

# SYNERGY NORTHWEST OREGON

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON

## CITY OF ASTORIA INSTALLS FIRST RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

In 2015, the City of Astoria installed a new 30-kilowatt hydroelectric turbine—their first renewable energy project. Located near Bear Creek Reservoir, the hydropower system saves the city an estimated \$9,000 in annual energy costs. Expected annual generation is approximately 150,000 kilowatt hours, which is enough energy to offset the power usage of the city's water treatment plant and also sell excess generation to Pacific Power.

Energy Trust of Oregon provided project development assistance and a \$143,000 incentive for the project. Additional funding was awarded from Pacific Power's Blue SkySM renewable energy program, Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority and City of Astoria. "I am thrilled that so many agencies and groups were able to come together to help get the city's first alternative energy project off the ground," said Arline LaMear, mayor, City of Astoria. "This project not only helps power the city with renewable energy, its construction supported the local economy by providing at least 25 jobs for 12 weeks."



## CHINOOK WINDS CASINO RESORT WINS BIG ENERGY SAVINGS

Visitors to Chinook Winds Casino Resort marvel at how the décor captures the spirit and traditions of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, but that doesn't stop Chinook Winds from embracing new technology to save energy, trim labor costs and improve customer experience.

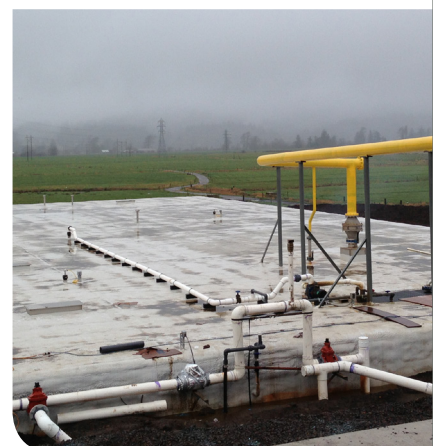
When Energy Trust pointed out inefficiencies in the casino's air handlers, Chinook Winds installed new variable frequency drives with digital controls that allow facilities staff to monitor equipment remotely. The technology shaved approximately \$50,000 from annual energy costs and \$100,000 from labor costs, while improving comfort for staff and customers.



Chinook Winds also invested in energy-efficient lighting, receiving a \$46,000 cash incentive from Energy Trust and saving another \$49,000 in estimated annual energy costs. LEDs solved what Sean Sheridan, the resort's director of facilities, referred to as the "maintenance nightmare" of constantly changing bulbs: "LEDs have freed us to focus more on preventative maintenance because we spend less time on reactive maintenance."

## FARM POWER HELPS POWER THE GRID WITH DAIRY WASTE

Farm Power, a biogas energy project developer in the Pacific Northwest, brought its second biopower project to Misty Meadow Dairy in Tillamook County. The project collects dairy waste from about 2,500 cows and processes the material in a plug-flow anaerobic digester. Inside the million-gallon digester tank, bacteria digest the heated dairy waste and produce biogas, which fuels a 750-kilowatt co-generation engine that produces electricity.



The co-generation engine produces approximately 5.7 million kWh of electricity annually, enough to power more than 500 average Oregon homes for a year. Energy Trust provided \$1 million in cash incentives to support the anaerobic digestion project.

In addition to generating power, the project helps protect water quality in the Tillamook watershed and the processed manure is returned to the dairy farmers as an organic fertilizer.

## ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS SAVE ENERGY AT NO COST

Using energy more efficiently couldn't have been easier for Avamere's Suzanne Elise Assisted Living. Energy Trust representatives installed energy-saving shower wands and CFLs in 74 apartments at no cost. Energy Trust representatives installed the energy-saving products in each apartment and handled the paperwork. "I was surprised how easy it was," said Aylee Rhea, executive director, Suzanne Elise Assisted Living.

When Rhea learned about the no-cost service, she also made a note of Energy Trust incentives for energy-efficient equipment and lighting. "It just so happened that I needed a gas water heater about a week later," Rhea recalled. "Because I knew about the program, we installed a high-efficiency gas model and got an incentive." She's also planning to upgrade the outdated, inefficient lighting in the facility's common areas.

## TRADE ALLY OF THE MONTH: GROTH-GATES HEATING AND SHEET METAL

Groth-Gates Heating and Sheet Metal, located in Lincoln City and Newport, became an Energy Trust trade ally contractor to help home and business owners on the Oregon coast reduce energy use and save on utility bills.

For Groth-Gates to become a trade ally contractor, employees completed Performance Tested Comfort Systems® training, were trained to install the latest energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, and learned about Energy Trust programs and incentives. The training was invaluable professional development.

"Working as a team with Energy Trust and customers, we can help lower the cost of new equipment and help people save money over time by upgrading to energy-efficient systems," said Ryan Gates, manager.



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