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Corvallis takes the Energy Challenge

Community-wide program for businesses and homes will boost energy efficiency, increase renewable energy

CORVALLIS, Ore. — March 3, 2008 — Corvallis is heading for an energy makeover. The Corvallis Energy Challenge launches today when Corvallis City Council adopts a resolution supporting this citywide effort to inspire homeowners, businesses and local government to increase energy efficiency and benefit from clean, renewable energy.

The year-long, multi-pronged program is a collaborative effort by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and Energy Trust of Oregon.

Corvallis Mayor Charles Tomlinson supports the Challenge. “I expect the Corvallis Energy Challenge will help our citizens lower their energy costs now, make us less vulnerable to future energy cost increases and move us toward energy independence,” he said.

During launch week representatives of 70 organizations from the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition will receive energy assessments of their own homes and begin recruiting 1,000 additional Corvallis homeowners to sign up for reviews by April 22.

Energy Trust experts will conduct home energy reviews for customers of Pacific Power and/or NW Natural, which serve about 90 percent of Corvallis homes. Consumers Power will provide reviews for their residential customers.

Energy reviews point out cost-effective ways to reduce energy use, save on energy costs and improve comfort in homes built before 1993, when Oregon residential building codes began requiring significant amounts of insulation.

A team of energy professionals and trained reviewers from the Corvallis Environmental Center will provide energy assessments for Corvallis retail and commercial businesses, starting with five assessments later this week.

Also this week, Energy Trust is hosting a Power Lunch for Corvallis area manufacturing and industrial businesses to lay out benefits and opportunities for participating in the Challenge. An Energy Trust consultant will begin a comprehensive assessment of potential for solar installations on Corvallis municipal facilities.

The program's website, www.CorvallisEnergyChallenge.org, goes live today.

"We're ready to take on the challenge to see how much we can accomplish as a community, working together to make Corvallis a cleaner, greener city," said Annette Mills, co-chair, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition. "Energy Trust's programs strongly support our goal of accelerating the creation of Corvallis as a sustainable community—and their enthusiasm is contagious!"

The Corvallis Energy Challenge will include outreach, education and intensive promotion of Energy Trust programs, which have been offered to customers of Pacific Power and NW Natural since 2002.

Energy Trust will also work on developing the Corvallis area's clean energy economy. Energy Trust maintains a trade ally network of heating and cooling contractors, insulation specialists, window installers and solar contractors who install measures that qualify for Energy Trust incentives. During this campaign Energy Trust will be recruiting more trade allies to serve the Corvallis area.

Consumers Power offers incentive programs with support from Bonneville Power Administration. Information is available at www.ConsumersPower.org. The Oregon Department of Energy's State Home Oil Weatherization (SHOW) program serves Oregon households that heat with oil, propane, kerosene, butane or wood. SHOW-eligible homeowners can conduct their own energy audit and apply for cash rebates for installed weatherization and heating measures. Information is available at www.Oregon.gov/ENERGY.

The Corvallis Sustainability Coalition is a network of organizations and citizens in Corvallis and Benton County who are working together to accelerate the creation of a sustainable community. It was formed in January 2007 and operates under the auspices of the Oregon Natural Step Network. More than 80 organizations have joined—including nonprofit organizations, businesses, faith communities, educational institutions and government entities—as well as individual citizens. More information can be found at www.SustainableCorvallis.org.

Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., is a nonprofit organization dedicated to changing how Oregonians use energy by promoting energy efficiency and clean renewable energy for Oregon customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas. For more information, visit the Energy Trust website, www.energytrust.org, or call 1-866-368-7878.

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