

Bend parking plaza, Redmond Airport go solar

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Pacific Power's Blue Sky customers helping advance renewable energy projects in central Oregon

BEND, Ore. -- Pacific Power's customers who participate in the company's voluntary Blue Sky renewable energy program are helping to advance two new renewable energy projects in Bend and Redmond. The projects, chosen among dozens of applicants, feature the installation of solar panels that will both generate electricity and educate others about the importance of renewable resources.

"The city of Bend and the Redmond Airport emerged as obvious choices to receive these community Blue Sky funding awards," said Angela Jacobson, regional community manager for Pacific Power. "We're delighted to be such an integral part of making these renewable energy projects a reality for our communities, and we look forward to seeing central Oregon transform itself into a major renewable energy player in the months and years ahead."

These funds will be used to facilitate the installation of a solar photovoltaic project in the Bend Centennial Parking Plaza. Solar panels will be installed on the roof of the recently completed downtown four-level

garage, with generating equipment and interconnection in the main electric room on the ground level. The project is expected to be on-line in 2007.

At the Redmond Municipal Airport, installation of 220 photovoltaic solar panels on the new concourse is planned, along with an educational kiosk to highlight the benefits of solar energy. Construction of the new concourse is currently underway.

Pacific Power customers who buy Blue Sky renewable energy already are increasing the amount of clean, renewable energy on the electric grid. The growth of the Blue Sky program is now helping support these additional community-based renewable projects.

In coming months, two other projects will be announced in Oregon. These funding awards are intended to help get new renewable energy projects off the ground. Among selection criteria was that the project have significant public benefit potential, including education.

Pacific Power has one of the most successful renewable energy programs in the nation. More than 3,000 Bend and Redmond residents and businesses support renewable energy through one of the company's Blue Sky options. This represents 6.5 percent of the Pacific Power customers served in these two communities, or four times the national average. About 25,500 Oregonians in Pacific Power's service area buy Blue Sky renewable energy, or nearly 5 percent of Pacific Power's customer base.

For more information about Pacific Power's Blue Sky renewable energy options visit pacificpower.net/bluesky or call 800-769-3717.

About Pacific Power

Pacific Power strives to promote innovation and working with customers and communities to increase the visibility of clean, renewable, distributed energy generation technologies through education and community outreach. Pacific Power is headquartered in Portland, and provides electric service to more than 700,000 customers in Oregon, Washington and California. It is part of PacifiCorp, one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, providing approximately 1.7 million customers with reliable, efficient energy. The company works to meet growing energy demand while protecting and enhancing the environment.

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