



COUNTRY HOME MAGAZINE NAMES CORVALLIS, OREGON BEST GREEN PLACE TO LIVE IN AMERICA

Second Annual Report Ranks Most Eco-Friendly Cities and Towns

NEW YORK - *Country Home* magazine announced today its second annual Best Green Places, the results of a nationwide study on green living. The study, administered in conjunction with Sperling's BestPlaces, reveals that Corvallis, Oregon is the 2008 Best Green Place to live in America. The report is in the April green issue of *Country Home* which hits newsstands March 18th.

The #1 Best Green Place, Corvallis (ranked #3 Best Green Place last year), is located in the Willamette Valley about 90 miles south of Portland and is the site of Oregon State University. Corvallis' city leaders have focused on energy issues such as solid waste management, land use, water conservation, greenhouse gas emissions, recycling, and green buildings and building practices since the 1990s. Green power also played a key role in the city's inclusion on *Country Home's* list. In 2007, Corvallis received utility provider Pacific Power's certificate of environmental stewardship. The city purchases 15 percent of its power from renewable sources, and in 2006, the city was named a Green Power Community by the EPA.

Rounding out the top 10 Best Green Places are: **Portland metro, OR; Bellingham, WA; Santa Rosa Petaluma, CA; Boulder, CO; Eugene Springfield, OR; Santa Cruz Watsonville, CA; Minneapolis metro, MN; Bend, OR; and Santa Barbara metro, CA.**

Also featured in the report, the top 10 cities with the best organic food supply (**Boulder, CO ranks #1**); the cities with the best use of wind powered energy (**Fargo, ND ranks #1**); the Best Green small cities, with populations of 150,000 or less, (**Corvallis, OR ranks #1**); and Best Green large cities, with populations of 500,000 or more, (**Portland metro, OR ranks #1**).

The report appears in *Country Home* magazine's annual April green issue, which also includes eco-friendly features on fabulous home makeovers with green fittings and furnishings; green paints, products and building surfaces; eco-friendly cleaning products; and organic gardens.

"All across the country people are looking for ways to live greener," said *Country Home* Editor-in-Chief LuAnn Brandsen. "Our green places study details a reflection of American cities' commitment to changing the way we live."

The Best Green Places study is based on data compiled and analyzed by Sperling's BestPlaces, examines 24 data metrics in 5 major categories – including mass transit use and other practices of each place's population, green power policies, biofuel and wind power availability, number of green-certified buildings, farmers markets, organic producers, and air and watershed quality - to determine which metro areas are the best places to live a green life. Sperling's BestPlaces ranked the 379 major metropolitan areas, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. These metro areas are home to over 80 percent of all U.S. residents.

Data was collected from sources which include the Census Bureau, the U.S. Green Building Council, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the GreenPeople.org online directory.

“*Country Home* continually dedicates its pages to inspiring and encouraging its readers to building, decorating and living more eco-friendly– something the marketplace and our advertising partners are embracing as well.” said *Country Home* Publisher Tony Imperato.

Country Home knows there are thousands of unsung towns and small cities that are also encouraging homeowners and citizens to live green. If yours is one of them, go to CountryHome.com and tell us about it. Detailed results of our study of 379 cities will also be posted on CountryHome.com.

2008 Best Green Places

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| 1. Corvallis, OR | 14. Fort Collins Loveland, CO |
| 2. Portland metro, OR | 15. St. Cloud, MN |
| 3. Bellingham, WA | 16. Salem, OR |
| 4. Santa Rosa Petaluma, CA | 17. Madison, WI |
| 5. Boulder, CO | 18. Iowa City, IA |
| 6. Eugene Springfield, OR | 19. Ames, IA |
| 7. Santa Cruz Watsonville, CA | 20. San Luis metro, IA |
| 8. Minneapolis, MN | 21. Salinas, CA |
| 9. Bend, OR | 22. Bremerton Silverdale, WA |
| 10. Santa Barbara metro, CA | 23. Duluth, WI |
| 11. San Francisco metro, CA | 24. Pittsfield, MA |
| 12. La Crosse, WI | 25. Medford, OR |
| 13. Seattle metro, WA | |

About *Country Home*

For 25 years, *Country Home* magazine has redefined the vision of country. *Country Home* speaks to the desire for style with editorial features that blend formal and familiar, classic and casual, to inspire readers to explore their own personal tastes. The magazine presents fresh, actionable ideas that are relevant to all aspects of readers' lifestyles, including home décor, food and entertaining, fashion and well-being, travel and shopping. *Country Home*, published by Meredith Corporation (NYSE: MDP), has over 8.3 million readers, is published 10 times per year and has a rate base of 1.25 million. The magazine was nominated for a 2005 National Magazine Award in photography.

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