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Largest Solar Project in Washington Planned

With the welcome shift to warmer weather, what better way to celebrate than announcing the largest solar facility in Washington state? This spring, we were proud to announce our new partnership with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to develop the 1,800-acre, 150 MW Lund Hill Solar Project in Klickitat County, Washington. This project, featuring more than a half million solar panels, would supply the energy utility's renewable energy product for customers, called Green Direct, which allows participants to purchase 100% of their energy from dedicated, local renewable energy resources.

PSE's power purchase agreement would cover the entire output of the project, which is anticipated to reach commercial operation late next year.



"This is an incredible example of the public and private sector[s] coming together to transform the trajectory of renewable energy in Washington state," said Gov. Jay Inslee, who announced last October that eight state agencies were joining the Green Direct program with a commitment to purchase more than 100 million kWh of in-state wind and solar electricity by 2021.

The project boasts another first: It's the state's first land lease for solar power. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leases 480 acres of state trust lands for the project. Avangrid Renewables leases the remaining acreage from private landowners.

Prior to the lease agreement, the land was used for cattle grazing, which generates \$2/acre per year. In contrast, Avangrid Renewables will be leasing the land for \$300/acre annually, and the revenue will go to the Common School Trust used for school construction across the state.

The Lund Hill Solar Project is our latest effort to add solar to our portfolio of renewable energy projects in the Northwest. Last year, we began operations at the 10 MW Wy'East Solar Project in Wasco, Oregon, and, prior to that, opened the 56 MW Gala Solar Plant near Prineville, Oregon, in 2017. Lund Hill would be built near our operating Big Horn Wind Farms in Washington. 🌱



"Papa and grandson! In Memory of Papa Kent Ringkob"
submitted by Debra Ringkob/Jackson, Minnesota,
from our Elm Creek II Wind Farm.

PHOTO SUBMISSIONS

**Have a photo you'd like to share?
We'd love to see them, and we'll publish
the best in Landowner News!**

To submit your photos, please email your images with a caption and contact information to renphotos@avangrid.com, or mail to Avangrid Renewables, Attn: Land Management, 1125 NW Couch St., Ste. 700, Portland, OR 97209.

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New Projects Satisfy Corporate Desire for Clean Energy



Photo: The 201 MW Montague Wind Farm in Oregon is slated to begin operation later this year.

The demand for renewable energy continues to grow thanks to improving technology and dropping costs. And companies continue seeking out sustainable, carbon-free energy to power their operations while meeting their environmental goals. We're busy building new sites to come online this year. Here's a quick rundown of what's on the horizon.

Montague Wind Farm, Oregon. Our 10th Oregon wind farm began construction in September 2017 and is anticipated to begin operation later this year. Located within 33,717 acres, the 53 turbines are the first phase of what is planned to be a 404 MW wind farm.

Coyote Ridge Wind Farm, South Dakota. This 97 MW, 29-turbine wind farm is now under construction in Brookings County. In January, WEC Energy Group of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, purchased 80% of ownership interest of the wind farm. Avangrid Renewables will operate and maintain the facility. A large commercial company is purchasing 100% of the energy. We estimate the wind farm will contribute more than \$20 million to the local community over its lifetime in combined land lease payments and local and state tax payments.

Karankawa Wind Farm, Texas. Last year, we announced a major power purchase agreement (PPA) with a large commercial customer, from the 307 MW Karankawa Wind Farm in Bee and San Patricio counties, marking another project for us along the Texas Gulf Coast near Corpus Christi. Construction began in late 2018, and Austin Energy holds a separate a PPA at Karankawa for 200 MW.

Otter Creek Wind Farm, Illinois. Construction is underway at this 42-turbine, 158 MW wind farm in LaSalle County. The farm, scheduled for completion later this year, will use Vestas wind turbines.

Patriot Wind Farm, Texas. This 63-turbine project in Nueces County is also near Corpus Christi, became fully operational on June 28, meaning we'll soon have more than 1,100 MW of wind along the Texas Gulf Coast. 🌬️

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Five Questions with Marion Weatherford from Arlington, Oregon

It's a busy construction year for us, and for you, our landowners. We wanted to catch up with one of our landowners who is experiencing that construction firsthand.

Where is your property located? Our family farm is 13 miles south of Arlington, along state Highway 19. Arlington is 137 miles east of Portland on the Columbia River. Growing up here, all the wind could be a welcome relief on a hot day. But more often it seemed like a curse. It would erode the soil and further dry out the land and blow your hat across the field. So being able to diversify the land and utilize the wind for something positive like renewable energy, that's a real blessing.

How did your family come to occupy your property? My brothers and I are the fifth generation of the family farming in Gilliam County. Our great-great-grandfather, William Washington Weatherford, came to Oregon on the Oregon Trail in 1861. He came out when he was 16 years old as an orphan. His four brothers and sisters joined him in 1864. Eventually, they started farming in 1881. Before that, no one farmed wheat in this county for commercial purposes. It was all open grassland and cattle. And that's in the area where the Montague 1 Wind Energy project on our family land is located. Today the three brothers involved with the land are Bob Weatherford, Morris Weatherford and me.

How did you start working with us? We first talked to Avangrid Renewables and they leased our land for potential wind farm development in 2010. We didn't know until about two years ago if a wind farm would be built or not. During that time, there were lots of other wind

► companies speculating on developing wind farms. But one of the few that had actually successfully developed a wind project in Gilliam County was Avangrid Renewables. So, among all the choices to lease our land for wind energy development, we chose Avangrid Renewables because of their experience and they were already here and were a really good neighbor.

The construction goal is to have the turbines placed and completed and allow for energy production by September 2019.

How would you describe your experience working with us?

