

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mazama Mountaineers Climb to the Peak of Clean Energy** **Commissioner Vega Pederson and Rep. Rob Nosse to join celebration**



*FEATURED: A 39.6kW solar PV system now powers the outdoor education programming at the Mazama Mountaineering Center in SE Portland.*

**Portland, OR** (July 6, 2017) - Established on the summit of Mt. Hood in 1894, the Mazamas was founded on the principles of protecting and enjoying our beloved native environments. Continuing to live out these values over 100 years later, the Mazama community recently solarized its Mountaineering Center (MMC) in SE Portland. Outfitted with 39.6kW worth of Canadian Solar modules on top of the widely recognizable bright blue roof, the new solar PV system will offset 29.5 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. The Mazamas will host a commissioning event on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 from 6:30–8:00 PM to celebrate its newfound energy independence. This casual gathering is free to attend and open to the community—includes food, drink, and an information session on how to bring solar energy to your home, business, or community.

The Mazamas' path to solar began back in 2006, when the effects of climate change were becoming more evident with each passing day. Inspired to be a part of the solution, the Mazamas Conservation Committee assumed a new urgency and sought to reduce its carbon footprint. "Melting glaciers make climate change very apparent to the Mazamas so we are doing what we can through our tree planting program, energy efficiency upgrades, purchasing renewable power, and now solar electric," noted Jeff Hawkins, the Mazama Solar Project Manager.

In partnership with the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative and Elemental Energy, a local solar PV design and installation firm, the Mazamas' goal of "going solar" became a reality this spring. "We're very proud to be a part of Oregon Clean Power Coop's first community solar project and to assist the Mazamas in reducing their environmental impact. Through the community solar model, we were able to cost-

effectively empower the non-profit Mazamas organization,” noted John Grieser, owner of Elemental Energy. “Solar not only provides clean, reliable, and lower cost electricity for homes and businesses alike, but it’s critical to battling pollution at the source, helping to protect the places we love.” The Mazama installation is the first of many community solar projects the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative has set for 2017, including a 38kW PV system on the First Unitarian Church in downtown Portland and a 30kW PV system on the Public Works Building in Hood River, Oregon.

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### **Elemental Energy**

Elemental Energy is a highly experienced design and installation firm of solar PV systems for residential and commercial clients in Oregon. The owners and staff at Elemental Energy received tailored renewable energy engineering education, allowing us to offer unparalleled expertise. Locally owned and operated, we pride ourselves on providing creative solutions to your home or business energy needs, and aim to make the process of going solar simple and efficient. **To learn more about the benefits of solar PV, current incentives, or to schedule a free site assessment, visit: [www.elementalenergy.net](http://www.elementalenergy.net)**

- Selected one of the nation's *Top Solar Contractors* by Solar Power World in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016
- Featured contractor for residential installation at the NW Natural Street of Dreams in 2014
- Specializing in creative solutions for all energy needs, including: small and large residential roof- and ground-mounted arrays, off-grid boat houses, solar awnings and patio coverings, mobile units (trailers, trucks, vans, buses, etc.), and energy-storage.
- In 2015, Elemental Energy employees formed [Twende Solar](#), a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to empowering energy-deficient communities by implementing renewable energy systems in the world's most neglected areas.

### **Mazamas**

The Mazamas promote mountaineering, responsible recreation, and conservation through outdoor education, youth outreach, and advocacy programs. Founded on the summit of Mt. Hood, and headquartered in Portland, Oregon, the Mazamas has been working to represent and support everyone who loves to play in and protect the mountains of the Pacific Northwest for more than 120 years. The Mazamas operate the one of the largest centralized mountaineering training schools in the country graduating over 500 people per year with basic to intermediate level climbing skills. You can learn more about the Mazamas and start your adventure here: [mazamas.org](http://mazamas.org)

### **Oregon Clean Power Cooperative**

The Oregon Clean Power Cooperative believes that people want to invest in their communities. Owned by its members, the Co-op is dedicated to helping them do that, so communities can finance their own solar, wind, micro-hydro and other renewable energy projects, keep capital circulating locally, and build projects that would otherwise be passed over by large institutional investors.