



Corvallis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brenda Downum, 541-766-4856

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Oregon Clean Power Cooperative Solar Project at CHS Announced

The Corvallis School District is the first school district in Oregon to participate in an innovative community solar model pioneered by the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative. This year, a rooftop solar array financed by the community will be installed on the gym roof at Corvallis High and the district will purchase electricity produced by the solar electric system at rates guaranteed under the terms and conditions of a Power Purchase Agreement.

The CHS project will be a 117-kiloWatt solar array, financed through investment by local residents, along with funding from BE Solar and the Energy Trust of Oregon. The project will be installed by BE Solar, a division of Benton Electric, Inc., of Albany. The system is projected to save the school district more than \$21,000 in electric costs in the first ten years, and nearly \$317,000 over 25 years. Construction is scheduled for April.

"This is a community-driven project", notes Dan Orzech, General Manager of the Oregon Clean Power Co-op. "It's a unique opportunity for people to invest in renewable energy and see the results in their own community."

The Oregon Clean Power Co-op's community-ownership model allows Oregon residents to support the development of renewable energy by financing local clean energy projects. The Co-op is currently accepting investments in the CHS project. The funds will be used to install the system, and the investors will get paid back over ten years from the District's energy savings.

Details on investing in the project can be found at <http://oregoncleanpower.coop/projects>.

"We have solar on our home," says Corvallis resident Martha Clemons, "but we want to do more. Investing in the CHS solar project gives us a way to put our money to work helping our Corvallis community lead the way in adopting renewable energy."

Corvallis High School currently has a tiny, 2 kiloWatt solar system which was funded by a grant in 2007. "For more than a decade, CHS students have been trying to get more solar on our roof," says Julie Williams, a CHS teacher who advises the student Green Club. "They're so excited to see the community stepping up and realizing the long term benefit to renewable energy on our schools. We hope this will be the first of many projects in this district."

District staff are also excited to get the project underway and to see the environmental benefits of utilizing renewable energy at the largest school building in the district. The project is expected to deliver environmental benefits each year equivalent to planting 93 acres of trees, or reducing the miles driven by passenger cars by 236,000 miles.

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