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NEWS

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Mosier Community School shines light on new solar array September 2

Energy Trust incentives, community volunteers make the 4.3 kW solar energy system a reality

MOSIER, Ore. — August 30, 2004 — There's a new piece of equipment on the Mosier Community School grounds in this Columbia River Gorge community. A 4.3-kilowatt solar array that follows the sun will be generating energy for the school — and learning opportunities for students and the community. The system will be unveiled to the public at an event at 1:00 pm, Thursday, September 2, 2004.

The solar installation is a solar demonstration project funded in part by \$45,000 from Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc. Two pole-mounted solar arrays, each with twelve photovoltaic modules, have been installed on the school grounds. The system will generate about 6,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, or about 15 percent of the school's demand, annually.

The system is tied to the Pacific Power grid through a net-metering arrangement. Power generated but not consumed at the school will flow to the grid for a credit on the school's electric bill. The balance of the project cost is being supported by the Columbia River Bank, a pass-through partner in the Business Energy Tax Credit program managed by the Oregon Department of Energy.

"This location offers the best solar exposure for the system," said Mark Cherniack, volunteer energy coordinator for the school. "It also offers excellent public visibility for the system, with thousands of residents and visitors passing by car and bike each day in the summer." The school is located on the last remaining section of the historic Columbia River Highway. Colorful signage will draw resident and visitor attention to the solar site.

“This project is a great demonstration of how solar can work to generate clean, renewable power and, through the school’s educational outreach plan, will engage the community in thinking about their energy choices,” said Kacia Brockman, solar program manager, Energy Trust of Oregon.

One of seven solar demonstration projects around the state

In October 2003, Energy Trust issued a request for proposal for demonstration projects to install solar electric systems on public and community buildings in Portland General Electric and Pacific Power service territories. Projects were selected based on their technical merits, cost and the ability to overcome market barriers through education, marketing and visibility.

Mosier Community School is one of the first demonstration projects to be installed. The charter school was established in 2002 and serves 100 students in grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

The educational component of the demonstration project is anchored by an exhibit of the solar system at the GISMO Science Museum. This General Integrated Science Museum is filled with exhibits designed, built, maintained and administered by Mosier Community School students. Students will monitor and measure how the system works as part of their science studies. High school age students from the area will be trained to serve as staff docents at GISMO.

Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to changing how Oregonians use energy by promoting energy efficiency and clean renewable energy for Oregon customers of Pacific Power, Portland General Electric and NW Natural. For information about Energy Trust programs, visit the Energy Trust website, www.energytrust.org , call 1-866-ENTRUST.

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