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Contact: Jenie Skoy
Public Relations Manager
503-581-4325, ext. 25
atham@TravelSalem.com

Travel Salem Named Top 100 Best Green Companies to Work For in Oregon

SALEM, ORE. — Travel Salem has been selected as a “Top 100 Best Green Companies to Work For in Oregon” by *Oregon Business* magazine. The rankings were unveiled at a luncheon held at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. Travel Salem was one of only five Salem area businesses recognized and the organization’s ranking went up significantly from 80th last year to 54th this year.

“We are committed to maintaining a ‘green company’ and are thrilled to be counted as one of Oregon’s most sustainable organizations,” said Angie Morris, CEO of Travel Salem. “We’re also pleased about the substantial progress we’ve made over last year in dramatically improving our ranking to 54th on this prestigious list. Sustainability is not only a philosophy, but it has become a way of doing business because ‘green’ business practices matter to our customers.”

Travel Salem’s “Green Team,” a group of employees charged with making the workplace more sustainable, led the way in developing an eco-savvy culture with buy-in to sustainable practices. Travel Salem is certified EarthWISE through Marion County’s business environmental assistance program, incorporating sustainable practices in the business such as recycling, reducing waste and saving energy. Travel Salem’s Travel Café and administrative office was designed with sustainability in mind: using recycled and earth-friendly materials and features that allow for generous natural light, among other things. Two years ago, the Travel Café received an award for “Green Building Retrofit of the Year” at the 2010 Mid-Willamette Valley Green Awards.

The 100 Best Green Companies in 2011 were selected based on Sustainable Practices sections in both employee and employer surveys completed last year by nearly 19,000 employees from 415 for-profit companies and nonprofit organizations. The 100 Best Green Companies survey was incorporated into the **100 Best Companies** and **100 Best Nonprofits** surveys.

The “100 Best Green Companies to Work For in Oregon” is featured in the June “Green Issue” of *Oregon Business* magazine, which is now available for purchase.

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****Travel Salem is a non-profit organization that promotes Salem and Marion and Polk counties for leisure tourism and convention and event business. The local annual economic impact of the greater Salem area visitor industry is \$452 million. Travel Salem manages the Official Salem Area Travel Café/Visitors Center located at the historic Grand Hotel building (181 High St. NE, Salem), two I-5 satellite visitor information locations located at the Best Western Mill Creek Inn (3125 Ryan Dr. SE) and the Red Lion Hotel (3301 Market St. NE), and the Official Salem Area Website www.TravelSalem.com****