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Oregon Clean Power Cooperative Debuts First Community-Owned Solar Projects

Portland, OR (July 10, 2017) – The Oregon Clean Power Cooperative will announce its first round of solar projects at an event at the Mazama Mountaineering Center (SE 43rd & Stark) on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 from 6:30–8:00 PM. The projects are based on the Co-op’s unique community-owned finance model, which allows community organizations and community members to share in the benefits of the solar power. Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson and State Representative Rob Nosse will be speaking at the Mazamas event.

The Mazamas project, a collaboration with the Mazamas, Oregon’s leading mountaineering and outdoor recreation nonprofit, and Elemental Energy, a Portland-area solar installation company, was completed in April. The Co-op’s projects for the First Unitarian Church of Portland and the City of Hood River are expected to be built this summer. The Co-op has other projects under development in Corvallis, Lakeview and elsewhere in Oregon, for schools, nonprofits, churches, local governments and other organizations that have struggled to find financing for renewable energy.

The Co-op was founded in 2015 with initial support from Energy Trust of Oregon, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Sustainable Northwest, after the Oregon legislature passed renewable energy cooperatives legislation in 2014. The Co-op finances and builds energy projects using renewable technologies including solar, wind, micro-hydro and biogas digesters, and expects to build projects starting next year using Oregon’s new Community Solar financing approach. The Co-op develops the projects, bringing together solar installation and other construction companies, and a variety of financing mechanisms, including investment by community members, to increase the number of renewable energy projects built in Oregon.

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About the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative

The Oregon Clean Power Cooperative (www.oregoncleanpower.coop) 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 not get built because of lack of financing.