For 17 years, Emerald has been converting waste landfill gas into electricity at our Short Mountain Landfill Gas Generation Plant. We commissioned the first phase of power generating facilities in 1992, to provide relatively low-cost, reliable, and local power for our Customer-Owners. The project also lowered emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, generated two long-term positions, and utilized an untapped economic resource. The plant generates about 15 million kilowatt hours (kWh) and approximately 2.5 megawatts (MW) of electricity every year. This is the equivalent of nearly 33,000 barrels of oil per year. It provides enough electricity to power about a thousand homes. Since the Short Mountain Landfill is an operating landfill and plans to accept refuse for many years into the future, this project will continue to produce electricity for about another 20 years.

**Spotlight on Short Mountain**

A group of wells pump methane through a filtering system to 1,150-horsepower/825-KW engines. The engines run electric generators which provide power to a transformer connected to Emerald’s distribution system that serves Goshen, Creswell and Pleasant Hill.

Special engines burn methane to make electricity.

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- Avoids producing 171 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions

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Local. Since April 2009, Emerald has supported customer-owned solar electric installations in our service area by issuing rebate incentives for 18.11 kW of new photovoltaic capacity. Incentives totaled a little over $29,000 for four new residential-sized net-metered systems. Together these systems will produce enough electricity for 1.5 average EPUD homes per year. Since 2005, Emerald has incentivized the installation of 200 kW, enough solar electric capacity to meet 0.2% of our utility’s overall total demand.

Regional. The Northwest Power & Conservation Council is charged with maintaining a regional power plan and a fish and wildlife program to balance the Northwest’s environment and energy needs. Every five years it releases a Power Plan that maps short- and long-term goals for new generation and energy efficiency in the region. This month, the Council released its Sixth Power Plan Draft. The new plan calls for acquiring more energy efficiency than ever in the region—almost 1,200 aMW over the next five years, enough to power 840,000 new homes. The Council plans on the region adding more wind, and biomass generation as well. However, 58% of new demand for electricity over the next five years is slated to be met with energy conservation. More information is available at www.nwcouncil.org/energy/Default.htm.

National. The EPA Green Power Partnership already has a Green Power Community in Cottage Grove, right here in our backyard. Now Green Power Schools are possible too. The EPA recently expanded its Top Ten Lists to include K-12 schools. Those currently buying green power and those considering a green power purchase may now be eligible for national recognition. In addition, the EPA has updated its Top Partner Rankings and published it on their website at www.epa.gov/grnpower/toplists/index.htm.

Technology Corner
Oregon is a state with an extraordinary geological past. If pursued with proper consideration for our wild areas, geothermal energy has great potential for utility clean energy portfolios because of its near constant availability. One technology that may help geothermal developers is Hot Dry Rock (HDR). Using HDR, pressurized water circulates through a network of reservoirs created in very hot and essentially dry basement rock. The water returns to turbines as steam, where it generates electricity. These closed-loop networks are created in areas where there are no known fault zones, to minimize leakage and tremor risks. The costs are not currently competitive, but Emerald will continue to monitor this technology as a future contributor to the region’s clean energy needs.

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