Avangrid Renewables is sensitive to the farming heritage in the area. They take the input of the farmer seriously. And so, the design of the turbine streams was chosen to be the least destructive to farming patterns. We will still grow wheat on that land. In the end, the footprint of where the turbines are located will be a small percentage of the farming land. We worked closely with the designers and the engineers to lay roads and turbine placement in a manner that accommodates farming. It's a huge project. Some things are immovable, but any area where they have flexibility Avangrid Renewables accommodates the concerns of the landowner.

What would you say to other landowners considering a similar partnership?

Wind projects are a tremendous boost to our rural economy. It helps diversify our farm. Many rural counties are financially strapped. Comparatively, in large part due to wind energy, Gilliam County is thriving. The revenue from these projects to the local government helps support the schools. It subsidizes senior housing. It helps provide public transportation. It helps public works, such as the library and the parks and community centers. And it helps finance economic development projects to diversify our local economy. So, the benefits are not just to the environment or to the company developing it or the landowners where the project is placed. The benefits are for all the citizens. 🌱

If you'd like to be considered for an upcoming Five Questions series in Landowner News, send us an email at rensosocial@avangrid.com.

A Bird's-Eye View of Sustainability



As a leader in renewable energy, we're proud to stand at the forefront of the nation's transformational change in how we generate energy.

Demand for clean energy solutions and acting as a good steward of natural resources mean we must innovate, deploy new technology and study new approaches to our projects. We recently outlined our efforts, and some of the results, in our new 2018 Sustainability Report.

Partnering with nonprofit environmental protection organizations and regulatory agencies, we are working to understand and manage the human impact on habitats and wildlife. It all starts, of course, by complying with environmental laws, regulations and industry standards. But it also includes our extensive programs for the protection of endangered and/or protected species.

In 2018, AVANGRID invested more than \$1.7 million in programs specifically to protect birds, bats and a variety of wildlife. That led to several initiatives that are now underway to study and prevent collisions between birds and wind turbines.

In 2018, we installed two IdentiFlight avian protection units at the Manzana Wind Power Plant in Southern California for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the technology to accurately distinguish eagles from other avian species. The units use artificial intelligence with precise optical technology to identify birds and evaluate their flight paths. The study is underway, with results expected in 2020.

In addition, Manzana hosted a test of the DTBird avian detection and deterrent system. We worked with the American Wind and Wildlife Institute, EDF Renewables and Liqueur Consultoría Ambiental SL for a two-part study to see how effective the DTBird system is at detecting and deterring eagles from flying close to our wind projects.

The DTBird system uses a camera/video camera to detect and track objects based on settings set for birds with specific wingspans. It also has a collision-avoidance or deterrence piece that emits sounds to discourage birds from getting too close to the wind turbine.

Phase one of the DTBird project was completed in 2017 and showed an overall effectiveness at reducing risk to eagles ranging from 33% to 53%.

AVANGRID is pursuing other research as well, including a project started in 2017 with Purdue University to investigate what protected bird species actually see and hear. Information obtained from this study can help inform deterrent technology as a way to further minimize risk to specific avian species. The study is underway, with results expected in early 2020.

Learn more about what AVANGRID is doing to protect birds and biodiversity by reading the 2018 AVANGRID Sustainability Report available at avangrid.com. 🌱



Climbing the Hill for Wind Power

This past March, we joined about 160 fellow members of the U.S. wind industry for bipartisan meetings with about 250 House and Senate legislators and their staffs in Washington, D.C. It's all part of Wind Power on Capitol Hill (WPOCH) put on each year by our trade association, the American Wind Energy Association.

The meeting gives us a great opportunity to talk wind power and share how it's changing lives. It also gives those of us who are passionate about renewable energy (continued, pg. 4)

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(Climbing the Hill for Wind Power ... continued)



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We value your feedback and welcome any comments you may have to help improve our communications. Whether you talk to our staff in person or contact us by telephone or email, we evaluate all suggestions, compliments or complaints. We look forward to hearing from you.

Contact Landowner News via email at landmanagement@avangrid.com or regular mail at Landowner News, Attn: Land Management, 1125 NW Couch St., Ste. 700, Portland, OR 97209.

For questions about your land agreement or payments, contact us toll-free at (866) 441-4557 or via email at landmanagement@avangrid.com.


the chance to talk directly with lawmakers about what's needed to keep American wind power moving forward.

This year, we sent Neil Voje, plant manager at the 304 MW Blue Creek Wind Farm in Ohio; Nick Thiel, plant manager from 210 MW Buffalo Ridge II Wind Farm in South Dakota; and Jenny Briot, director of Offshore Business Development.

We couldn't have picked better representatives of wind power and the AVANGRID family. Even though government relations is not their particular expertise, they proudly donned their finest D.C. dress to mix and mingle with legislators from both sides of the aisle to explore the work we do every day and why it matters so much to us.

Alan Lu, a government relations manager in our D.C. office, celebrated our teams' efforts in D.C. "Thanks to their efforts, we were able to have in-depth policy conversations. They were able to educate and advocate on both the benefits and challenges facing the wind industry," he said.

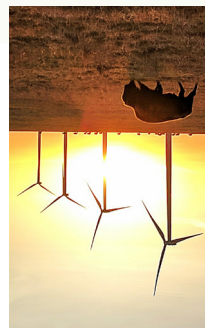
Nick welcomed the chance to share important information with those on the Hill: "We are not out in Washington for a quick feel-good greeting; we are out expressing the importance of our business and the impacts from us for the state they represent."

Neil agreed. "This forum provides a great platform for taxpayers to be a part of the system that guides our country," he said. "I also expressed that landowners have significantly benefited from wind leases. Farmers now believe they have a drought-resistant and flood-resistant crop in electricity." 



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