

OREGON SOLAR HIGHWAY

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND JOBS – THE NEXT OPPORTUNITIES

Objective: To reduce ODOT's energy use along the highway system and to power the energy it needs with renewable sources.

America's First Solar Highway Project

In 2008, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) completed the nation's first solar photovoltaic project in the highway right-of-way to light the interchange. The project was completed through an innovative public-private partnership with Portland General Electric, Oregon's largest utility; Solar World US, Oregon's and the nation's largest solar manufacturer; and PV Powered, Oregon's and the nation's largest inverter manufacturer which President Obama visited in May 2008.

World's Largest Solar Highway Project

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski has announced that having completed the first solar highway project in the nation, now Oregon will complete the largest solar highway project in the world – which would need to exceed a 2.8 megawatt project announced for Germany.

Project Size: 3 megawatts (3.2 million kilowatt hours/year – about one-sixth of ODOT's needs in PGE's service area)

Project Cost: \$20 million

Estimated Employment: 140 to 150 direct and indirect jobs

Potential Start Date: The project could begin with public involvement and site reviews in 2009, with groundbreaking in 2010.

Location: Portland Metropolitan Area

Solar Highway Rest Area Project – Interpretive Display

Oregon has the opportunity to develop a large solar photovoltaic project at a major interstate highway rest area that could also offer an interpretive display seen by more than 50,000 travelers daily.

Project Size: 1.6 megawatts (1.8 million kilowatt hours/year)

Project Cost: \$11.1 million

Estimated Employment: 60 to 70 direct and indirect jobs

Potential Start Date: The project could begin as early as late 2009 – or early 2010 with the larger project.

Location: Between Portland and Salem (Baldock Rest Area)

Solar Highway Project – Southern Oregon

Oregon has even greater solar resources in Southern Oregon where there is strong community interest in solar – and the project could be part of the gateway to Oregon.

Project Size: 2 megawatts (2.1 million kilowatt hours/year)

Project Cost: \$13.6 million

Estimated Employment: 70 to 80 direct and indirect jobs

Potential Start Date: With full federal funding, the project could begin in early 2010.

Location: Jackson County, Oregon

Solar Highway Project – Build Out Demonstration Project

Oregon can build out the first solar highway project in the nation – to three times the initial size.

Project Size: 200 kW (214,000 kilowatt hours/year)

Project Cost: \$1.4 million

Estimated Employment: 30 to 35 direct and indirect jobs

Potential Start Date: The project could begin as early as summer 2009.

Location: Interstates 5 and 205 in Tualatin, Oregon

Result: A More Energy Efficient System

ODOT has a goal to reduce its energy needs by 30 percent, through utilizing best available technologies such as more energy efficient lights. For example, ODOT Region 1 retrofitted 95% of its signals and flashers with power-saving LEDs resulting in energy consumption reductions equivalent to the annual power needed for over 140 Oregon homes. This has saved ODOT \$110,000 per year on its electric bill. ODOT completed similar traffic signal installments in two other regions and plans to do more in the future. Further, ODOT is currently looking for new opportunities conserve energy through efficiency lighting, in places like tunnels and maintenance yards.



First solar highway project in Oregon and the nation.



Next: Largest solar highway project in the world.



President Obama shares his vision in Oregon in 2008.



A clear commitment to sustainable energy and jobs.

More Information:



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