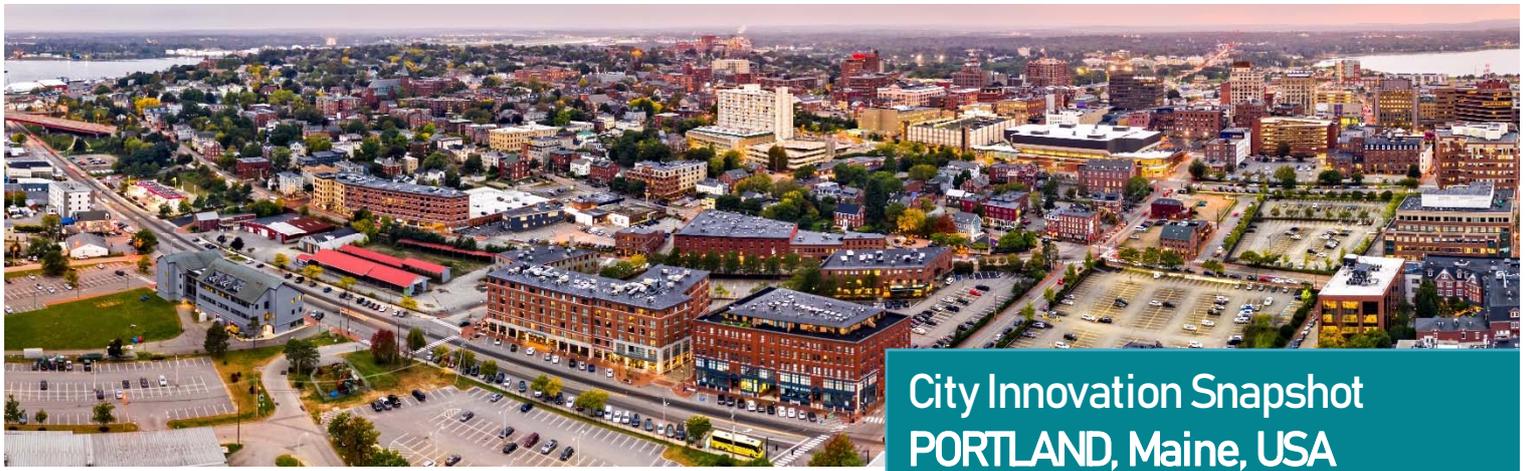
Transport /
mobility

Environment /
climate change

What innovation partnerships exist?

Portland has developed partnerships to **promote innovation capacity** with other levels of government and public agencies.

To **improve data use**, the city has also developed data partnerships with the private sector to collect and analyse data.



City Innovation Snapshot PORTLAND, Maine, USA



What funding is available?

Like 19% of cities surveyed, Portland has **no dedicated funding** to support innovation capacity.



How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ Improving internal government operations
- ✓ Improving service delivery
- ✓ Improving resident outcomes

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are a **focus on metrics**, a **dedicated innovation team**, a **culture of innovation within the municipal administration**, **engagement with partners**, **support from the broader community** and **leadership from the Mayor**.



How is data used?

Portland does not currently use data to align its budget process with its strategic priorities. Challenges preventing the use of data to support innovation goals include **lack of technical infrastructure**, **insufficient staff capacity to collect and analyse data** as well as **limited compatibility of data across policy areas**. Portland also reports that **data collection and analysis is not an institutional priority**.

Portland maintains a **comprehensive data inventory** to make data more accessible.



How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas **with sufficient data** or **without sufficient data** to support innovation capacity in the city.

Transport / Mobility	Economic Development	Housing	Policing and Law Enforcement	Health
Government Finance	Waste and Sewage	Labour Market and Skills	Environment and Climate Change	Education
Culture	Social Inclusion, Equity	Public Works	Tourism	Digital Governance

NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.