

Director's Office, 350 Winter St. NE, Room 200, Salem, Oregon 97301-3878

For immediate release:  
July 12, 2011

For more information:  
Lisa Morawski, 503-947-7897, or  
[lisa.m.morawski@state.or.us](mailto:lisa.m.morawski@state.or.us)

## **Cottage Grove joins Oregon's e-permitting program**

*Building contractors can submit plans, print permits, and track projects*

(Salem) – Cottage Grove this month became the second building department in Lane County to join Oregon's full-service e-permitting program. The program, administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division, allows contractors to submit plans, track projects, and buy various permits online.

Springfield, Lebanon, and Jefferson County are also using the full-service program, and the division is working to bring 15 other jurisdictions on board, including Lane County and Lake Oswego. The program has the capacity to serve all 134 local building departments in Oregon.

"The full-service program has worked well for contractors and the jurisdictions that have adopted it," said Patrick Allen, acting administrator of the Building Codes Division. "Expanding the program statewide will help make the construction process more efficient and consistent throughout Oregon."

Full-service e-permitting builds on the "basic services" e-permitting program, which allows contractors to buy simple, non-plan review permits online from 34 jurisdictions. To date, more than 90,000 permit applications have been processed online through e-permitting, at [BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov](http://BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov).

With full-service e-permitting, licensed contractors can access many more services, including:

- Purchasing a full range of permits including permits for the construction of new buildings
- Submitting electronic plans for review
- Receiving correction notices
- Printing their permit
- Tracking the permit progress
- Receiving their Certificate of Occupancy

In addition, licensed architects and engineers can submit applications, including documents for new buildings.

The e-permitting system was developed using software from Accela, Inc., which facilitates shared services approaches for state and local governments.

"I am so excited," said Kelly Dath, of Comfort Flow Heating. "The e-permitting system has made my life so much easier when it comes to applying for permits and checking on inspections."

E-permitting not only saves time for contractors, it reduces the building department's workload because applications filled out online are immediately deposited into the department's system.

"The city of Cottage Grove is extremely excited about this program and to be the second city in Lane County to offer it," said Community Development Director Howard Schesser. "The city is committed to improving access to services for contractors, developers and the public. This is one tool that will allow us to do that."

“Customer service is being increased,” added Permit Specialist Bekke Fox. “I am looking forward to utilizing the system as an enhanced information sharing tool with internal and external customers.”

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit [www.dcb.s.oregon.gov](http://www.dcb.s.oregon.gov).

###