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Cottage Grove shines as nation's newest Green Power Community

*Successful "Greening the Grove" renewable energy challenge helps city
polish its already vibrant reputation for environmental leadership*

COTTAGE GROVE, Ore. – Cottage Grove today became the newest Green Power Community nationally recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for leadership and dedicated support of renewable energy.

"This is great news for the Cottage Grove community," said Mayor Gary Williams, who received special street signs from the federal agency marking the city's recognition. "We've twice been recognized as an All-America City and now to be among the leaders in supporting renewable energy is a strong endorsement of our community as a place to grow and grow sustainably."

Cottage Grove is the newest of 17 Green Power Communities nationwide. The 2.7 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy purchased annually by the Cottage Grove community is enough to supply electricity to more than 230 average homes. The 2.7 million kilowatt-hours of power equals 3.35 percent of the total community power use. Surpassing the 3 percent level is what qualifies Cottage Grove to be an EPA Green Power Community. Of the 17 Green Power Communities nationwide, eight are in Oregon, the most in any state.

The national designation comes after a successful renewable energy challenge sponsored by Pacific Power's Blue Sky program, the Emerald People's Utility District and the city. The community challenge began in March and concluded Sept. 30 with 6.1 percent of all Cottage Grove area customers signed up for renewable energy. Service to Cottage Grove residents is split between the two utilities, which both offer renewable energy programs.

"Cottage Grove is a very close-knit community and people really pulled together in this effort," said Doris Johnston, Pacific Power regional community manager. "There

was tremendous energy at all the community events we attended, from the Business Faire to the Electric Parade to the concerts in Coiner Park.”

Residents and businesses showed stronger than anticipated support for renewable energy. Originally, organizers projected that in order to reach the 3 percent mark, more than 6 percent of local customers would have to participate. But, on average, each customer who chose renewable energy purchased a larger amount than predicted.

“It’s been great for EPUD and Pacific Power to get out into the community and talk about an issue that people are really excited about,” said Rob Carrier, EPUD energy analyst. “Cottage Grove’s response of increasing support for renewable energy programs by 42 percent demonstrates a real commitment to sustainable energy.”

Overall, Cottage Grove-area customers are purchasing renewable power equal to the annual production of one new, high-capacity turbine at a commercial scale wind farm. That offsets 2,345 tons of carbon emissions, which is equivalent to not driving more than 6.8 million miles. It’s also equal to planting 539,517 trees.

Cottage Grove areas business partners include:

AM 1400 KNND
Assist 2 Sell
ATA Blackbelt Academy
City of Cottage Grove
Cottage Grove Sentinel
Family Relief Nursery
Fleur De Lis Patisserie & Cafe
Hartwork
Herb’s Automotive
Kalapuya Books
Koratschenko Mystical Closet
Lane Community College
Pacific Aviation
Side Pocket Corp.
South Lane School District 45
Sustainable Agricultural Technologies, Inc.

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About Wind Power

Renewable energy started flowing through EPUD’s lines on Jan. 1, 1999, delivering sustainable, pollution-free power to our customers. EPUD was the first utility in the Northwest to purchase a renewable resource from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. EPUD now purchases Green-e certified wind power credits for its residential and business customers. In 2007, 3.5 percent of EPUD customers participated in the Wind Power program to deliver clean energy to the Northwest power grid. In addition, EPUD is partnering with other public power agencies in purchasing a portion of the output of the White Creek wind power development in the Columbia Gorge.

About Emerald PUD

EPUD was established in 1983 from the grassroots efforts of local citizens to create a consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric utility. It serves 19,000 customers in a 550-square-mile territory. EPUD has always been an innovator in energy efficiency, from its award-winning headquarters building, to creation of its Short Mountain Methane Power Plant. Greenhouse gases emitted from the Lane County Landfill are captured and burned to create electricity. Most of EPUD's electricity comes from BPA hydropower, and is supplemented with the landfill gas generation and wind.

About Blue Sky

The strong support of Pacific Power customers has led to the Blue Sky program being named national 2007 Green Power Program of the Year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory ranks Blue Sky third or better in the nation for the fourth consecutive year in the number of customers buying renewable power and for renewable power sales volume for 2007. The program is Green-e Energy Certified, which means the renewable energy supported meets the rigorous national environmental and consumer-protection standards established by the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy, visit www.green-e.org/energy. More than 36,000 customers in the Northwest are part of Blue Sky.

About Pacific Power

Pacific Power strives to promote innovation and works with customers and communities to increase the visibility of renewable energy generation technologies through education and community outreach. Pacific Power is headquartered in Portland and provides electric service to more than 724,000 customers in Oregon, Washington and California. As part of PacifiCorp, one of the lowest-cost electricity producers in the United States, Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power provide more than 1.7 million customers in six Western states with reliable, efficient energy. The company works to meet growing energy demand while protecting and enhancing the environment.

About EPA's Green Power Partnership

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with purchased electricity use. The partnership currently has hundreds of partner organizations voluntarily purchasing billions of kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500 companies, small and medium sized businesses, local, state, and federal governments, and colleges and universities. For additional information, please visit www.epa.gov/greenpower.